

# OLD MAN

• by NEIL YOUNG

• from his 1972 album HARVEST

**INTRO** \* SEE PAGE 3 FOR INTRO TABS & STRUMMING NOTES

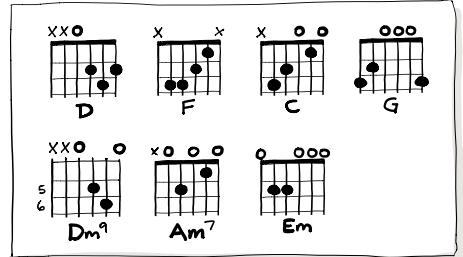
Dm9      Dm9      Dm9      D      D  
 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Dm9      Dm9      Dm9      D  
 ...Old man look at my life, I'm a lot like you were  
 Dm9      Dm9      Dm9      D  
 ...Old man look at my life, I'm a lot like you were

**VERSE**

D F C G      D F C F

• On "D" BEGIN THE VERSE CHORDS  
 • See Page 3 for the TAB



D      F      C      G  
 ...Old man look at my life... twenty four and there's so much more  
 D      F      C      F  
 ...Live alone in a paradise, that makes me think of two  
 D      F      C      G  
 ...Love lost, such a cost... give me things that don't get lost  
 D      C      F      G (walk up)  
 ...Like a coin that won't get tossed, rolling home to you

**CHORUS**

D      D      Am7      Em      G  
 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + } SEE PAGE 4 FOR TAB & STRUMMING TIPS

D      D      Am7      Em      G  
 ...Old man take a look at my life, I'm a lot like you  
 D      D      Am7      Em      G  
 ...I need someone to love me the whole day through  
 D      D      Am7      Em      G  
 ...Ah, one look in my eyes and you can tell that's true

[D] [F] [C] [G] [D] [F] [C] [F]

[D]..Lullabies, [F] look in your eyes...[C]...run around the [G] same old town  
 [D]..Doesn't mean that [F] much to me, to [C] mean that much to you...[F]  
 [D]..I've been [F] first and last...[C]...look at how the [G] time goes past  
 [D]..But I'm all [C] alone at last, [F] rolling home to you [G, walk up]

[D] [D] [Am7] [Em] [G]

[D]..Old man take a [D] look at my life, I'm a [Am7] lot like [Em] you...[G]  
 [D]..I need [D] someone to love me the [Am7] whole day [Em] through...[G]  
 [D]..Ah, one [D] look in my eyes and you can [Am7] tell that's [Em] true...[G]

**ENDING**

[Dm9] [Dm9] [Dm9] [D] [D]

[Dm9]..Old man [Dm9] look at my life, [Dm9] I'm a lot like [D] you were... [D]  
 [Dm9]..Old man [Dm9] look at my life, [Dm9] I'm a lot like [D] you were [D]

[D] [F] [C] [G] [D] ↗ LET FINAL CHORD RING TO END

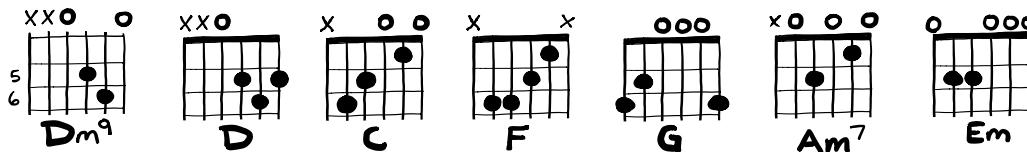
## Chord shapes needed

Here's the chords you'll need for this song. I'm showing the two intro chords on the left (as their own group), so you can see how similar the shapes are. Opposite these chords are what you'll need for the verse and chorus. Fortunately, nothing too crazy here -- for the F I usually just only play the middle 4 strings, which is what it looks like Neil does too (but you can use a full F barre chord if you want).

e — 2 — 0 —	— 2 — 0 — x — 3 — 0 — 0 —
B — 3 — 6 —	— 3 — 1 — 1 — 0 — 1 — 0 —
G — 2 — 5 —	— 2 — 0 — 2 — 0 — 0 — 0 —
D — 0 — 0 —	— 0 — 2 — 3 — 0 — 2 — 2 —
A —	— 3 — 3 — 2 — 0 — 2 —
E —	x — 3 — — 0 —

D      Dm9      D      C      F      G      Am7      Em

Here's the same chords written out as fretboard diagrams:



## Chord progressions

### Intro

Play 2x before singing, then 2x with "Old man, look at my life" vocals.

