

BLACKBIRD (The Beatles)

Written by Paul McCartney in the key of G in 4/4 time
Released on the album: The Beatles / The White Album (1968)
Blackbird on [Wikipedia](#) | [Live](#) | [Lesson](#)

thumb: x Hammer on: h Bend up:) break: p
index: a Pull off: p Bend down: (
dirty: b Slide up: / Grab but don't pick: !
ring: c Slide down: \ Staccato: :
pinky: d Arpeggio: ~~~ Mute: m

Paul McCartney plays a weird two-finger picking and strumming pattern with his thumb and index
It might take some time getting used to that.
For ambitious fingerpickers I suggest the following picking pattern instead:
xb - a - xb - a - xb - a - ...
xb - a - b - x - b - a - xb - a - b - x - b - a - ...
The best performance can be achieved if you
a) keep the pinky on the b-string in the **red** marked parts
b) steady your picking hand by putting the ring on the e-string whenever possible
The d-string is leading a comparatively quiet life in this song

INTRO

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--0-----|---1a-----|---3d-----/---|---12d-----12d-----12d-----|---12d-----12d-----12d-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A-----|---0-----|---2a-----/---|---10a-----10a-----|---10a-----10a-----|  
E--3c-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--12d-----12d-----12d-----|---12d-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----p-----p-----p-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--10a-----|---10a-----|---10a-----|---10a-----|---10a-----|---10a-----|---10a-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

1ST AND 2ND VERSE

||:

1... Blackbird singing in the dead of night ...
2... Blackbird singing in the dead of night ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--0-----|---1a-----|---3d-----/---|---12d-----12d-----12d-----|---12d-----12d-----12d-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A-----|---0-----|---2a-----/---|---10a-----10a-----|---10a-----10a-----|  
E--3c-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

1... take these broken wings and learn to fly ...
2... take these sunken eyes and learn to see ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--5d-----|-----/---|---7d-----|-----/---|---8d-----8d-----8d-----|---8d-----8d-----8d-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--3a-----|---4b-----|---5a-----|---6b-----/---|---7b-----7b-----|---6a-----6a-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

1... all your life ...
2... all your life ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--7d-----|---!-----|---5d-----5d-----5d-----|---4c-----4c-----4c-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--5a-----|---4b-----|---3a-----3a-----|---3a-----3a-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼  
!: press 5d
```

1... you were only waiting for this moment to arise ...
2... you were only waiting for this moment to be free ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--3c-----3c-----3c-----|---2b-----2b-----2b-----|---1a-----1a-----1a-----|---0-----0-----0-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--2a-----|---2a-----|---0-----0-----|---0-----0-----|---0-----0-----|---3c-----3c-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

1. (a bridge played only once after the 1st verse)

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--5d-----|---3c-----|---2b-----2b-----2b-----|---1a-----1a-----1a-----|---0-----0-----0-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--3a-----|---2a-----|---0-----0-----|---0-----0-----|---3c-----3c-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

||

CHORUS

... Blackbird fly ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--10d-----|---8d-----|---6d-----|---5d-----|---3d-----3d-----3d-----|---5d-----5d-----5d-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--8a-----|---7b-----|---5b-----3a-----|---1a-----1a-----|---3a-----3a-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 4x 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

... Blackbird fly ... into the light of the dark black ...

```
e-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----| picking pattern:  
b--10d-----|---8d-----|---6d-----|---5d-----|---3d-----3d-----3d-----|---2c-----2c-----2c-----|---1a-----1a-----1a-----|  
g-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|  
D-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
A--8a-----|---7b-----|---5b-----3a-----|---1a-----1a-----|---0-----0-----|---0-----0-----|  
E-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|  
<----- 4x 2/4 time ----->           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼           ¼
```

INTERMEZZO (same tab as 1st verse)

... night ...

CHORUS (same tab as above)

... Blackbird fly ...

... Blackbird fly ... into the light of the dark black ...

1ST ENDING

... night ...

Tablature for the first ending, including bass lines (b, g, D, A, E) and a picking pattern: xb - a (3x) and xb - a - b - x - b - a (2x).

Continuation of the first ending tablature, including a picking pattern: xb - a - b - x - b - a and xb - a - xb - a - xb - a - xab ~~~, and a ritardando instruction.

BRIDGE

Tablature for the bridge section, including a picking pattern: xb - a (5x) and a 5x 2/4 time signature.

Continuation of the bridge section tablature, including a picking pattern: xb - a - b - x - b - a (2x) and quarter note markings.

1ST VERSE (same tab as above)

... Blackbird singing in the dead of night ...
... take these broken wings and learn to fly ...
... all your life ...
... you were only waiting for this moment to arise ...

2ND ENDING

Tablature for the second ending, including a picking pattern: xb - a - b - x - b - a (4x) and quarter note markings.

Continuation of the second ending tablature, including a picking pattern: xb - a - b - x - b - a (4x) and a ritardando instruction.