

GOLDEN BROWN (The Stranglers)

Written by Hugh Cornwell & Dave Greenfield in 3/4 time and 4/4 time
Released on the Album: La Folie (1982)
Golden Brown on [Wikipedia](#) | [Studio](#) | [Live](#)
Hugh Cornwell's acoustic guitar version on [YouTube](#)

To adapt a song to guitar can be quite a challenge sometimes
Especially, when the leading instrument is a keyboard, or as in this case, a harpsichord
A cute little guitar solo towards the end is Hugh Cornwell's only instrumental contribution to the song
The song features a catchy little phrase (hookline) with a tiny descending bassline changing from 3/4 time to 4/4 time and vice versa
Hugh Cornwell's strummed acoustic guitar version on YouTube isn't really convincing
So I googled for a while to see if I could find something really useful
Now, this tab is the quintessence of all the videos, tabs and lessons I have found in the WWW concerning this song
The song starts with the hookline, followed by the first verse
I suggest to skip the introductory phrase and start with the verse immediately (beginning the song with Em and D)

thumb: x	Hammer on: h	Bend up:)
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

INTRO

The staccato effect is achieved by picking and shortly afterwards muting the strings again with the same fingers.

e-----3d:-----3d--- -----2b:----2b---	picking pattern:
b-----0:-----0--- -----3c:----3c---	x- abc - x - abc - x - abc - abc
g-----0:-----0--- -----2a:----2a---	
D-----2b-----2b--- -----0-----0---	
A-----!-----!--- -----!-----!---	!: grab 2a
E--0-----0--- -----0-----0---	repeat tab 3x
1/8 1/8	

1ST VERSE

... Golden brown ...
... texture like sun ...
... lays me down ...
... with my mind she runs ...
... throughout the night ...
... no need to fight ...
... never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...

e-----3d:-----3d--- -----2b:----2b---	picking pattern:
b-----0:-----0--- -----3c:----3c---	x- abc - x - abc - x - abc - abc
g-----0:-----0--- -----2a:----2a---	
D-----2b-----2b--- -----0-----0---	
A-----!-----!--- -----!-----!---	
E--0-----0--- -----0-----0---	repeat tab 7x
1/8 1/8	

e-----3d:-----3d--- -----2b:----2b---	picking pattern:
b-----0:-----0--- -----3c:----3c---	x- abc - x - abc - x - abc - abc
g-----0:-----0--- -----2a:----2a---	
D-----2b-----2b--- -----0-----0---	
A-----!-----!--- -----!-----!---	
E--0-----0--- -----0-----0---	repeat tab 1x
1/8 1/8	

2ND VERSE

... Every time ...
... just like the last ...
... on her ship ...
... tied to the mast ...
... to distant lands ...
... takes both my hands ...
... never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...

e-----3d:-----3d--- -----2b:----2b---	picking pattern:
b-----0:-----0--- -----3c:----3c---	x- abc - x - abc - x - abc - abc
g-----0:-----0--- -----2a:----2a---	
D-----2b-----2b--- -----0-----0---	
A-----!-----!--- -----!-----!---	
E--0-----0--- -----0-----0---	repeat tab 7x
1/8 1/8	

PHRASE (Actually played three times in the original song, but two times seems enough)

||:

e-----2a:-----2a--- -----2a:-----2a--- -----3a:-----3a---	picking pattern:
b-----3b:-----3b--- -----2a:-----2a--- -----3a:-----3a---	x- abc - x - abc (3x)
g-----4d:-----4d--- -----2a:-----2a--- -----4b:-----4b---	
D-----4c:-----4c--- -----4d:-----4d--- -----5d:-----5d---	
A--2a-----2a--- -----!-----!--- -----!-----!---	!: grab 4c and 5c
E-----2a-----2a--- -----2a-----2a--- -----3a-----3a---	
1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8	
<----- full barrés (Bm / F#m / G) ----->	

At this point, the song alters from 3/4 time to 4/4 time

e-----2a-----2a--- -----2a-----2a---	picking pattern:
b-----3b-----3b--- -----3b-----3b---	x- abc - x - abc - x- abc - x - abc
g-----2a-----2a--- -----2a-----2a---	
D--4c-----4c--- -----4c-----4c---	
A-----5d-----5d--- -----4c-----4c---	
E-----5d-----5d--- -----4c-----4c---	
1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8 1/8	
<----- full barré (Bm7) ----->	



Back to 3/4 time

e-----2a:-----2a---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----0:-----0---|

b-----3b:-----3b---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----2b:-----2b---|

g-----4d:-----4d---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----2a:-----2a---|

D-----4c-----|-----4d-----|-----!-----2a---!----

A--2a-----|-----!-----|-----0-----|

E-----|-----2a-----|-----0-----|

$\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

<----- full barrés (Bm / F#m) ----->

picking pattern:

x- abc - x - abc (3x)

! : grab 4c and 2a

4/4 time once again

e-----3a-----3a-----3d-----3d---|

b-----0-----0-----0-----0---|

g-----0-----0-----0-----0---|

D--5c-----4b-----\----2b-----0-----|

A-----|

E-----|

$\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

picking pattern:

x- abc - x - abc - x- abc - x - abc

And back again to 3/4 time

INTRO (same tab as above)

3RD VERSE (same tab 2nd verse)

... Golden brown ...
... finer temptress ...
... through the ages ...
... she's heading west ...
... from far away ...
... stays for a day ...
... never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...

PHRASE (same tab as above)

INTRO (same tab as above)

It follows an electric guitar solo
Since you can only play one instrument at a time, alternatively sing a melodie as Hugh Cornwell does

INSTRUMENTAL (same tab as 2nd verse)

PHRASE (same tab as above)

INTRO (same tab as above)

OUTRO

... Never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...
... Never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...
... Never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...
... Never a frown ...
... with golden brown ...

e-----2a:-----2a---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----3a:-----3a---|-----0-----0---|

b-----3b:-----3b---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----3a:-----3a---|-----2b:-----2b---|

g-----4d:-----4d---|-----2a:-----2a---|-----4b:-----4b---|-----2a:-----2a---|

D-----4c-----|-----|-----5d-----|-----!-----!----

A--2a-----|-----|-----!-----|-----0-----|

E-----|-----2a-----|-----3a-----|-----|

$\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

picking pattern:

x- abc - x - abc - x - abc - abc (2x)

Repeat outro at will and gradually slow down towards the end (ritardando)
Finish the song with a strummed [open Bm7](#) chord