Dm9                    Dm9                    Dm9                    D                    D  
 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

### Verse

Notice how the 1st and 3rd lines are the exact same... it's the 2nd and 4th lines that deviate from the norm.

D	F	C	G
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
D	F	C	F
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
D	F	C	G
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
D	C	F	G
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

WALK UP HAPPENS HERE  
... see page 4 for tab

### Chorus

Play 4x. Note how the "Em" and "G" chord changes don't happen on the "1" count.

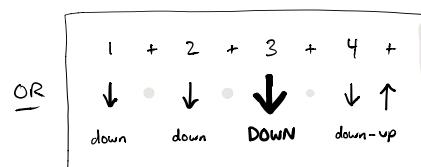
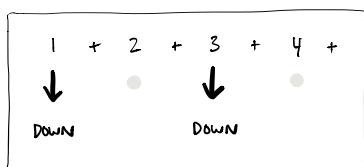
D	D	Am7	Em	G
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	4 +

IF DIFFICULT, MOVE  
TO THE "1" COUNT

IF DIFFICULT, MOVE  
TO THE "3" COUNT

## Strumming patterns

Neil Young's strumming is hard to quantify... he often is strumming up-and-down continuously and adding various layers of nuance via hammer ons, accented strings, etc. For starters, try out these two patterns – and once you get comfortable feel free to improvise or add flourish as you desire.



## Intro tab

### Simplified version

Here's a very basic version to get started with... add strumming only if you feel comfortable. The highlighted lyrics occur exactly upon the chord changes.

...Old man..... look at my life... I'm a lot like you were.....

Dm9      Dm9      Dm9      D      D

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

### My secret stash tab

Here's the "exact" tab I like to play. I give the highlighted notes below a bit more emphasis, to add some sense of melody to things. But please note, feel free to ignore this if you find an approach that works for you.

...Old man..... look at my life... I'm a lot like you were.....

Dm9      Dm9      Dm9      D      D

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

HAMMER-ON    HAMMER-ON    HAMMER-ON

## Verse tab

Here's how I recommend playing the first two lines of the verse, complete with the hammer-ons that imitate what Neil is playing. Add filler strums as desired.

D      F      C      G

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

D      F      C      F

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +    1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

## Chorus tab

### Basic version

Finally, the chorus. Big picture, the chords and timing in tablature form look like this. A tricky new element here is the timing -- in particular the switch to the Em and G do not happen on the "1" count as you might expect. For the G chord, I recommend starting with an up-strum (so that you do an "up down up" on the "+4+" counts).

...Old man take a look...   ...I'm a lot like you.....

A guitar tablature for the chorus. It shows six strings (E, B, G, D, A, E) across four measures. The first measure starts with a D chord (0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0). The second measure starts with a D chord (0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0). The third measure starts with an Am7 chord (0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0), followed by an Em chord (0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0). The fourth measure starts with a G chord (0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3). Below each measure is a sequence of numbers indicating timing: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the first two measures, and 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the last two. Yellow circles highlight the '1' in each sequence, indicating where the switch to the Em and G chords occur.

### Full chorus tab with walk-up riff

To get the high-score, you'll want to nail this riff going out of the verse and into the chorus (no vocals are heard during this part). Note that it starts on the "G" chord that \*ends\* the chorus... specifically, you'll be walking up from the G immediately into the D chord that begins the chorus. In this tab, I'm showing the "main" notes & strums... you can freely add additional filler strumming, but just be sure you emphasize everything shown below.

A guitar tablature for the full chorus section. It includes a walk-up riff before the chorus begins. The walk-up starts on a G chord (0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3) and moves through an Am7 chord (0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0) and an Em chord (0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0) before reaching the D chord (0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0) that begins the chorus. The tab shows main notes and strums with arrows indicating direction. A red arrow labeled "L.PINKY" points to the pinky finger on the 3rd string of the 4th measure. Below the tab are sequences of numbers indicating timing: 3 + 4 +, 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, and 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +. Arrows below the numbers indicate strumming direction: down, up, down, up, etc.

\* Suggested filler strums shown w/ the  
lighter up & down arrows

Cheat sheet of all the tabs

Intro

Fretboard diagram for the guitar solo of "Hotel California". The diagram shows five measures of chords and lyrics. The chords are Dm9, Dm9, Dm9, D, and D. The lyrics are "...Old man..... look at my life... I'm a lot like you were.....". The diagram includes fingerings and picking patterns below the fretboard.

### Verse

### Chorus

**L.PINKY**

Fretboard diagram showing a sequence of chords: D, D, Am7, Em, G. The diagram highlights the pinky finger (L.PINKY) on the 3rd string at the 0 position in the Am7 chord.