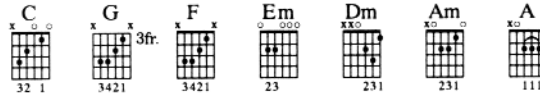


# CRUEL TO BE KIND

As Recorded by Nick Lowe  
(From the album **LABOUR OF LUST**/Columbia Records)

Transcribed by Kerry O'Brien  
Tablature Explanation page 81

Words and music by Nick Lowe and Ian Gomm



Moderate Rock ♩ = 132

Intro

Rhy. Fig. 1 (\*Gtr. I) *mf*

C \*G \*F

\*Two acous. gtrs. arr. for one \*Bass plays B. \*Bass plays A.

1. G (end Rhy. Fig. 1) 2. G

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses  
3rd time w/Fill 1

1. Oh, — I —

C Em F

— can't take — an - oth - er heart - ache. Though you say you're my friend, — I'm —

2.3. See additional lyrics  
\*Play w/ variations ad lib on repeats (till Chorus).

C Em

— at my wit's end. You say — your love is bo - na fide, — but that don't

\*Bass plays G.

F Em Dm F

co - in - cide — with the things that you do. — And when I ask —

Fill 1  
Gtr. II



# CRUEL TO BE KIND

Interlude  
w/Rhy. Fig. 2

\*Gtr. II

F G Em Am F G

w/delay

\*Clean elec.

Em Am F G Em Am

D.S. al Coda  
%

\*F G

3. Well, I

grad. bend 1/2

\*Bass plays G.

Coda G

Chorus w/Rhy. Fig. 2

F G Em Am

got - ta be cruel - to be kind." (Cruel to be kind, Oh, in the right meas - ure. doo doo doo doo.

F G Em Am F G

Cruel to be kind, It's a ver - y, ver - y, ver - y good sign. It means - doo doo doo doo. Cruel to be kind, doo

Em Am \*F G

w/Bkgd. Voc. Fig. 1 Repeat and fade

— that I love - you. Ba - by, you got - ta be cruel - to be kind - doo doo doo. Ba - by.)

\*Bass plays G.

## Additional Lyrics

2.3. Well, I do my best to understand, dear,  
But you still mystify, and I wanna know why.  
I pick myself up off the ground  
To have you knock me back down again and again.  
And when I ask you to explain, you say, "You gotta be..." (To Chorus)

# BASS LINE FOR CRUEL TO BE KIND

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Moderate Rock ♩ = 132

Intro C G/B F/A

*mf*

1. G 2. G

(Vocal:) 1. Oh, 1

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses C Em

can't take an - oth - er heart - ache...  
do my best to un - der - stand, stand, dear...  
my best to un - der - stand, dear...

F C F/G C

\*Play cue notes 2nd time (next 7 bars).

Em F Em Dm

# CRUEL TO BE KIND

F Em F

\*Play cue notes 3rd time (next 2 bars).

Chorus  
G F G Em Am

"You got - ta be cruel to be kind..."

\*2nd, 3rd times

F G Em Am F G

\*2nd time

Em Am F/G To Coda

\*2nd time

1. G C G/B

F/A G 2. G

2. Well, I do

C A

# CRUEL TO BE KIND

## Interlude

Play 3 times

F G Em Am

4 0 4 2 2 0 3 2 | 3 3 5 5 | 2 2 2 2

D.S. al Coda

F/G G

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 3 0 2

3. Well, I

## Coda

G

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 3 3 5 5

## 2nd time substitute Bass Fill 1

Em Am F G Em Am

2 2 2 2/0 | 3 3 5 5 | 2 2 2 2

\*3rd time

F G Em Am F/G

3 3 3 5 5 | 2 2 2 2 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

\*2nd, 3rd times

Repeat and fade

G

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

Bass Fill 1

2 2 2 2 2 2