

# How to Read JDarks' Tabs

Simple. Six lines, Six strings. High E string is up on top, Low E string is on the bottom. The headstock is left, the bridge is right. Time moves from left to right. Duh.

**Underscore is the Beat**

Play the G string at (above) the 9<sup>th</sup> fret on the beat. That's an "E"

"Hammer-on" from 3<sup>rd</sup> fret to 4<sup>th</sup> on the D string

"Slide down" from 7<sup>th</sup> fret to 5<sup>th</sup>

Harmonic

Repeat last measure or section

~ means vibrato, shake, squeal, etc.

Passage is from the **Workingman's Dead** album; **Steal Your Face**; Ask a Deadhead if you can't figure it out.

"Slide Up" from the 7<sup>th</sup> fret up to the 9<sup>th</sup> on the G string

"Bend": Bend the string at the 10<sup>th</sup> fret until you get the tone of the 12th

"Pull-off": With one finger on 3<sup>rd</sup> fret, strike 5<sup>th</sup> fret with another finger and pull off

"4 Pull" – Place hand on 4 frets, and execute series of pull-offs. Can be a 3 pull too.

"Bend and Release" Bend up to 9 and release back to 7

Date of live recording of passage

All these signals can be combined or expanded as the technique gets more complex. E.g.: |--5b7r5p4p3p2--|

There are more tab signals out there in the world, but these are all you really need.

Strum same chord

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(10)r8

3h5p3~

3-x-3

"x" = deadened hit or strum

Pre-bend" to 10, hit string, release to 8

*Italic: Harmony vocal*

Full of clou-dy dreams unreal..” a Round TUIT

Italicized = finger to use. Index finger is 1.

"Hammer-Pull"; with ~ means continuous.

The biggest drawback to tabs is the timing is not as precise as standard musical notation. But *you're supposed to have the tune handy on the hard drive* – (pay for it!) - and like it enough to want to learn it. Otherwise, you're wasting your time. Play the chords and stick to the campfire. ;)