

Killing Me Softly

Baritone - Fingerstyle

How to make a melody a chord melody



Tenthumbspro.com
For educational purposes only

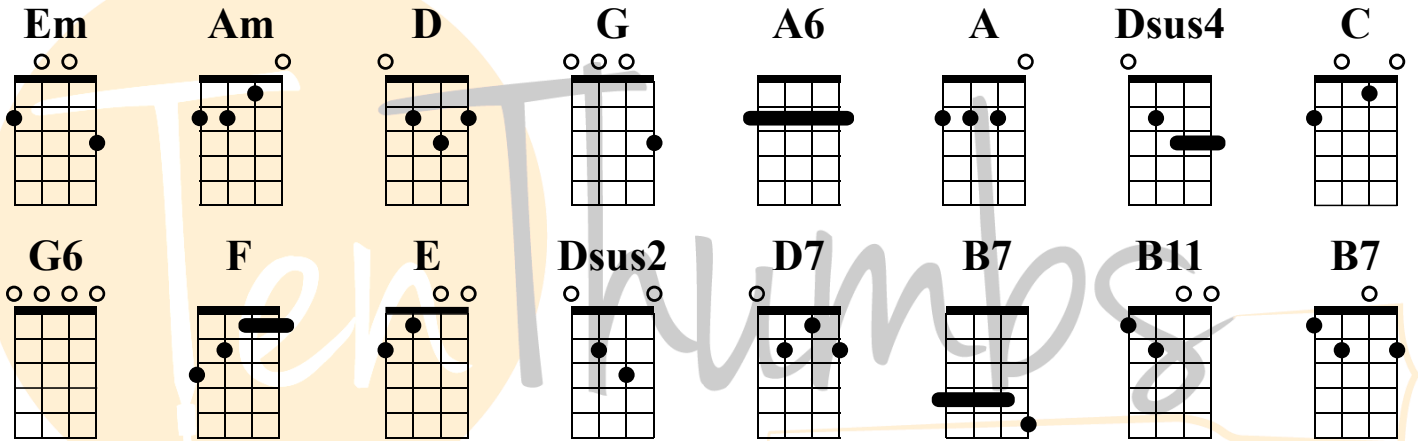
Key:

Harmony:

BPM:

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYiSqwXosLY>

Chord Shapes:



Step 1: Learn the Melody

- The stronger your understanding of the melody the easier it is going to be for you to learn how both arrange and play a chord melody.
- This step gets skipped a lot to save time, and while yes it is slower, it is very beneficial.
- If you know the chord tones for the harmony pay attention to notes being played that aren't in the chord. These are color tones. Seeing how professionals use color tones can improve your ability to compose your own original melodies.

Em	Am	D	G
Strum- 3 3 3 3	ming 0 0	my 3 1	pain 2 2 2 2
with 3 2	his 0	fin- 3 2	gers, 0
Sing- 3 2	ing 0	my 3 2	life 0
with 3 2	his 0	words, 0	

Em A D C

17 18 19 20

Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Tell- ing my

0-0-0-0 0-3 2-0 5-5-5 3-2 3 2-0 0-0-3

G Am F E

21 22 23 24

whole life with his words, Kill- ing me soft- ly, with his song.

0-3-0 3-1 1-1-0 0-2 2-2 0

Step 2: Harmonizing the melody

Em Am D G

1 2 3 4

Strum- ming my pain with his fin- gers, Sing- ing my life with his words,

3-3-3-3 0-0 3-1 2-2 2-2-2 3-2 0-0 0-0

- Lets start with the 1st measure
- The chord you see above the measure is the harmony. That means if you were to sing this song you would strum the E minor chord while you sang "Strum-ming my pain with his.."
- That means when creating a chord melody we are going to try and combine those notes with an E minor chord
- When playing an E minor chord you normally don't play the 3rd fret of the E string, but it is a chord tone. It is a G note and the E minor is E-G-B.
- An easy way to arrange your chord melody is to just strum the chord on the 1 beat, which is exactly what we did here.
- VERY IMPORTANT, strum the first measure with your thumb, if you want the melody to shine strum with your thumb, if you there is no melody strum with your index finger.
- The 2nd measure is with an A minor and we see it is harmonized quite differently.
- The 2nd fret of the G string is A note. What we did here was play the melody against just an A note, that note is implying the A minor chord, you do not have to always play all three notes of the chord.
- The 3rd measure is a like the first, we simply strum with our thumb on the first beat to make the melody, 2nd fret of the E string shine, and then play the rest of the melody over the measure.
- They are all chord tones.

- 4th
- The 4th measure is like the 2nd, we use the G note to imply the G major chord when harmonizing it with the B note, which is the melody.

