

# "BALL AND CHAIN" Social Distortion

As heard on **Social Distortion** (EPIC)

Words and Music by **Michael Ness** • Transcribed by **Jeff Perrin**

Well it's been ten years and a thousand tears and look at the mess I'm in  
A broken nose and a broken heart, an empty bottle of gin  
Well I sit and I pray in my broken-down Chevrolet  
While I'm singin' to myself there's got to be another way

*1st chorus:*

Take away, take away, take away this ball and chain  
Well I'm lonely and I'm tired and I can't take any more pain  
Take away, take away, never to return again  
Take away, take away, take away, take away this ball and chain

Well I've searched and I've searched to find the perfect life  
A brand new car and a brand new suit, I even got me a little wife  
But wherever I have gone I was sure to find myself there

You can run all your life but not go anywhere

*2nd chorus:*

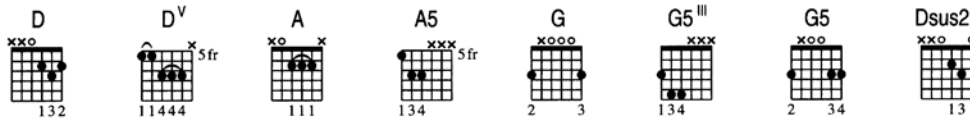
Take away, take away, take away this ball and chain  
Well I'm sick and I'm tired and I can't take any more pain  
Take away, take away, never to return again  
Take away, take away, take away, take away this ball and chain

Well I'll pass the bar on the way to my dingy hotel room  
I spent all my money, I been drinkin' since a half past noon  
Well I'll wake there in the mornin' or maybe in the county jail  
Times are hard, getting harder, I'm born to lose and destined to fail

*1st chorus*

**All guitars 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 one half step lower than written (key of D $\flat$ ).



## A Intro (0:00)

Moderately  $\text{♩} = 136$  ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩} = \text{♩}$ )

D A G D *end Rhy. Fig. 1*

Gtr. 1 (acous.) *Rhy. Fig. 1 let ring throughout*

Gtr. 2 (elec. w/dist.) *Rhy. Fig. 1a* *end Rhy. Fig. 1a*

D<sup>v</sup> A<sup>5</sup> G<sup>5 III</sup> D<sup>v</sup>

D A G<sup>5</sup> D

*Gtr. 1 repeats Rhy. Fig. 1 (see meas. 1)*  
*Gtr. 2 repeats Rhy. Fig. 1a simile (see meas. 1)*  
*Gtr. 3 (elec. w/dist.) Rhy. Fig. 2* *end Rhy. Fig. 2*

*Gtr. 4 plays Fill 1 (see next page)*

Bass *Bass Fig. 1* *end Bass Fig. 1*

## B 1st and 2nd Guitar Solos (0:15, 3:18)

D A G D

*Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 four times simile (see meas. 1)*  
*Gtr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 1a four times simile (see meas. 1)*  
*Gtr. 3 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 four times simile (see meas. 5)*

9 *Gtr. 4 (play simile 2nd time)*

*Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 four times simile (see meas. 5)*

Copyright © 1990 Sony/ATV Songs LLC and Rebel Waltz Music.  
All Rights Administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing, 8 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203.  
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by Permission of Hal Leonard Corporation.



# "BALL AND CHAIN"

37 **D** **A** **G5** **D** **Take away**

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 (see meas. 5)

**D** Chorus (1:12, 2:29, 4:15)

**D** **A** **G5** **D** **Dsus2**

take away take away this ball and chain... (play 3 times)

41 **D** **A** **G5** **D** **Dsus2**

Gr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 three times simile (see meas. 1)  
Gr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 1a three times simile (see meas. 1)

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 three times (see meas. 5)

**D** **A** **Freely \* G5** **Take away this ball and**

45 **D** **A** **Freely \* G5** **end Rhy. Fig. 3**

Gtrs. 1 and 3 Rhy. Fig. 3

**D<sup>V</sup>** **A5** **G5<sup>III</sup>** **end Rhy. Fig. 3a**

Gr. 2 Rhy. Fig. 3a

Bass Bass Fig. 2 **end Bass Fig. 2**

\* Gr. 1 plays G (see chord frame at beginning of transcription)

**E** Interlude (1:46, 3:04, 4:49)

chain... **D** **A** **G5** **D**

Gr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 twice simile (see meas. 1)  
Gr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 1a twice simile (see meas. 1)

49 **D** **A** **G5** **D**

Gr. 3

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 twice (see meas. 5)

(1st time) go back to verse **C**

(2nd time) go back to guitar solo **B**

2. Well I've searched

53 (repeat previous four measures)

Gr. 4 plays Fill 2 first time

Gr. 4 plays Fill 1 second time

Gr. 4 plays Fill 4 third time

Fill 2 (1:57)

Gr. 4 **G5** **D**

Fill 4 (5:02)

Gr. 4 **D**

# "BALL AND CHAIN"

## F Outro Guitar Solo (5:04)

D A G D

Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 three times simile (see meas. 1)

Gtr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 1a three times simile (see meas. 1)

Gtr. 3 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 three times simile (see meas. 5)

57 Gtr. 4

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 three times (see meas. 5) \*repeat previous beat

61

65

Freely  
G

Gtrs. 1 and 3 play Rhy. Fig. 3 (see meas. 45)  
Gtr. 2 plays Rhy. Fig. 3a (see meas. 45)

69

Bass plays Bass Fig. 2 (see meas. 45)

(5:35)

fade out

D  
Gtrs. 1, 3 and 4  
tremolo strum

(Gtr. 3 repeatedly flicks pickup selector back and forth)

73