

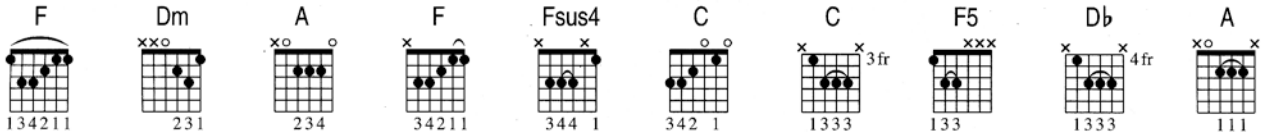
# "THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD" NIRVANA

As heard on **MTV UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK** (DGC)  
 Words and Music by **David Bowie** \* Transcribed by **Jeff Perrin**

Gtrs. are tuned down one half step (low to high, **E $\flat$  A $\flat$  D $\flat$  G $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$ ).**

Bass tuning (low to high): **E $\flat$  A $\flat$  D $\flat$  G $\flat$ .**

All notes and chords sound in the key of E, one half step lower than written.



## A Intro (0:00)

Moderately  $\text{♩} = 114$   
 N.C.

1 Gtr. 1 (acous. w/dist.) (repeat previous bar)

Musical notation for the Intro section. It features three staves: Gtr. 1 (acous. w/dist.), Gtr. 2 (acous.), and Bass. The Gtr. 1 part starts with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The first staff shows a sequence of notes: 2, 2, 2, 0, (0), 2, 3, 2, 0. The second and third staves show rests. The Bass part starts with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. It shows a sequence of notes: 10, (10), (10). The dynamics are marked as *f* for the guitar and *w/pick* for the bass.

## B (0:08, 1:12)

1. We passed upon the stair  
 2. I laughed and shook his hand

Musical notation for the main section. It features three staves: Gtr. 1, Gtr. 2, and Bass. The Gtr. 1 part starts with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The first staff shows a sequence of notes: 2, 2, 2, 0, (0), 2, 3, 2, 0. The second and third staves show rests. The Bass part starts with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. It shows a sequence of notes: 8, 8, 8, 8, (8), 8, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, (8), 8, 7, 6, (5), (5). The dynamics are marked as *mf* for the guitar and *w/pick* for the bass. There are also chord diagrams for F and Dm, and a note to repeat the previous chord.

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# "THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD"

## C Verses (0:17, 1:21)

spoke of was and when Although I wasn't there  
 and made my way back home I searched for form and land

A \* Gtrs. 1 (dist. off) and 2

\* composite arrangement; play simile 2nd time

Bass

he said I was his friend which came as a surprise  
 For years and years I roamed I gazed a gazely stare

A F Fsus4 F

Bass

I spoke into his eyes I thought you died alone  
 \* (at all the millions here) I must have died alone

C A

\* David Bowie's original lyrics (Kurt Cobain's interpretation on this performance is unintelligible).

Bass

## D Chorus (0:45, 1:50)

a long long time ago (1.) Oh no  
 a long long time ago (2.) Who knows

Dm C

Bass



# "THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD"

(2:17)

Not me

We never

lost control

You're face

to face

C F5  
Gtr. 1 (dist. off) plays Rhy. Fig. 1 simile (see bar 25)

Gtr. 2

37

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 (see bar 25)

with the man who sold the world

F5

D♭

A

Dm

(Gtr. 1 turns on dist.)

42

## E Outro (2:39)

F

Dm

Gtr. 1

48

Gtr. 2  
Rhy. Fig. 2

Bass  
Bass Fig. 2

A

Dm

52

end Rhy. Fig. 2

end Bass Fig. 2

# "THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD"

F Dm

*Gr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 twice simile (see bar 48)*

Gr. 1

56

*Bass plays Rhy. Fig. 2 twice (see bar 48)*

A Dm

60

F Dm

64

A

67

Dm F

70 Gr. 1

*slower*

Gr. 2

*Bass plays F (8th fret, A string)*