

# Swift Guitar Lessons

## "California" By Joni Mitchell *Arrangement for guitar by Rob Swift*

Standard Tuning | key of Emaj | Released 1971 | Label: Reprise Records | 71 Bpm



### Intro Section:

```

                A                                E                                A
E | ---0-0-0-0-0----- | -----2----- | -0--x-0-0--x-0- | -0--x-0-0-0-0- |
B | ---3-4-3-0---0- | -2--x--2-2--x--2-5- | --0-/4-4--- | -0--x-0-0--x-0- | -0--x-0-2-2- |
G | -----1--- | -2--x--2-2--x--2--- | -1-----4- | -1--x-1-1--x-1- | -1--x-1-2-2- |
D | ----- | -2--x--2-2--x--2--- | ----- | -2--x-2-2--x-2- | -2--x-2-2-2- |
A | ----- | -0--x---0--x--0--- | ----- | -2--x--2--x--- | -2--x---0-0- |
E | ----- | ----- | ----- | -0--x--0--x--- | -0--x----- |

```

### Verse #1:

```

E                                A                                F#m11 (F#maj in original track)
Sitting in a park in Paris France reading the news and it sure looks bad
                B7                                E
They won't give peace a chance... that was just a dream some of us had
(E)                A                                F#m11
Still a lot of lands to see... but I wouldn't want to stay here
                B7
It's too old and cold and settled in its ways here...

```

### Chorus #1:

```

A                                E                                C#7
Ah but California, California I'm coming home
A                                E                                B7
I'm gonna see the folks I dig, I'll even kiss a sunset pig
(B7)                E
California I'm coming home

```

### Instrumental Section #1:

```

                C#m                                E                                A
E | -0--x-2-4-2-0-0- | -4-----4-----0- | -0--x--4-4-4-4-5-5- | -0--x-0-0--0- |
B | -0--x-----4-- | ---5---5---4--- | -0--x--5-5-5-5-5-5- | -0--x-0-2--2- |
G | -1--x----- | -----6---6--- | -1--x--4-4-4-4-4-4- | -1--x-1-2--2- |
D | -2--x----- | ----- | -2--x----- | -2--x-2-2--2- |
A | -2--x----- | ----- | -2--x----- | -2--x---0--0- |
E | -0--x----- | ----- | -0--x----- | -0--x----- |

```

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### Verse #2:

E A F#m11  
 I met a redneck on a Grecian isle, who did the goat dance very well  
 B7  
 He gave me back my smile... but he kept my camera to sell  
 (E) A  
 Oh the rogue, the red, red rogue, he cooked good omelettes and stews  
 F#m11 B7  
 And I might have stayed on with him there, but my heart cried out for you...

### Chorus #2:

A E C#7  
 Ah but California, California I'm coming home  
 A E  
 Oh make me feel good rock and roll band, I'm your biggest fan  
 B7 E  
 California I'm coming home

**Repeat Instrumental Section:** *(Skip Amaj chords at end, and go straight into bridge section.)*

### Bridge:

E F# A  
 Oh, it gets so lonely, when you're walking...  
 E B+11  
 And the streets are full of strangers...  
 F# A  
 All the news of home you read...  
 F# D B+11  
 Just gives you the blues...Just gives you the blues!

### Instrumental Section #2:

A E A

```

E |-----|-----0-0-0-0-| -0--x-0-0--x-0-| -0--x-0-0-0-0-|
B |---2---3p2---3p2---| ---2-3p2---4-5-4-0-| -0--x-0-0--x-0-| -0--x-0-2-2-|
G |---2-----2-----2-| ---2-----2-----| -1--x-1-1--x-1-| -1--x-1-2-2-|
D |---2-----| ---2-----| -2--x-2-2--x-2-| -2--x-2-2-2-|
A | -0-----| -0-----| -2--x--2--x---| -2--x--0-0-|
E |-----|-----| -0--x--0--x---| -0--x-----|
  
```

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### Verse #3:

E A  
So I bought me a ticket I caught a plane to Spain  
F#m11  
Went to a party down a red dirt road  
B7 E  
There were lots of pretty people there, reading Rolling Stone reading Vogue  
(E) A F#m11  
They said how long can you hang around, I said a week maybe two  
B7  
Just until my skin turns brown and then I'm going home

### Chorus #2:

A E C#7  
Ah but California, California I'm coming home  
A E B7  
Oh, will you take me as I am, strung out on another man  
(B7) E  
California I'm coming home

**Repeat Instrumental Section:** *(Skip Amaj chords at end, and go straight into bridge section.)*

### Bridge #2:

E F# A  
Oh, it gets so lonely, when you're walking...  
E B+11  
And the streets are full of strangers...  
F# A  
All the news of home you read...  
E B+11  
More about the war, and the bloody changes...

### Bridge #2:

F# A E B  
Will you take me as I am? Will you take me as I am? Will you?  
F# //// | A //// | E //// | B //// | *Repeat twice more and end on Emaj.*  
Will you take me as I am? (ohhhh)

# Chord Bank

