



Manu Chao - Me Gustas Tu

“I’m an activist, as we should all be. Just don’t call me a leader - leaders get corrupted. ”

This song reflects Manu Chao’s love for travelling. Born in Paris, based in Barcelona and escaping celebrity by travelling with an acoustic guitar and a portable studio in his backpack! “I have what the Spanish call ‘a worried ass’ - I literally cannot stay in one place too long” he once said.

Anyways, goodbye background info and hello bar chords! Ok ok, no sighs, no freaking out... You can do it! I won’t lie though, these can be frustrating, especially on the acoustic guitar. But hey, Rome wasn’t built in a day, in other words you need time to acquire finger strength and precision. Really experiment with how you play these chords. Try positioning your index finger higher, lower, on it’s side, pushing towards the right, pushing towards the left, squeezing harder using your thumb as a clamp. Don’t give up! This is one of those things you need to practice consciously and with concentration for 5 minutes. If you get frustrated or bored, stop and come back to it later. Really, 5 minutes totally concentrated goes a very long way. If you want to get your bar chords sounding great, 5 minutes concentrated is much better than 1 hour just fiddling around.

Remember to keep your fingers close to the fretboard and remember to keep that chord voicing (the finger position) rigid as you move it around for the three different chords. I’m sure you’ve noticed the three chords have the same finger position! One last thing, to keep that reggae feel for the second part, you need to make sure you release the pressure of the strings to only get a brief, sharp sound from plucking the chord. You don’t want the chord to ring continuously. Have lots of fun with this one!

