

Sweet Home Alabama (G)

Ed King, Gary Rossington, & Ronnie Van Zant, 1974

[Sweet Home Alabama](#) by Lynyrd Skynyrd from "Second Helping" (1974) (G @ 98)

[Sweet Home Alabama](#) (Lyric Video) – [Sweet Home Alabama](#) (Live – Florida Theater, 2015)

4/4 Time | 98 BPM

Intro (1 – 2 – 3. *Turn it up!*)

D C | G | D C | G | D C | G | D C | G

D C G D C G
__ Big wheels keep on turning, __ Carry me home to see my kin.

D C G
__ Singing songs about the Southland

D C G
__ I miss ole 'Bamy once a-gain (*and I think it's a sin, yes,*)

Bridge

D C | G | D C | G

D C G D C G
__ Well I heard Mister Young sing about her. __ Well I heard ole Neil put her down.

D C G
__ Well, I hope Neil Young will re-member:

D C G
__ A southern man don't need him a-round, (*anyhow*).

Chorus

D C G D C G
__ Sweet home Ala-bama. __ Where the skies are so blue.

D C G D C G | F↓ C↓
__ Sweet home Ala-bama. __ Lord, I'm coming home to you.

Bridge 1

D C | G | D C | G

D C G F C D
__ In Birming-ham they love the Gov'nor, *boo-hoo-hoo!*

D C G
__ Now we all did what we could do.

D C G D C G
__ Now Water-gate does not bother me. __ Does your conscience bother you,
(tell the truth)

Chorus

D C G D C - G
__ Sweet home Ala-bama. __ Where the skies are so blue.

D C G D C G | F↓ C↓
__ Sweet home Ala-bama. __ Lord, I'm coming home to you. (*here I come*)

Optional Solo (4x)

D C | G | D C | G

Bridge 2

D C | G | D C | G | F↓ C↓

D C G
 ___ Now Muscle Shoals has got the Swampers.

D C G
 ___ And they've been known to pick a song or two.

D C G
 ___ Lord they get me off so much.

D C G
 They pick me up when I'm feeling blue, (*now how 'bout you?*)

Chorus

D C G D C | G
 ___ Sweet home Ala-bama. ___ Where the skies are so blue.

D C G D C G | F↓ C↓
 ___ Sweet home Ala-bama. ___ Lord, I'm coming home to you.

D C G
 ___ Sweet home Ala-bama, (*oh sweet home*)

D C G
 ___ Where the skies are so blue (*and the governor's true*)

D C G D C G
 ___ Sweet home Ala-bama, ___ Lord, I'm coming home to you.

Outro

D C | G | D C | G | D C | G |

Fade Out (2x)

D C | G | D C | G

Notes

The C chord in this song is probably Cadd9 but has been simplified for this arrangement. Cadd9 for C Tuned Ukes: 0 2 0 3; G Tuned ukes: 0 0 1 0.

The lyrics were written partly in response to Neil Young's 1970 song "[Southern Man](#)", which the band felt unfairly blamed the entire South for American slavery. In addition, it is the band's fond recollection of a recording session in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and a reminder that not all Southerners are rednecks. Neil Young later regretted "Southern Man" saying "I don't like my words when I listen to it. They are accusatory and condescending, not fully thought out, and too easy to misconstrue."

The late Ed King created the opening riff to "Sweet Home Alabama" based on a Gary Rossington progression . . . and sent this song into classic rock history. Ed said that "nobody gets it right" because there are some hidden tricks most guitarists miss. On the original recording, this riff was done on a '73 Fender Strat (although later replaced with a much better '66 Strat).

It can't really be picked on a four-string Tenor Guitar or a Uke. But it can be *somewhat* simulated with a strum pattern. This is written as though it is 2 beats to the measure to better show the chord progression.

| D | C | G | |
 | ↓↓↑↑ ↓ | ↓↓↑↑ ↓ | ↓↓ ↓ _ ↓ | ↓↓↑↑ ↓↑↓ | (4x)

Check out [Ed King's Guitar Collection | Marty's Guitar Tours](#) Marty interviews Ed King of Lynyrd Skynyrd, who discusses how he came up with the opening riff to "Sweet Home Alabama," and at the 23:10 mark demonstrates how it's done properly. Length = 34:51 (and worth every minute of it).

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(*tell the truth*)

Chorus

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Outro

G F | C | G F | C | G F | C |

Fade Out (2x)

G F | C | G F | C