

# SULTANS OF SWING

As Recorded by Dire Straits  
(From the Warner Bros. Recording DIRE STRAITS)

Transcribed by Troy Nelson

Words & Music by Mark Knopfler

## Intro

Moderately Fast  $\text{♩} = 148$

Gr. 1 (clean)

Dm

*mf*  
w/fingers

T																		
A	0	0	0	0	0													
B	0	0	0	0	0								5		5			

Gr. 2 (clean)

Rhy. Fig. 1

*mf*

T	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6
A	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7
B	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5

Gr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 1

	5	7				5	7	7						6	7			
	5	7				5	7	7						7	7			

End Rhy. Fig. 1

T	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6	6	6	X	6
A	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7	7	7	X	7
B	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5	5	5	X	5



# Sultans of Swing

A7

Dm

C

Bb

A

south of the riv - er you stop and you hold ev - 'ry- thing.

F

A band is blow - in'

let ring ----- 1

# Sultans of Swing

Bb

C

Dix - ie                    dou - ble four — time.

This system contains the first four measures of the song. It features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a bass line in bass clef, a drum line with a snare drum, and a guitar line with a treble clef. The guitar part includes a complex rhythmic pattern with many 'X' marks indicating muted notes.

You feel al - right —                    when you hear the mu - sic — ring.

Dm

This system contains the next four measures. It continues the vocal line and instrumental parts. The guitar part features a prominent bass line with a treble clef and a complex rhythmic pattern. The drum line shows a consistent snare pattern. The bass line has a wavy line at the end of the second measure.

# Sultans of Swing

B $\flat$  C Dm

2. Well, now you

End Rhy. Fig. 2 Rhy. Fill 1 End Rhy. Fill 1

Verse

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Dm C B $\flat$  A

step in - side, — but you don't see too man - y fac - es.

Gtr. 1

let ring -----

A7 Dm C

Com - in' in out of the rain —

# Sultans of Swing

B $\flat$  A

— they hear the jazz — go down.

F C

Com - pe - ti - tion in oth - er plac -

B $\flat$

es, — ah, but the

Dm B $\flat$

horns, they blow - in' that sound

# Sultans of Swing

C

B $\flat$

C

way on down— south, way on

Gtr. 1

Rhy. Fill 2

Gtr. 2

## Chorus

Dm

C

B $\flat$

down— south Lon - don town.—

Riff A

End Rhy. Fill 2 Rhy. Fig. 3

# Sultans of Swing

C Dm

Musical notation for the first system, showing a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a guitar staff with chords and a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect.

End Rhy. Fig. 3

Musical notation for the second system, showing a treble clef staff with a rhythmic pattern and a guitar staff with a corresponding rhythmic pattern.

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 3

C Bb

Gtr. 1

Musical notation for the third system, showing two guitar staves. The top staff is empty, and the bottom staff has a melodic line. The guitar staff below has chords and a wavy line.

C Dm

3. You check out

End Riff A

Musical notation for the fourth system, showing a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a guitar staff with chords and a wavy line.



# Sultans of Swing

Verse

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Dm

C

Bb

A

Gui - tar George, he knows all the chords.—

A7

Dm

C

Bb

A

Mind, he's strict - ly rhy - thm, he does - n't want to make it cry

F

or sing.—

full hold bend full full full

# Sultans of Swing

C

Yes, and an old gui - tar is all

full hold bend

Bb

he can af - ford

3

Dm

when he gets up un - der the lights to play his thing.

Gr. 2: w/Rhy. Fill 1

Bb C Dm

# Sultans of Swing

## Verse

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Dm C Bb A

4. And Har - ry does - n't mind if he does - n't make the scene.

A7 Dm C Bb A

He's got a day - time job, he's do - ing al -

full dim. full full full

F

right. He can play the

full

C Bb

hon - ky - tonk — like — an - y - thing.

