

# Black Friday Steely Dan Chords

**Black Friday**  
Words and Music by Walter Becker and Donald Fagen

**Intro**  
Moderate Shuffle ♩ = 128 (♩♩♩♩)

**Chorus**  
Ch. 1: w/ Ref. A  
Ch. 2: w/ Ref. 1, 2nd time  
N.C.(E)

**Verse**  
Ch. 1: w/ Ref. A, 1st time  
Ch. 2: w/ Ref. 1, 2nd time  
N.C.(E)

1. When Black Fri - day comes I fly I  
2. Black Fri - day comes I fly I  
3. See Additional Lyrics

stand down by the door and catch the grey man when they dove from the four - words  
down to my swell Gon - in strike all the big red words from my lit - de black

Ch. 2: w/ Ref. 2, 2nd time  
Ch. 2: w/ Ref. 2, 2nd time

flout When Black Fri - day comes I and  
look Gon - in do just what I please gon - in

just as a 'ry - thing I'm read and he a fore my friends find out, I'll be on the road,  
wear no socks and shoes with nothing to do but find all the kan - ga - men

**FR 1**  
Ch. 2  
Vib. achieved by depressing string above nut.

**FR 2**  
Ch. 2  
after 8 times

**FR 3**  
Ch. 2  
after 7 times

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## Understanding "Black Friday" by Steely Dan

**Black Friday Steely Dan chords** are a key component of the song's unique sound, contributing to its complex yet captivating musicality. Released in 1975 on their acclaimed album "Katy Lied," "Black Friday" showcases Steely Dan's hallmark blend of jazz, rock, and sophisticated lyrical storytelling. The song paints a vivid picture through its lyrics and is supported by intricate chord progressions that are essential for musicians wishing to cover or analyze this classic track.

# The Musical Structure of "Black Friday"

"Black Friday" is a quintessential Steely Dan song that demonstrates the band's skillful integration of different musical styles. The song features:

- A catchy melody
- Complex chord progressions
- Intricate harmonies

These elements contribute to the song's overall feel and atmosphere, making it a favorite among fans and musicians alike. In this section, we will delve into the song's structure, including its chords, verse patterns, and transitions.

## Chords Used in "Black Friday"

The chord progression in "Black Friday" is not only essential for performing the song but also serves as a great study in music theory. Below are the primary chords used throughout the song:

### 1. Intro:

- Dm7
- G7
- Cmaj7
- Fmaj7

### 2. Verse:

- Dm7
- G7
- Cmaj7
- E7
- Am7
- D7
- G7

### 3. Chorus:

- Cmaj7
- Bm7
- E7
- Am7
- D7

### 4. Bridge:

- Em7
- A7
- Dm7
- G7

These chords create a rich harmonic backdrop that supports the vocal melody and

contributes to the song's mood.

## Analyzing the Chord Progression

To truly appreciate the "Black Friday" chords, it's important to understand how they function within the context of the song. Here's a breakdown of the chord progression:

- Intro: Sets the tone with a jazzy feel, introducing listeners to the chord changes.
- Verse: The progression moves smoothly between minor and major chords, creating a sense of tension and release. The use of seventh chords adds to the song's sophistication.
- Chorus: The transition to the chorus provides a lift, with a more straightforward progression that emphasizes the lyrical content.
- Bridge: This section serves as a contrast to the verses and chorus, utilizing different chords to add depth and complexity.

## Playing "Black Friday" on Guitar

For guitarists looking to cover "Black Friday," understanding the chord shapes and transitions is crucial. Here are some tips for playing the song effectively:

### Essential Chord Shapes

Here are the chord shapes you will need to know:

- Dm7: xx0211
- G7: 320001
- Cmaj7: x32000
- Fmaj7: xx3210
- E7: 020100
- Am7: x02010
- D7: xx0212
- Bm7: x20202
- Em7: 022030
- A7: x02020

Familiarizing yourself with these shapes will help you smoothly transition between chords as you play through the song.

## Strumming Patterns and Techniques

To capture the essence of "Black Friday," consider the following strumming techniques:

- Swing Feel: The song has a laid-back, swinging rhythm. Try using a relaxed strumming

pattern that emphasizes the off-beats.

- Palm Muting: Use palm muting on certain chords to create a percussive effect, particularly during the verses.
- Dynamic Playing: Vary your strumming intensity throughout the song. Softer strumming during verses and more forceful strumming during the chorus can help convey the song's emotional depth.

## Exploring the Lyrics and Theme

"Black Friday" is notable not just for its musicality but also for its compelling lyrics. The song is steeped in imagery and metaphor, reflecting themes of disillusionment, loss, and the darker sides of life.

### Key Themes

The lyrics of "Black Friday" evoke a sense of nostalgia and melancholy. Some key themes include:

- Disillusionment: The song's narrative expresses a feeling of betrayal and the harsh realities of life.
- Loss: There is an overarching theme of loss, both personal and societal.
- Escape: The protagonist seeks an escape from the troubles that plague them.

These themes resonate with listeners, adding layers of meaning to the song beyond its musical composition.

## Covering "Black Friday"

For musicians looking to cover "Black Friday," there are several approaches to ensure your rendition captures the spirit of the original:

### Arrangement Tips

1. Respect the Original: While it's essential to put your personal touch on a cover, staying true to the original's feel and structure is crucial.
2. Add Instrumentation: Consider incorporating additional instruments such as keyboards or saxophones to replicate the rich sound of Steely Dan.
3. Vocal Interpretation: Experiment with vocal delivery to capture the emotional nuances of the lyrics.

## Resources for Learning the Song

If you're looking to dive deeper into the mechanics of "Black Friday," consider the following resources:

- Guitar Tabs: Websites like Ultimate Guitar and Songsterr offer accurate tabs and chord charts.
- YouTube Tutorials: Many musicians share their interpretations and tips for playing "Black Friday" on YouTube.
- Sheet Music: Purchasing sheet music can provide a more detailed look at the song's structure and arrangement.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding **Black Friday Steely Dan chords** is an essential endeavor for any musician or fan of the band. The song's intricate chord progressions, compelling lyrics, and unique musical style create a rich and rewarding experience. Whether you are performing it yourself or simply enjoying it as a listener, "Black Friday" remains a timeless piece of music that continues to resonate with audiences. Embrace the challenge of mastering the chords and delve into the themes to fully appreciate this classic track by Steely Dan.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the basic chords used in 'Black Friday' by Steely Dan?

The main chords for 'Black Friday' are Bm, A, G, and F.

### Is 'Black Friday' by Steely Dan played in a major or minor key?

'Black Friday' is primarily in the B minor key.

### What is the chord progression for the verses in 'Black Friday'?

The chord progression for the verses is Bm - A - G - F.

### Are there any unique chord voicings in 'Black Friday'?

Yes, Steely Dan often uses jazz-influenced chord voicings that include 7th and extended chords.

## Can I find a guitar tab for 'Black Friday' online?

Yes, many websites offer guitar tabs and sheet music for 'Black Friday'.

## What strumming pattern works well for 'Black Friday'?

A common strumming pattern is down, down-up, up, down, up, which complements the song's groove.

## What instruments are featured in 'Black Friday' besides guitar?

The song features keyboards, bass, drums, and horns, contributing to its rich sound.

## Are there any live versions of 'Black Friday' that highlight guitar solos?

Yes, many live performances of 'Black Friday' include extended guitar solos that showcase improvisation.

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