

# The Pretenders - Back on the Chain Gang

Tom: F

>  
>[Riff]:  
>  
>  
>  
opening strum: D A G G D A G G

riff x2

D A G G  
I found a picture of you oh  
What hijacked my world at nights  
To a place in the past we've been passed out of oh  
Now we're back in the fight

Em A  
We're back on the train (ooh, ah)  
Ohh  
A D A G G  
Back on the chain gang

The circumstance beyond our control oh  
The fool on TV and the news of the world  
Got in the house like a pigeon from hell, oh  
Crescending our eyes and descended like flies

Put us back on the train, yeah  
Oh  
Back on the chain gang

D A G G

riff x2

bridge:  
Dm A Dm A and so on  
The powers that be  
That forces us to live like we do  
Bring me to my knees  
When I see what they've done to you

chord comping

I'll die as I stand here today  
Knowing that deep in my heart  
A Dm  
Therefore to ruin one day  
A E  
For making us part-----

E B A A  
I found a picture of you, oh  
Those were the happiest days of my life  
Like a brick in the baggle was your part, oh  
In the wretched life of a lonely heart

Gbm B  
Now we're back on the train  
Ohh  
B E  
Back on the chain gang

E B E B until end

BACK ON THE CHAIN GANG- The Pretenders

D A Em7 D A Em7 (rpt over riff)

D A Em7 G7M G  
I found a picture of you oh  
D A Em7 G7M G  
What hijacked my world that night  
D A Em7 G7M G  
To a place in the past we've been cast out of oh  
D A Em7 G7M G

Now we're back in the fight

Em A Em7 A  
We're back on the train hey  
Em A D A D A  
Aaaah, back on the chain gang

Circumstance beyond our control oh  
The phone, the TV, and the news of the world  
Got in the house like a pigeon from hell, oh  
Threw sand our eyes and descended like flies

Put us back on the train, yeah  
Aaaaah, back on the chain gang

D A Em7 D A Em7 D

BRIDGE:

Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm  
The powers that be that force us to live like we do  
A7 Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm  
A7

Bring me to my knees when I see what they've done to you

Dm A7 Dm A7  
Well I'll die as I stand here today, knowing that deep in my heart

A7 Dm  
They'll fall to ruin one day

A7 E B A  
For making us part-----

E B A A7M A  
I found a picture of you, oh  
E B A A7M A  
Those were the happiest days of my life  
E B A A7M A  
Like a break in the battle was your part, oh  
E B A A7M A  
In the wretched life of a lonely heart  
A B A B  
Now we're back on the train, hey  
A A E  
Aaaah, back on the chain gang

B E B E (rpt and fade)

Em7: 0 2 2 0 3 0 G7M: 3 2 4 0 0 2  
A7M: x 0 6 6 5 4 A: x 7 7 6 5 5

NOTE: If you find Gmaj too hard to finger, try Bm in its place. Not as accurate, but a hell of a lot easier.  
(from Learning to Crawl, 1983)

Back on the Chain Gang" (The Pretenders)

There are about three versions of this already in the archive, but none of them is quite right. This one's a little better; someone sent it to me last fall, and I recently cleaned it up because I wanted to play it.

Unfortunately, this might still have mistakes; I can't check because I don't have the album. I'll have to see if I can get them to play it on the radio...

BACK ON THE CHAIN GANG (The Pretenders)

D A G G D A G G  
[intro; slow strum] [hard strum]  
D A G G D A G G  
[with lead guitar]

D A G Bm - G  
I found a picture of you, ohh oh-oh ohh ohh

**D** **A** **G** **Bm** - **G**  
 Oh, what hijacked my world that night?  
**D** **A** **G** **Bm** - **G** **Dm** **A** **Dm** **A**  
 To a place in the past we've been cast out of, ohh oh-oh  
 ohh ohhh  
**D** **A** **G** **Bm** - **G**  
 Oh, now we're back in the fight

**Em** **A** **Em** - **Em** **A** - **A** - **A2** - **A**  
 We're back on the train, yeah  
**Em** **A** **D** **A** **G** **G**  
 Oh, oh, back on the chain gang

Circumstance beyond our control, ohh oh-oh ohh ohhh  
 Oh, the phone, the TV, and the news of the world  
 Got in our house like a pigeon from hell (??), ohh oh-oh ohh  
 ohhh  
 Oh, threw sand in our eyes, and descended like flies

**Em** **A** **Em** - **Em** **A** - **A** - **A2** - **A**  
 Put us back on the train, yeah  
**Em** **A** **Em** - **Em** **A** - **A** - **A2** - **A**  
 Ohhh, ohhhh  
**D** **A** **G**  
 Back on the chain gang

**D** **A** **G** **G** **D** **A** **G** **G** [3 beats]  
 [guitar solo, same as second part of intro]

**Dm** **A** **Dm** **A** **(Dm)**  
 The powers that be that force us to live like we do  
**Dm** **A** **Dm** **A**  
 (.do) Bring me to my knees when I see what they've done to  
 you  
**Dm** **AddF** **Dm** **AddF**  
 [no vocals]

**Dm** **A** **Dm** **A**  
**(Dm)**

And will I die as I stand here today, knowing that deep in  
 my heart

**Dm** **A** **Dm** **A**  
 (.heart) They'll fall to ruin one day, for making us part  
**E** **B** **A** **Dbm** - **A**  
 [no vocals]

**E** **B** **A** **Dbm** - **A**  
 I found a picture of you, ohh oh-oh ohh ohhh  
**E** **B** **A** **Dbm** - **A**  
 Oh, those were the happiest days of my life  
**E** **B** **A** **Dbm** - **A**  
 Like a break in the battle was your part, ohh oh-oh ohh  
 ohhh  
**E** **B** **A** **Dbm** - **A**  
 Oh, in the wretched life of a lonely heart

**Gbm** **B** **Gbm** - **Gbm** **B** - **B** - **B2** -  
**B**  
 Now we're back on the train, yeah  
**Gbm** **A** **E** **B** **A** **A**  
 Oh, oh, back on the chain gang  
**E** **B**  
 Chain gang [repeat and fade]

Funny chords:  
 Em: 022003  
 F#m: 244225  
 Dm: x00231 - x00230 - x00231  
 AddF: x02220 - x02221 - x02220  
 Intro: & Solo:

**D** **A**  
 (/=slide, p=pull off, b=bend, ~=vibrato)

For the ending two chords, arpeggiate as follows:  
**E** **B**

## Acordes

