

JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

Cool Water

Author: Howard Wright DAEGAD, 'Joni' Tuning: x77325

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There are several electric guitars playing in this track, and not all of them are Joni's. I think the two guitars panned far left and right are Joni's, and the guitars in the centre of the stereo image are played by someone else. The chords here are just for Joni's guitar part.

Joni uses a lot of upward strums on the top three or four open strings between chords, a favourite technique of hers. I've indicated most of these as xx0000 (I think of them as a kind of "punctuation" between chords). In most cases, these open strings should be left to ring on as the next chord is fingered.

To contrast with the open string chords, most of the shapes at the 5^{th} and 7th fret (5554xx and 7776xx) are played without using the top open strings. Try adding an occasional open string to these shapes (as Joni does), but try and play most of them using just the bottom four strings.

INTRO	
(Keyboard solo)	
(Guitar starts at 00:36)	
D0	
A0	
G20111111	-22
E2222222	-22
A22	0
D22	-
(repeat above part once)	
VERSE 1	
002200 xx0000 7776xx	xx0000
All day I face the barren wast	ce

002200 xx0000 7776xx Without a taste of water

002200 xx0000

Cool water

5554xx 550000 7776xx 770000 Old Dan and I, our throats slate dry

999xxx 999000 555400 002200 xx0000 Our spirits cry out for water

7776xx 999000 xx0000 Cool clear water

Note: for the chords on "Old Dan and I ...", and for equivalent sections of the other verses, Joni usually takes off the fingers that are fretting the middle two strings before playing the chord with the open strings. Exactly which fingers are removed can be varied, e.g you can play 5554xx 550000 or 5554xx 550400.

Sometimes it sounds as though the two guitars played by Joni do slightly different things here, so one might add the open strings without changing the chord at all (5554xx 555400). Try different variations here – the main thing is to contrast the chords that use only the bottom four strings with the fuller sound of the chords that also use the top open strings.

VERSE 2

002200 xx0000 7776xx xx0000 Keep on movin' Dan, some devils had a plan

002200 xx0000

Buried poison in the sand

7776xx xx0000 999000 xx0000

Don't drink it man, it's in the water

2221xx 002200 xx0000

Cool clear water

MIDDLE 8

5554xx 550000 7776xx 770000
In my mind I see a big green tree

5554xx 550000 And a river flowin' free

7776xx 770000 999000 xx0000 Waitin' up ahead for you and me

2221xx 002200 Cool clear water

repeat intro riff:

VERSE 3

002200 xx0000 7776xx xx0000 The nights are cool and I'm a fool

002200 xx0000 7776xx Each star's a pool of water

002200 xx0000 Cool water

5554xx 550000 7776xx 770000 But come the dawn we carry on

999xxx xx0000 555400 002200 xx0000 We won't last long without water

7776xx 999000 xx0000

Cool clear water

VERSE 4

002200 xx0000 7776xx xx0000 Keep on movin' Dan, we're still in no-man's land

002200 xx0000 Dry bones and sand

7776xx xx0000 999000 xx0000 People never planned here for water

2221xx 002200 xx0000 Cool clear water

MIDDLE 8

(It sounds like most of the open string strums on 5554xx and 7776xx are done without removing any fingers this time).

5554xx 555400 7776xx 777600 In my mind I see a big green tree

5554xx 555400 And a river flowin' free

7776xx 770000 999000 xx0000 Waitin' up ahead for you and me

2221xx 002200 Cool clear water

D0	
A0	
G2011111	-1
E22222222	-2
A22	
D22	

VERSE 5

002200 xx0000 7776xx xx0000 The shadows sway, they seem to say

002200 xx0000 7776xx Tonight we pray for water

002200 xx0000

Cool water

5554xx 550400 7776xx xx0000 And way up there, if you care

999000 555400 Please show us where

002200 xx0000

There's good water

7776xx 999000 xx0000

Cool clear water

2221xx 002200 xx0000

Cool clear water

2221xx 002200 xx0000

Cool clear water

(repeat and fade)

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