

## Jug Band Jam

### What is Jug Band Music?

Jug bands use mainly home made instruments, with the jug as a rudimentary tuba/ trombone. The player buzzes their lips over the opening allowing the jug to act as a resonator. Early jug bands were typically made up of African-American vaudeville and medicine-show musicians. Beginning in the urban South they played a mixture of blues, ragtime, and jazz. The history of jug bands is closely related to the development of the blues, skiffle and rock and roll.

Let's dive in; here's a typical jug band pattern with a couple of variations, and you'll find this is the basis of Robert Johnson's *Hot Tamales*, Gus Cannon's *Walk Right In*, *Can't Get Enough Of That Stuff* by the Hokum Boys, and lots of others, and you can use this to write your own jug band song later! Here it is in C...

C	A7 (A7)	D7 G7	C
C	A7	D7	G7
C	C7	F	Fm or G#7 or F#dim7
C	A7	D7 G7	C 'tag' A7
D7 G7	C		

### Walk Right In

Walk right in, sit right down, baby let your mind roll on

Walk right in, sit right down, baby don't you stay too long

Everybody's talking 'bout the new way of walkin', baby gonna lose your mind

Walk right in, sit right down, baby let your mind roll on (tag)

Baby let your mind roll on

### Hot Tamales

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yeah she's got them for sale

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yeah she's got them for sale

They're two for a nickel, four for a dime, I'd sell you some more but they ain't none of mine

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yeah she's got them for sale (tag) I mean,

Yeah she's got them for sale

Then replace the shaded line each time with different couplets...

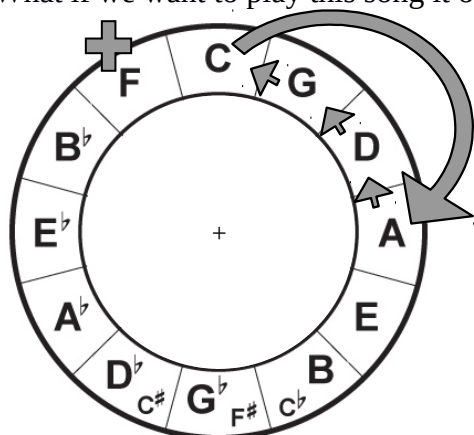
I got a girl, she's long and tall, she sleeps in the kitchen with her feet in the hall

Me and my girl got a V8 Ford, gonna ride that thing all on the running board

Billy got back in the bumblebee nest, ever since then he can't get no rest

etc.

What if we want to play this song in other keys? Use the handy circle of 5<sup>th</sup>s below



Here we see how the pattern works in C, but you can follow the same pattern anywhere on the circle. The F chord in the middle section is one step anti-clockwise from where we started, and that odd one where we have 3 choices is either this same chord made minor, one step above this played as a diminished 7 chord, or one step above whatever we play in the place of the G7.

## More Songs!

Both of these songs use a part of our first pattern for the whole song.

Here's *Rag Mama Rag*, by **Blind Boy Fuller**.

<b>A7</b>	%	<b>D7</b>	%
<b>G7</b>	%	<b>C</b>	%

I'm going downtown with my hat in my hand, lookin' for a woman ain't got no man  
Might as well be lookin' for a needle in the sand, lookin' for a woman ain't got no man  
*Rag Mama, rag Mama,*  
*Mama do that rag*

Now, you get one woman, you better get two, one for your buddy and one for you  
You better get a wife and a sweetheart too, wife don't love you but your sweetheart do  
*Rag Mama...*

I never thought my gal would treat me so, lover man in my back door  
Now, come on mama, what you know, you gonna reap just what you sow  
*Rag Mama...*

And here's *Stealin', Stealin'* by the **Memphis Jug Band**.

The shaded line is the same as the shaded portion of the first pattern. Let's do this one in G.

<b>CH</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G7</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Cm</b>
	<b>G</b>	<b>D7</b>	<b>G</b>	%
<b>V.</b>	<b>G</b>	%	<b>C</b>	%
	<b>G</b>	%	%	%

### Chorus

Stealin', stealin', pretty mama don't you tell on me  
I'm stealin' back to my same old used to be

### Verse 1

*Now, put your arms around me like the circle round the sun*  
*I want ya to love me, mama like my easy rider done*  
If you don't believe I love ya look what a fool I've been  
If you don't believe I'm sinkin' look what a hole I'm in

### Verse 2

*The woman I'm lovin' she just my height and size*  
*She's a married woman come to see me sometimes*  
If you don't believe I love ya look what a fool I've been  
If you don't believe I'm sinkin' look what a hole I'm in