Em A6 A Dsus4D C

5 6 7 8

Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Tell- ing my

0-0-0-0-0-3 | 2-0-5-5-5 | 3-2-3-2-3 | 2-1-0-0-0-3

0-2 | 2-2 | 5-5-5 | 3-2-3-2-3 | 2-1-0-0-0-3

2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2

- The 1st measure of this section has the melody on the B string, not the E. If this is the case you will use your thumb to strum through the first 3 strings but you do not strum the 4th string, that is because the ear interprets the highest note you hear as the melody, if we strummed all 4 strings the ear would think the melody was an E note, not a B note.
- The 2nd measure has two shapes of the A chord. This is very common, in arranging this type of music when the melody moves up the fretboard you need be able to find the triad (chord) up the fretboard. Being skilled in this style means having the ability to find the same chord in multiple positions all over the fretboard. Here is some extra help with that concept https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M8v_YjLQQM
- Another very important thing happening here is the F# note on the 1st beat. The melody is F# but the chord is an A major, which has A-C#-E notes. The melody will always have priority over the harmony. If the melody says 2nd fret, but the chord says open, you will always play the 2nd fret. The role of the harmony is support the melody, not to cover it up.
- The 3rd measure is the first time we use a pull off. Hammer-ons and pull offs are a fun way to move the melody around. We are also see again the melody being a non-chord tone, but it still gets priority. The 4th measure is similar to the 3rd. A non-chord tone melody going to a chord tone while using a pull off to emphasis the movement.

G6 Am F E

9 10 11 12

whole life with his words, Kill- ing me soft- ly, with his song.

0-3-0 | 3-1-1-1-0 | 0-2-2-2-2 | 0-1-2

0-3-0 | 2-2 | 3-2-2-2-2 | 0-1-2

2 | 2 | 3 | 2

- These four measures all use techniques we have already discussed.

- Here is the entire song tabbed out. The only other thing that I want to mention is the chords that don't have melody. If there is a chord with no melody you want to strum with your index finger, your nail doesn't pull notes out the way your thumb does so when you strum through them it simply sounds like the rhythm section, as opposed to more melody. You'll see this much more in the verse and the other choruses.
- The song finishes on the E minor, let it ring out.

Full Song

1 **Em** 2 **Am** 3 **D** 4 **G**

Strum- ming my pain with his fin- gers, Sing- ing my life with his words,

T 3 3 3 0 3 1 3 2 3 0

A 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 3 2 0

B 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0

5 **Em** 6 **A6 A** 7 **Dsus4D** 8 **C**

Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Tell- ing my

T 0 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 5 5 5 3 2 2 0 0 0 3

A 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 5 5 5 3 2 3 1 0 0 3

B 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

9 **G6** 10 **Am** 11 **F** 12 **E**

whole life with his words, Kill- ing me soft- ly, with his song.

T 0 3 0 3 1 1 1 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 1 2

A 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 1 1

B 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 0 2 2

25 **Am** 26 **Dsus2** 27 **G** 28 **C**

I heard he sang a good song. I heard he had a style.

T 0 0 1 3 3 3 3 0 0 3 1 0 1 0 0

A 1 0 2 3 3 3 3 0 0 3 1 0 1 0 0

B 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2

Am Dsus2 Em

29 30 31 32

And so I came to see him, To lis- ten for a while.

0 1 3 0 3 0 2 2 3 2 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

1 0 1 3 3 0 2 2 3 2 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Am D7 G B7 B11 B7

33 34 35 36

And there he was, this young boy, A stran- ger to my ey- es.

0 3 0 1 0 2 0 1 3 3 4 4 0 2

1 3 1 1 0 2 0 1 3 3 4 4 0 2

2 2 2 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 4 4 2 2

Em Am D G

37 38 39 40

Strum- ming my pain with his fin- gers, Sing- ing my life with his words,

3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3

0 0 0 0 3 1 1 1 1 3 2 2 2 3 2 0 0 0 0

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Em A6 A D C

41 42 43 44

Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Kill- ing me soft- ly with his song, Tell- ing my

0 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 0 5 5 5 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 3

0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 5 5 5 3 2 2 2 2 3 3 1 1 0 3

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 7 7 7 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2

G Am F E

45 46 47 48

whole life with his words, Kill- ing me soft- ly, with his song.

0 3 3 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 3 3 0 3 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Am **Dsus2** **G** **C**

25 26 27 28

I heard he sang a good song. I heard he had a style.

T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 1 0 1 3 3 3 0 3 1
B 2 2 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 2

Am **Dsus2** **Em**

29 30 31 32

And so I came to see him, To listen for a while.

T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 1 0 1 3 3 3 2 0 3 0 0 0 0
B 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Am **D7** **G** **B7** **B11** **B7**

33 34 35 36

And there he was, this young boy, A stranger to my eyes.

T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 3 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 3 4 4 0 2
B 2 2 2 0 2 0 1 0 0 0 4 4 2 0 2 2 2 1 1

Strum an E minor and let it ring to finish the song.

Ten Thumbs