

Song Map Worksheet

Page 1: blank song map. Print one per song. Fill in pencil.

Song: _____ Artist: _____ Key: _____ Tempo (BPM): _____ Tuning / capo: _____

1. Structure strip (listen first, count bars)

Intro	Verse	Chorus	Bridge	Solo	Outro
Bars: _____ Times: _____	Bars: _____ Times: _____	Bars: _____ Times: _____	Bars: _____ Times: _____	Bars: _____ Times: _____	Bars: _____ Times: _____

2. Chords and riffs per section

Section	Chords or riff (one line per 4 bars)	Strum or picking pattern
Intro		
Verse		
Chorus		
Bridge		
Solo		
Outro		

3. Problem bar tracker and tempo ladder

Write the exact bar and what goes wrong. Loop only that bar plus one bar either side. Tick a tempo once you can play it correctly three times in a row (a teacher rule of thumb, not a research figure).

Problem bar	What goes wrong	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%

4. Ready to perform self check

Check	Yes / not yet
I can play every section from memory at full tempo.	
I can play all transitions without stopping.	
I can start from any section, not only the intro.	
I recorded a full take and listened back.	
I can play along with the original recording.	

Song Map Worksheet

Page 2: filled example, The House of the Rising Sun (traditional, public domain).

Song: The House of the Rising Sun (traditional) **Key:** A minor **Time:** 6/8 feel **Tempo:** about 116 BPM in a common arrangement (estimate; check your version) **Tuning:** standard, no capo

1. Structure strip (our example arrangement)

Intro	Verse	Chorus	Bridge	Solo	Outro
Bars: 4 Times: 1	Bars: 16 Times: 5	Bars: none Times: 0	Bars: none Times: 0	Bars: 16 Times: 1	Bars: 4 Times: 1

2. Chords and riffs per section

Section	Chords (one bar each)	Pattern
Intro	Am C D F	Arpeggio: bass note, then strings 3, 2, 1, 2, 3
Verse (lines 1 and 2)	Am C D F Am C E E	Same arpeggio in each bar
Verse (lines 3 and 4)	Am C D F Am E Am E	Same; E bar leads back to Am
Solo	Verse chords, melody on top or repeat the arpeggio	Keep the arpeggio even
Outro	Am Dm Am Dm Am	Slow down on the last Am

3. Problem bar tracker (example)

Problem bar	What goes wrong	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
D to F	F barre buzzes; late change	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
E to Am	Bass note missed	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Outro Dm	Forget the order	Yes	Yes				

4. How the research shapes this sheet

Duke, Simmons and Cash (2009) followed 17 advanced piano students learning a hard passage. Time spent and number of repetitions did not predict how well they played it the next day; the best players stopped at errors, found the exact spot, changed tempo and repeated until it was stable. The problem bar tracker copies that habit. The 50% to 100% tempo ladder is a teacher view, not a tested figure. Free speed tools: YouTube playback speed, or the paid Transcribe! app (free trial).

Next step: the online beginner course at maximguitarworkshop.com