# Sultans of Swing

Dm

Sav - in' it up, Fri - day night

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fill 2

B♭

C

B♭

with the Sul - tans, —

C

with the Sul - tans — of —

## Chorus

Gtr. 1: w/Riff A  
Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 3, 2 times

Dm

C

B♭

C

Dm

swing. —

C

B♭

C

Dm

5. And a

# Sultans of Swing

## Verse

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Dm C B $\flat$  A

crowd of young boys, — they're fool - in' a - round — in the cor -

Gtr. 1

A7 Dm C

- ner. Drunk and dressed in their best

hold bend grad. release

full

12 12 12 (12) 10 12/14 13

B $\flat$  A F

brown bag - gies and — their plat - form — soles.

full

12 9 10 9 9 7 6 5 8 0 (8)

# Sultans of Swing

C

They don't give a damn a - bout an - y trum - pet play - in' - band. -

B $\flat$  Dm

It ain't what they call rock 'n' roll. -

B $\flat$  Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fill 2  
C

And the Sul -

B $\flat$  C

tans, - yeah, the Sul - tans - are play - in' -

# Sultans of Swing

## Chorus

Gtr. 1: w/Riff A  
Gtr. 2: w.Rhy. Fig. 3, 2 times

Dm C B $\flat$  C Dm

Cre - ole. Cre - ole, ba - by.

C B $\flat$  C Dm

Uh, ah.

## Guitar Solo

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Gtr. 1

Dm C B $\flat$  A

full full full full Harm. --- 4

A7 Dm C B $\flat$  A

full let ring ----- 4

F C

full full hold bend full

B $\flat$  Dm

full full full

# Sultans of Swing

Gr. 2: w/Rhy. Fill 2

B $\flat$  C

full let ring-----4

B $\flat$  C

hold bend full

Gr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 3, 2 times

Dm C B $\flat$  C

Dm C B $\flat$

C Dm



# Sultans of Swing

## Verse

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Dm

C

B♭

A

6. And then the 'man,— he steps right up to the mi - cro - phone

A7

Dm

C

B♭

A

and says at last,— just as the time - bell

F

C

rings, "Good- night, now it's time—

# Sultans of Swing

B $\flat$  Dm

— to go home.” — Then he makes it fast — with one more thing, —

B $\flat$  Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fill 2  
C

— “We are the

B $\flat$  C

Sul - tans, we are the Sul - tans — of —

**Chorus**  
 Gtr. 1: w/Riff A  
 Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 3, 2 times

Dm C B $\flat$  C Dm

swing.” —

C B $\flat$  C Dm

# Sultans of Swing

## Outro-Guitar Solo

Gr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 3, till fade

Dm C Bb C Dm

The first system of guitar notation consists of a treble clef staff and a six-line guitar staff. The treble staff shows a melodic line starting with a wavy vibrato mark over the first two notes. The guitar staff contains fret numbers: 0, 8, 6, 8, 6, 7, 0, (8), 8, 5, 8, 5, 3, 5, 3, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5. There are two 'full' vibrato marks with arrows pointing to the first and fourth measures of the guitar staff.

C Bb C

The second system of guitar notation continues the melodic line in the treble staff and fret numbers in the guitar staff: 10, 8, 10, 8, 10, 7, 7, 9, 8, 10, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 9. There are wavy vibrato marks above the treble staff and a wavy vibrato mark below the guitar staff.

Dm C Bb

The third system of guitar notation features a treble staff with a melodic line and a guitar staff with fret numbers: 8, 10, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, x, x, x, 12, 10, 10, 13, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 10, 12, 10, 12, 10, 10, 12. There are wavy vibrato marks above the treble staff and a wavy vibrato mark below the guitar staff. A 'full' vibrato mark is above the 12th fret note. There are 'x' marks on the guitar staff indicating muted notes.

C Dm C Bb

8va-----

The fourth system of guitar notation continues the melodic line in the treble staff and fret numbers in the guitar staff: 10, 0, x, 11, x, x, 11, 12, 11, (11), 10, x, x, 13, 10, 10, 13, 10, 10, 10, 13, 10, 10, 10, 13, 10, 10. There are wavy vibrato marks above the treble staff and a wavy vibrato mark below the guitar staff. A 'full' vibrato mark is above the 11th fret note. A 'hold bend' instruction is above the 12th fret note. There are 'x' marks on the guitar staff indicating muted notes. An 8va line is indicated above the treble staff.

C

8va-----

The fifth system of guitar notation continues the melodic line in the treble staff and fret numbers in the guitar staff: 13, 10, 11, 10, 13, 10, 11, 10, 13, 10, 11, 10, 13, x, x, 15, 12, 13, 12, 15, 12, 13, 12, 15, 12, 13, 12, 15, 12, 13, 12. There are wavy vibrato marks above the treble staff and a wavy vibrato mark below the guitar staff. An 8va line is indicated above the treble staff.

# Sultans of Swing

8va ----- Dm C Bb

8va ----- C

8va ----- Dm C Bb

**Begin Fade**  
C Dm C Bb

8va -----

C Dm C Bb **Fade Out**