

# david bowie rebel rebel tab

**David Bowie Rebel Rebel Tab** is a popular subject among guitarists and Bowie fans alike. The song "Rebel Rebel," released in 1974 as part of David Bowie's album "Diamond Dogs," has become an anthem of defiance and self-identity. The song is characterized by its catchy guitar riff, powerful lyrics, and Bowie's iconic vocal delivery. This article will delve into the song's background, its musical composition, and a detailed examination of the guitar tab for "Rebel Rebel," making it accessible for guitarists of all skill levels.

## Background of "Rebel Rebel"

### The Genesis of the Song

"Rebel Rebel" was written during a transformative period in Bowie's career. Emerging from the glam rock scene, Bowie was experimenting with new sounds and themes. The song reflects the youthful rebellion and freedom that characterized the early 1970s. It is widely interpreted as an anthem for the LGBTQ+ community, celebrating individuality and non-conformity.

Bowie's lyrics resonate with listeners, offering a sense of belonging and empowerment. Phrases like "You've got your mother in a whirl" and "Hot tramp, I love you so" capture a spirit of youthful abandon and desire. The song's upbeat tempo and infectious melody make it a favorite for both casual listeners and dedicated fans.

### Impact and Legacy

"Rebel Rebel" has had a lasting influence on music and culture. It was one of Bowie's most commercially successful singles, reaching the top of the charts in several countries. The song has been covered by numerous artists, showcasing its enduring appeal across generations.

Bowie's influence extends beyond music; he became a cultural icon, challenging norms around gender and sexuality. "Rebel Rebel" remains a staple in LGBTQ+ pride events and has solidified its place in the canon of rock music.

## Musical Composition

### Structure and Chord Progression

"Rebel Rebel" is built on a simple yet effective chord progression. The song is primarily in the key of D major, featuring a repetitive structure that enhances its catchy nature. The chords primarily used

in the song are:

- D
- G
- A

The basic progression can be summarized as follows:

1. Verse: D - G - A
2. Chorus: D - G - A

This straightforward progression allows guitarists to focus on the song's signature riff and vocal lines while providing a solid harmonic foundation.

## Signature Guitar Riff

The iconic guitar riff is one of the defining features of "Rebel Rebel." It is instantly recognizable and has become a hallmark of classic rock. The riff is played with a distorted electric guitar, giving it a raw and edgy sound.

To break down the riff, guitarists can follow these steps:

1. Tune the guitar to standard tuning (E A D G B e).
2. Fret the following notes:
  - Start on the 7th fret of the A string (the 5th string).
  - Play the 9th fret of the D string (the 4th string).
  - Play the 7th fret of the G string (the 3rd string).
  - Return to the 9th fret of the D string.
  - Repeat the sequence while incorporating slides and bends for added expression.

The riff captures the rebellious spirit of the song and provides an excellent opportunity for guitarists to practice their technique, including timing and dynamics.

## Rebel Rebel Tab: A Detailed Breakdown

Here is a simplified guitar tab representation of the main riff and chords for "Rebel Rebel."

### Main Riff Tab

```
...
e|-----|
B|-----|
G|----7-7-7-----4-4-4--|
D|--7-7-7-7-7-7--7-4-4-4--|
A|--5-5-5-5-5-5--5-2-2-2--|
```

E|-----|  
\\

This tab outlines the primary riff that repeats throughout the song. Guitarists should focus on the rhythm and feel while playing, as the song's energy is vital to its impact.

## Chords Tab

For the chords during the verses and chorus, guitarists can use the following open chord shapes:

\\  
D G A  
e|---2-----3-----0---|  
B|---3-----3-----2---|  
G|---2-----0-----2---|  
D|---0-----0-----2---|  
A|---x-----2-----0---|  
E|---x-----3-----x---|  
\\

The strumming pattern can be kept simple at first, allowing beginners to get comfortable with the song before adding embellishments.

## Performance Tips

### Technique and Style

When playing "Rebel Rebel," guitarists should focus on the following techniques to capture the essence of the song:

1. Distortion: Use a good distortion pedal to achieve the gritty sound characteristic of classic rock.
2. Palm Muting: Incorporate palm muting during the verses for a more dynamic feel.
3. Bends and Slides: Feel free to add bends and slides in the riff to give it a personal touch.

## Practice Routine

To master "Rebel Rebel," consider the following practice routine:

1. Warm-up: Spend 5-10 minutes on finger exercises to improve dexterity.
2. Riff Practice: Focus on the main riff, breaking it down into smaller sections until you can play it fluidly.
3. Chords Practice: Work on transitioning between the D, G, and A chords smoothly.
4. Combine: Once comfortable with both the riff and chords, practice playing them together.

5. Play Along: Use a backing track or the original recording to practice timing and dynamics.

## Cultural Significance and Covers

"H3>Influence on Other Artists

"Rebel Rebel" has inspired countless artists across various genres. Its themes of rebellion and self-expression resonate with musicians looking to convey similar messages. Notable covers include:

- The Smashing Pumpkins: Their rendition brings a grunge twist to the classic.
- Tori Amos: She offers a haunting interpretation that highlights the song's emotional depth.
- The 1975: Their version showcases a modern pop-rock take on the original.

## Conclusion

In summary, David Bowie Rebel Rebel Tab serves as a gateway for guitarists to connect with a timeless piece of music history. The song's catchy riff, straightforward chords, and powerful lyrics contribute to its status as an anthem of rebellion and self-acceptance.

By learning "Rebel Rebel," guitarists not only enhance their skills but also pay homage to one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Whether playing for personal enjoyment or sharing the song with others, "Rebel Rebel" remains a vital part of rock music's legacy, encouraging everyone to embrace their individuality and rebel against conformity.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the main chords used in the 'Rebel Rebel' tab by David Bowie?

The main chords in 'Rebel Rebel' are D, A, G, and C. These chords form the backbone of the song's iconic riff.

### Where can I find accurate guitar tabs for 'Rebel Rebel' by David Bowie?

Accurate guitar tabs for 'Rebel Rebel' can be found on popular guitar tab websites like Ultimate Guitar, Songsterr, and official music sheet publications.

### Is 'Rebel Rebel' a good song for beginner guitarists to learn?

Yes, 'Rebel Rebel' is a great song for beginner guitarists due to its simple chord progressions and catchy riffs, making it easy to pick up.

## **What is the tuning for 'Rebel Rebel' on guitar?**

'Rebel Rebel' is typically played in standard tuning (E A D G B e), which is the most common tuning for guitar.

## **What techniques should I use when playing the 'Rebel Rebel' riff?**

When playing the 'Rebel Rebel' riff, use a combination of palm muting and open strumming to capture the song's gritty sound.

## **Are there any popular covers of 'Rebel Rebel' worth listening to?**

Yes, several artists have covered 'Rebel Rebel,' including The Smashing Pumpkins and The Killers, each bringing their unique style to the classic.

## **What is the historical significance of 'Rebel Rebel' in David Bowie's career?**

'Rebel Rebel' is significant as it was one of Bowie's most commercially successful songs, symbolizing the glam rock era and his influence on youth culture in the 1970s.

## **David Bowie Rebel Rebel Tab**

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