Stairway To Heaven – Led Zeppelin

Please be sure to print out the “Fingerstyle References” that explains the overall concept of chord usage in fingerstyle guitar. If this song was on a DVD you purchased, you can find it on the DVD by right-clicking and choosing “explore.”

You can also find it here: www.ezstrummer.com/fingerstyle/references.pdf

One note: When you get to (0-2) it means to play the open A string and then the second fret on the A string to transition. This is optional, but really adds a nice touch to the song. It’s a bit tricky to fit in there at times, so you’ll see me doing it rather sparingly. It’s not hard. It’s just a little tricky.

Strumming Pattern: There’s only one real strumming pattern, which comes in at the end. The bridge will just need to be practiced, as the strumming pattern just follows the chords in a very confusing way. However, since it is a very popular song, I think you’ll be able to play it just by ear.

For the Am – G – F – G pattern you’ll play: DD, XxXx over and over until the F chord, which is: DDU, DDU, DU. The upper case X indicates heavy emphasis on the mute. The lower case indicates light emphasis on the mute, if you want it to sound like how I did it.

Chords Used:

[Diagram showing chord shapes]

or D/G = xxx233
or G5 = 355xxx | 355433
Intro:
(o-2) C – D – F – Am – C – G – Am

Verse 1:
C        D
There’s a lady who’s sure,
F        Am
All that glitters is gold.
C     G        Am
And she’s buying a Stairway to Heaven.
C   D
When she gets there she knows,
F        Am
If the stores are all closed,
C     G   Am
With a word she can get what she came for.
(o-2) C – D – F - Am
C    G        Am
And she’s buying a Stairway to Heaven.
(o-2)

Verse 2:
C        D
There’s a sign on the wall,
F        Am
But she wants to be sure.
C               G  Am
’Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings.
C  D
In a tree by the brook,
F  Am
There’s a songbird who sings,
C  G      Am
Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiven.
(o-2) C – D

Bridge 1:
Play an Am7, then:
Fingerings: 789 = 123 | 577 = 143 | 355 = 143 | 577 = 143 (second numbers are fingers)

On the second xxx755 you sing “and it makes me...” then just repeat

And it makes me wonder...

And it makes me wonder...

Verse 3:

C   D
There’s a feeling I get,
F          Am
When I look to the West.
C   G             Am
And my spirit is crying for leaving.
C       D
In my thoughts I have seen,
F             Am
Rings of smoke through the trees,
C   G            Am
And the voices of those who stand looking.

(Play bridge 1 again – no singing)

Verse 4:

C     D
And it’s whispered that soon,
F         Am
If we all call the tune,
C     G        Am
Then the piper will lead us to reason.
C     D
And a new day will dawn,
F              Am
For those who stand long,
C      G  Am
And the forests will echo with laughter.

(Play bridge 1 again)

Verse 5:

C                  D                   F                Am
If there’s a bustle in your hedge row, don't be alarmed now,
C          G            Am
It's just a spring clean for the May Queen.
C          D            F            Am
Yes, there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run
C          G            Am
There's still time to change the road you're on.

(Play bridge 1 again)

Verse 6:

C         D              F          Am
Your head is humming and it won't go, in case you don't know,
C         G            Am
The piper's calling you to join him,
C         D              F          Am
Dear lady, can you hear the wind blow, and did you know
C         G            Am
Your stairway lies on the whispering wind?

C – D – F – Am – C – G – Am

Bridge 2:

D – D/G (x3) C
D – D/G (x3) C
(to fill the confusing gap I just slide up and down from 12th fret with dynamics...no actual
notes played, just a muted slide)

Solo/Outro:  Am – G – F – G

Am          G          F          G
And as we wind on down the road,
Am          G          F          G
Our shadows taller than our souls,
Am          G          F          G
There walks a lady we all know,
Am          G          F          G
Who shines white light and wants it shown,
Am          G          F          G
How everything still turns to gold.
Am          G          F          G
And if you listen very hard,
Am          G          F          G
The tune will come to you at last.
Am          G          F          G
When all is one and one is all...
Am          G          F
To be a rock and not to roll.
N.C.(no chord)   Am
And she’s buying a Stairway to Heaven.