

Mitchell Tunings  
Joni Mitchell

JONI MITCHELL TUNINGS

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I thought I'd put together a little piece on Joni's tunings because I've recently worked out quite a few of the tunings she uses, and it's easier to list them all in one place than try to TAB them all separately.

I hope to get round to tabbing at least a couple of the songs mentioned in full, but it takes time so I thought I'd write this first to give the basic info.

Two standard tunings which she has used quite a bit are the open G and open D tunings.

Open G is (from low to high) : DGDGBD

Open D is (low to high) : DADF#AD

I say standard tunings because these have been used by a lot of people. The open G tuning is used a hell of a lot by Keith Richards for example.

Another favourite of hers is a variation on the open D which I call the **Dadd9** tuning.

It is : DAEF#AD

There are also a couple of other tunings I've worked out, though I've only found her using them on one particular song.

Anyway, here is a list of songs with their appropriate tunings. I hope to add to this list as I work out more songs, but I've got a feeling that she has a small number of tunings which she uses on a lot of different songs, rather than inventing a new tuning for every new song.

If you play around a bit you might start to get the song worked out for yourself - once you've got the right tuning, things are a lot easier !

Thanks also to Jared White for sending some tunings he knew, and to Jimfre Bacal for sending some others (courtesy of Patrick Willoughby).

Tuning

SONG

Album

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**C G Bb Eb F Bb :**

Sex Kills                      Turbulent Indigo

**D A E F# A D :**

Sunny Sunday                      Turbulent Indigo

Passion Play                      Night Ride Home

Cherokee Louise                      Night Ride Home

Night Ride Home                      Night Ride Home

**D A E G C E :**

Furry Sings the  
Blues                      Hejira

Jericho                      Don Juan s Reckless  
Daughter

**C G D F C E :**

Coyote                      Hejira

Woman of Heart and  
Mind                      For the Roses

Don Juan s  
Reckless Daughter                      Don Juan s ...

**C G D F G C :**

Chalk mark in a  
Rainstorm no. 1                      Chalk Mark in a  
Rainstorm

Cool Water                      Chalk Mark in a  
Rainstorm

Hejira                      Hejira

**D A D F# A D :**

Free Man In Paris                      Court And Spark

People s Parties	Court And Spark
Michael From Mountains	Joni Mitchell
Cactus Tree	Joni Mitchell
Night in the City	Joni Mitchell
Pirate of Penzance	Joni Mitchell
Both Sides now	Clouds
Chelsea Morning	Clouds
You turn me on	For the roses

**D A D E A D :**

I had a King	Joni Mitchell
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**D G D G B D :**

Don t Interrupt The Sorrow	Hissing of Summer Lawns
Nathan La Franeer	Joni Mitchell
Little Green	Blue
For the roses	For the roses
Marcie	Joni Mitchell
Circle Game	Ladies of the Canyon
Morning Morgantown	Ladies of the canyon

**B F# B E A E :**

Magdalen Laundries	Turbulent Indigo
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Remember that you can tune down and then use a capo to get the same sound

- so instead of tuning to open D (DADF#AD), you could tune to open C (CGCEGC) then put a capo on the 2nd fret.

I ve tabbed Free Man in Paris and People s Parties already - check out Nevada for those (but use a mirror site !)

If you have any trouble finding them I can mail them to you

I hope to TAB some of the others soon

Howard