GENERAL

beat it michael jackson tab

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Introduction

When it comes to iconic rock pop crossovers, few songs have achieved the cultural resonance of Michael /Jackson's "Beat /It." Released in 1983 as part of the legendary*Thriller* album, the track blends a driving rock beat, an unforgettable guitar solo, and Jackson's unmistakable vocal swagger. For guitarists of all levels, learning the **beat /it michael jackson tab**offers a chance to master a classic riff, sharpen technique, and connect with a piece that has inspired countless musicians for decades.

In this guide we'll walk through every element of the song's guitar part, explain how to read and play the tab, and provide practical practice strategies. Whether you're a beginner who's just discovered the power of a clean single string line or an advanced player looking to refine your soloing, this article will give you the knowledge and tools you need to bring "Beat /It" to life on your instrument.

Why "Beat /It" is a Guitar Legend

"Beat It" stands out not only for its chart topping success but also for the way it merged pop sensibilities with hard rock guitar. Eddie Van Halen's signature tapping and signature tone were integral to the track, creating a riff that is instantly recognizable. The song's structure—a tight verse chorus form punctuated by a soaring solo—offers guitarists a balanced mix of rhythm, lead, and melodic phrasing.

From a learning perspective, the song is ideal because:

- Memorable Riff – The main guitar line is short, repetitive, and highly melodic, making it perfect for memorization.
- Clear Tuning – The track uses standard E A D G B E tuning, so you can apply the tab to any guitar without retuning.
- Technique Variety – The solo incorporates hammer on, pull off, bending, and vibrato, giving you a chance to practice a range of techniques.
- Historical Context – Understanding how the song was produced gives insight into studio practices of the 1980s and the role of session musicians.

Understanding the Beat /It Tab: A Step by Step Guide

Song Structure

The official "beat /it michael jackson tab" is organized into several distinct sections. Below is a quick outline:

1. Intro – 4 bars of the main riff.
2. Verse – 8 bars of rhythmic chord progression.
3. Pre chorus – 4 bars of syncopated strumming.
4. Chorus – 8 bars featuring the iconic solo intro.
5. Solo – 32 bars of melodic improvisation.
6. Bridge – 8 bars of a different chord pattern.
7. Final chorus and outro – 16 bars, ending with a fade out.

Having a mental map of these sections helps you navigate the tab and stay on track while practicing.

Key and Tempo

The song is written in the key of A minor (though it feels more like a mix of A minor and D major due to the chord changes). The tempo is approximately 138 BPM, a moderate pace that allows for precise articulation while still maintaining the groove.

Essential Chords

Below are the primary chords you'll encounter. The tab uses standard chord shapes, so feel free to substitute barre chords if that feels more comfortable.

- A minor – Am (X02210)
- D major – D (XX0232)
- E minor – Em (022000)
- F major – F (133211)
- C major – C (X32010)

These chords form the harmonic backbone of the song, and the tab will indicate when to strike each one.

Riff Breakdown

The riff is arguably the most recognizable part of the track. In the tab, it is typically written as:

```
e|---------------------------------|
B|---------------------------------|
G|---------------------------------|
D|-----2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-|
A|---0-----------------------------|
E|-0-----------------------------|
```

Key points:

- The riff is played in a single string groove, with the low E string as the anchor.
- Use palm muting to keep the sound tight and percussive.
- Practice the riff at a slower tempo before gradually increasing speed to match the original 138 /BPM.

Solo Section

The solo is a showcase of Eddie Van Halen's style. It begins with a clean tone and gradually incorporates more distortion and bending. The tab will show the solo in a combination of single note runs and hammer on/pull off sequences.

Example excerpt from the tab:

```
e|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
B|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
G|---9-9b11r9-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-9-7-|
D|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
A|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
```

E|--|

Important techniques to focus on:

- Hammer ons – Quickly press the string after the initial note to create a smooth transition.
- Pull offs – Release a finger to let the previous note ring.
- Bends – Bend the string to reach the target pitch, then release for vibrato.
- Vibrato – Add a slight wobble at the end of sustained notes for expressiveness.

How to Read Guitar Tabs

While the “beat it michael jackson tab” is written in a standard format, some beginners may still feel unsure. Here’s a quick refresher:

1. Strings – Each horizontal line represents a string, from the highest (thinnest) on top to the lowest (thickest) on the bottom.
2. Numbers – The numbers indicate which fret to press. A “0” means play the open string.
3. Rhythm – Tabs typically do not show rhythm; you must listen to the song or use a metronome to maintain timing.
4. Special Symbols – b = bend, r = release, h = hammer on, p = pull off, v = vibrato.

When you first read the tab, try playing each note slowly to ensure you’re hitting the correct frets. Once you’re comfortable, sync your playing with the actual track.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1. Skipping Palm Muting – Many players forget to mute the strings with the palm, which results in a flabby sound. Keep your picking hand close to the bridge.
2. Incorrect Timing – Because tabs lack rhythmic notation, it’s easy to rush or lag. Use a metronome or play along with the recording.
3. Over distortion – The original solo uses a subtle amount of distortion. Too much gain can muddy the notes. Start clean and add effects gradually.
4. Wrong Finger Placement – The riff relies on a specific hand position. Keep your fingers close to the fretboard to reduce fatigue.
5. Forgetting the Verse Chords – While the solo is exciting, the verse chords provide the groove. Don’t skip them during practice.

Practice Routine for Mastering Beat /It

Below is a structured routine that balances technical drills with musicality. Allocate 30–45 minutes per session, and repeat the cycle for at least 4 weeks.

1. Warm Up (5 /min) – Simple chromatic runs on the low strings to loosen your fingers.
2. Riff Repetition (10 /min) – Play the main riff at 80 /BPM, then gradually increase to 138 /BPM.
3. Chord Progression (10 /min) – Practice the verse and chorus chords, focusing on clean transitions.
4. Solo Section (10 /min) – Break the solo into 8 bar segments; master each segment before moving on.
5. Play Along (5 /min) – Use a backing track or the original recording to test timing.
6. Cool Down (5 /min) – Light stretches and finger exercises.

Tip: Record yourself and listen back to catch any timing or tonal issues.

Alternative Versions and Cover Artists

“Beat It” has been covered by many artists, each bringing their own flavor. Here are a few notable renditions that can inspire you:

- Linkin Park – Their nu metal take adds aggressive distortion and a heavier rhythmic feel.
- Guitar Hero: World Tour – The game’s version provides a playable tab that simplifies the solo for intermediate players.
- Chris Cornell – His acoustic rendition showcases the song’s melodic structure.
- Red Hot Chili Peppers – They reinterpret the solo with funk inspired bends and syncopated phrasing.

Listening to these versions can help you understand how the core elements of the **beat /it michael jackson tab** adapt to different styles.

Downloadable Beat /It Tabs and Resources

While the tab is widely available online, you can also find high quality versions in these formats:

- PDF – Printable tabs with chord diagrams.
- Image – PNG or JPG files that show the tab in a visual layout.
- Audio – Slow down tracks that play the guitar part at various tempos.

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