
Space Cowboy - Album 5-String (1994)



Transcription Notes: This is the album version of 'Space Cowboy'. It features a still unknown bassist, often referred to as Mr. X. This track will require a 5 string bass and a lot of patience to play note for note. Here is Stuart's answer as to why he did not feature on the track:

"I did not play the album version of Space Cowboy. It's a kind of sore spot for me because at the time we had finished the album and I had planned a holiday with my 'then' girlfriend. We were coming to the end of our relationship and I wanted to try and get some closure. Jay then told me that we were to go into the studio to record an album version of the single on the date I was supposed to leave. We went to a cafe and had a heart to heart and I was sure he understood why I had to go and see her. My heart was breaking. The holiday was actually planned a month before the new session was booked. Anyway, he informed me that it was cool and that we would work something out. Well needless to say when I arrived back in town he had got another bass player in to play with the band on that version...Mr. X. This was the beginning of the end for me, for I had always looked up to Jay and then, to have him do that really hurt. I do however understand that he had to do what he had to do. It was after all his band."

The Verse sections of this song are the most basic parts. They consist of root note open spaces followed by faster more rhythmic sixteenth note links. You should be able to pick out the slight variations as you play along. Now if you have ever heard the single version of this track on which Stu plays bass, the vibe is completely different - especially during the Chorus'. The Chorus in this track is very laid back and flows smoothly, whereas the Chorus in the alternate version is very uptight and funky. During the first Chorus of this version you should be fine, but the latter Chorus' become a lot more complex. As well as the Chorus sections you have the following Bridge sections linking back around to the next section. This is the 'Funky' aspect of the track and you should be able to nail these with some practice. The second Bridge has some harder fills to deal with.

This is a big transcription and if you are new to playing the bass line, I would suggest breaking it down into sections. You may find the second Bridge onwards a challenging task, as the following Chorus then goes on until the end of the song (with some variations in timbre and feel). You will come across many challenging riffs to deal with, but if analysed and practiced slowly you should have no problems.

As the bass player is still unknown for this recording, equipment knowledge is sparse. It's been suggested that maybe a Musicman Stingray 5 string bass may have been used for the recording. The tone is considerably different to Stu's and in particular is more muddy and masked. Have less top end to your sound and more middle and bass. Combined with a blend of both pick ups (maybe slightly favouring the front) you should be able to get a similar sound.

Track Info: As stated earlier, this version is different to the single release. 'Space Cowboy' was the first single taken from this disc though and reached number 17 in October 1994. The track has seen many, many remixes and has been a massive hit in the club scene.