

# THE SKULL BENEATH THE SKIN

As recorded by Megadeth

(From the 1985 Album KILLING IS MY BUSINESS...AND BUSINESS IS GOOD!)

Transcribed by Russ Elton  
(webmaster@abysslord.com),  
(livingzombie@gmail.com), Jordan  
Baker

Words and Music by Dave Mustaine  
Arranged by Megadeth

## A Intro

All guitars tuned 1/4th step down.

♩ = 64 accel.  
N.C.

♩ = 80 accel.

1

8va-----

Gtrs I, II  
P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M.----|

T 4 2 5 2 4 3 6 3 4 7 4 5 8 5 7 9 8 6 9 6 7 10 7 9 8 11 8 9 12 9 11

A 5 4 6 5 7 6 8 7 9 8 10 9 11 10 12 11

B

P P P P P P P

♩ = 100 accel.  
8va-----

3

P.M.----| P.M.----| P.M. let ring----| let ring----|

T 13 12 10 13 10 12 13 11 14 11 13 14 12 15 12 14 15 13 16 13 15

A 13 14 15 16

B

P P P P

♩ = 120 accel.  
8va-----

4

let ring----| let ring----| let ring----| let ring----|

T 16 14 17 14 16 17 15 18 15 17 18 16 19 16 18 19 17 20 17 19

A 17 18 19 20

B

P P P P

♩ = 200

5

8va-----

let ring----| let ring----| let ring----|

T 20 18 21 18 20 21 19 22 19 21 22 20 23 20 22 23

A 21 22 23

B

P P P sl.

**B** Bridge♩ = 120  
E5

6

T  
A 9  
B 0

10

T  
A 9  
B 0

x sl.

♩ = 136

E5 A5 B♭5 B5 C5 B♭5 B5 D5

E5 A5 B♭5 B5 C5 B♭5 B5 F5

E5 A5 B♭5 B5 C5 B♭5 B5 D5

E5 A5 B♭5 B5 C5 B♭5 B5 F5

14

T  
A 9  
B 7 5 6 7 8 6 7 5

18

E5

Gtr III

T  
A 9  
B 7 5 6 7 8 6 7 5

H P H P H P H P H P H P H P

Gtrs I, II

T  
A 9  
B 7 5 6 7 8 6 7 5

**C** Guitar Solo (Mustaine)

♩ = 186

8va----- B5 C5 G5 B5 F5

22

P P P P P P

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.-----

T A B

0 0 2 0 5 0 0 5 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 1

8va----- B5 C5 G5 B5 F5

24

P P P P P P P P P

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.-----

T A B

0 0 2 0 5 0 0 5 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 1

8va-----B5 C5 G5 B5 F5 B5 C5 G5 B5 F5

26

T  
A  
B 11 (11)

P.M.-| P.M. P.M.-| P.M.----| P.M.-| P.M.-| P.M. P.M.-| P.M.----| P.M.-|

T  
A  
B 0 0 4 2 0 5 3 0 0 5 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 3 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 5 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 3

B5 C5 G5 B5 F5 B5 C5 G5 B5 F5

30

Gtrs I, II  
P.M.-| P.M. P.M.-| P.M.----| P.M.-| P.M.-| P.M.-| P.M. P.M.-| P.M.----| P.M.-|

T  
A  
B 0 0 4 2 0 5 3 0 0 5 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 3 0 0 0 4 2 5 3 0 0 5 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 3

sl.

E5 B5 F5

34

3x

P.M.----| P.M.-----| P.M.----| P.M.-----| P.M.----| P.M.-----|

T  
A  
B 9 7 0 0 0 9 7 0 0 0 0 9 7 0 0 0 0 9 7 0 0 0 0 4 2 3 (9) (11)

sl.

**D** Pre-Verse♩ = 132  
F5 E5D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5

38

T  
A  
B 10 9 8 7 x x 9 x x x 7 x 8 x 9 x x 10 9 8 7 x x 9 x x x 7 x x 8 9 8 9 6 7 6 7

sl. sl. sl. sl.

**E** Verse

F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5

40

T  
A  
B

sl. 10 9 x x 9 x x x 7 x 8 x 9 x x 10 9 x x 9 x x x 7 x x 8 9 8 9

**F** Bridge

♩ = 136

E5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 F#5

42

P.M.-----| ~P.M.-----| ~~~~~ P.M.-----| ~P.M.-----|

T  
A  
B

0 0 0 14 0 0 0 0 16 15 13 0 0 0 0 16

sl.

