

# Freight Train

Intermediate Fingerstyle  
Elizabeth Cotton

This song is classic Chet Atkins. Although a somewhat simplified version of his arrangement, it has a lot of his technique buried in this arrangement. The driving alternating bass, the syncopated timing and the runs are all Chet.

Moderate ♩ = 120

1

let ring

TAB

T T T A M T A T T M I T M T T M M M M A M T A T T  
T T T T T T I I I I T

6

let ring

TAB

A M A M A M T M I T M I T A T A M T M A M T A T A  
T I T T T T T T T T T T T T T T

11

let ring

TAB

T T T M T M I T M T M I T M T I A I T A I T A I T M T I M  
T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T

1. 2.

C C C

342-1- 342-1- -32-1-

16

let ring

1 2 3 3 0 2 1 0 2 3

M T T T T T T T A  
T M I T

Arranging a song can be one of the more difficult tasks performed by a guitarist/musician. Besides the actual composing of the score, it is the arrangement that makes or breaks a song.

Think about it. Certainly you have heard a great song performed poorly and you loose your enthusiasm for that song. Is that the fault of the composer? No, not at all. It is the fault of the arranger. Good composers know this and keep a short list of great arrangers to get the most out of their songs.

Usually the bones of a song are very simple. There are often very few lead notes or melody notes and the chord patterns are often very simple as well. This leaves a lot to the disgression of the arranger to make this song sound the way the composer intended. This is called embellishing a song.

What we have done in this song is to identify three different areas of content for fingerstyle:

The Lead Notes or melody, which is what a vocalist would sing are all the notes circled in Blue.

The Accompaniment notes are circled in Red.

And finally, the Alternating Bass notes are circled in Green.

Each of the three are on separate layers, so you can turn each off individually, or all indications off entirely.

You will note that the Alternating Bass notes are the most prevelant as there is almost always 4 per measure, or one beat per bass note and 4 beats per measure. Also these notes form the backbone of the rhythm for this songs as they fall ON each beat in the measure.

Practice each part separately. Start off with the Lead Notes