**G** Guitar Solo (Mustaine)

E5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 F#5

44

Gtr IV ~~~~~

T  
A  
B

15 12 14 11 13 (13)

8va-----6-----

Gtr III ~~~~~

let ring---| 6 9 6 let ring---| 9 12 9 let ring---| 12 15 12 let ring---| 15 18 15

T  
A  
B

12 9 11 8 10 9 8 12 11 15 14 14 18 17 15 18 15 17

P P P P

Gtrs I, II P.M.-----| ~P.M.-----| ~~~~~ P.M.-----| ~~~~~ P.M.-----|

T  
A  
B

14 16 15 16 14

sl.

E5                      B5                      B $\flat$ 5                      F $\sharp$ 5

46

T  
A  
B

18 15  
17 14  
16 (16)

8va-----

let ring--- let ring--- let ring--- let ring---

9 12 9 11 14 12 15 12 14 17 15 18 15 17 20 18 21 18 20

P P P P

P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.-----

T  
A  
B

14 16 15 16  
12 14 13 14

0 0 0 12 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 16 14

sl.

48

E5 8va----- B5 B♭5 F♯5

8va-----

17 14 15 12 14 (14)

8va-----

let ring--- 6 6 6 6

14 11 12 9 11 15 14 12 15 12 14 17 15 18 15 17 20 18 21 18 20 23 21 24 21 13

P P P P

P.M.----- ~P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.-----

T A B

0 0 0 12 0 0 0 0 16 14 0 0 0 15 13 0 0 0 0 16 14 sl.

50

8va----- E5 B5 B♭5 F♯5

8va-----

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Gtr III

14 11 8 8 11 15 12 9 9 12 16 13 10 10 13 17 14 11 11 14 18 15 12 12 15 19 16 13 13 16 20 17 14 14 17 15

P P H P P H P P H P P H P P H P P H sl.

Gtrs I, II

P.M.----- ~P.M.----- P.M.----- P.M.-----

T A B

0 0 0 14 0 0 0 0 16 14 0 0 0 15 13 0 0 0 0 16 14 sl.

**H** Verse

52

F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5

8va-----

Full

22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22

T A B

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

sl. sl. sl. sl.

54

F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 F5 E5 D5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 B5

8va-----

1. , 2.

3x

22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22

T A B

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

sl. sl. sl. sl.



3.  
F5 E5 D5 B $\flat$ 5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 B5 G5 E5  
8va-----1

56

T 22 22 22 22

A

B

T

A

B 10-9 8-7 x x 9 x x x 7 x x 8-9 6-7 8-9 6-7 5-2 2 0

sl. sl. sl. sl.

**I** Pre-Chorus

Double Time Feel ♩ = 136  
N.C.

59

Gtrs I, II P.M. P.M.--| P.M. P.M.--| P.M.--| P.M.--|

T

A

B

H 0 2 0 0 H H 0 2 0 0 P 5 0 0 5 0 0 5 0 0 4 0 1

**J** Chorus

(4th time) D.S.

61

B5 B $\flat$ 5 G5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 G5

P.M.-----| P.M. P.M.-----| P.M.-----| P.M. P.M.-----| P.M.-----|

T

A

B 0 0 0 0 0 4 2 3 0 0 0 5 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 2 3 0 0 0 5 3 0 0 0 0



8va----- B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 N.C. B<sup>b</sup>5 B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 N.C.

67

Full Full Full Full Full

24 (24)24 (24)24 (24)24 (24)24 24 24 22 20 24 22 20 22 24 24 22 20 20 22 21 22 22 (22)

P P P P H P P P sl.

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.

T A B

0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 6 7 5 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 6 7 5

sl. sl. P H sl. sl. P H

B<sup>b</sup>5B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 N.C. B<sup>b</sup>5B5 B<sup>b</sup>5 N.C.

8va-----

69

16 13 15 13 17 14 16 14 18 15 17 15 19 16 18 16 20 17 19 17 21 18 20 18 22 19 21 19 23 20 22 20

P P P P P P P P

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.

T A B

0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 6 7 5 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 6 7 5

sl. sl. P H sl. sl. P H

8va----- B $\flat$ 5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 N.C. B $\flat$ 5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 N.C.

71

T 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  (23) 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  (23) 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  (23) 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  (23) 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  (23) 24 Full (24) 24 0

A

B

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.

T

A

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 5

sl. sl. P H

8va----- B $\flat$ 5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 N.C. B $\flat$ 5 B5 B $\flat$ 5 G5 E5

73

T 22 20 18 16 14 10 8 5 0 (0)

A 22 20 18 16 14 10 8 5 0 (0)

B sl. sl. sl. sl. sl. sl. sl. sl.

P.M.----- P.M. P.M.----- P.M.

T

A

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 7 5 5 0 0 0 0 0 8 9 8 7 6 0 0 0 5 0 0 2 (2)

sl. sl. P H sl. sl.