



Cane Break Blues

Merle Travis

Transcription by Tom Thomason (1995)
TablEdited by Tom Thomason (1998)

8va

B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 1 4 4 4 4 4 4

E B G D A E

T = L.H. thumb

8va

B B B B B

0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 2 0

4 4 4 3 1

7 5 8 5 5 7 5 8 5

7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

5 5 6 5 5 5 5 5 5

T A B

8va

E maj 6 B9

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

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

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

T A B

T

Musical notation for measures 10-11. The top staff shows a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The guitar part is shown in a 12-string format with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by '8va'. Chord diagrams for A7/6, A7, E7, E flat 7, and D7 are provided. The fretboard diagram shows frets 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Musical notation for measures 12-13. The top staff continues the melody. The guitar part includes a 6-string chord diagram for E7. The fretboard diagram shows frets 6, 7, and 8. The bottom staff shows the fretboard with fret numbers and slurs.

Musical notation for measures 14-15. The top staff continues the melody. The guitar part includes a 6-string chord diagram for E M. The fretboard diagram shows frets 6, 7, and 8. The bottom staff shows the fretboard with fret numbers and slurs.

8va

A min add 9

A

17

T
A
B

8va

E7

B 7

19

T
A
B

8va

E7

E flat 7

D7

22

T
A
B

Musical notation for measures 24-25. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 24 starts with a treble clef and an octave sign (8va). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chord diagrams for A maj 6 and E maj 6 are provided below the staff.

Fingerings for measures 24-25. The strings are labeled T (Treble), A (Acoustic), and B (Bass). Measure 24: T (0, 2, 1), A (0, 2), B (0, 1). Measure 25: T (0, 2, 1), A (2, 2, 2), B (2, 2, 2). A capo sign (SI) is placed above the strings at measure 25. Fingering numbers 9, 12, 9, 7, 8, 0, 6, 4 are shown for the T and A strings.

Musical notation for measures 26-27. The key signature is three sharps. Measure 26 starts with a treble clef and an octave sign (8va). The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. Chord diagrams for C# min 6, C min 6, and E 9 are provided below the staff.

Fingerings for measures 26-27. Measure 26: T (4, 5), A (3, 2), B (3, 2). Measure 27: T (2, 3), A (4, 2), B (0, 4, 2). Fingering numbers 2, 4, 2, 2, 4, 2 are shown for the T and A strings.

Musical notation for measures 28-29. The key signature is three sharps. Measure 28 starts with a treble clef and an octave sign (8va). The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. Chord diagrams for A and another chord are provided below the staff.

Fingerings for measures 28-29. Measure 28: T (2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 4), A (0, 7, 5, 7, 0), B (0, 5, 7, 0). Measure 29: T (7, 5, 8, 5), A (6, 5, 4, 5), B (0, 5, 4, 5). A capo sign (SI) is placed above the strings at measure 29. Fingering numbers 2, 2, 2 are shown for the T and A strings.

The image displays a musical score for the guitar piece "Cane Break Blues" by Merle Travis. It consists of two systems of notation. The first system starts at measure 31 and includes a treble clef staff with a *8va* marking, a bass clef staff with fret numbers (9, 12, 7, 7, 8, 0, 0, 0, 3, 2, 1, 0, 0, 2, 3, 0, 0), and a bass clef staff with fret numbers (9, 9, 9, 0, 4, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1). Chord diagrams for "No Chord", "E M", and "B 9+" are provided. The second system starts at measure 34 and includes a treble clef staff with a *8va* marking, a bass clef staff with fret numbers (3, 3, 3, 2, 0, 0, 0, 4, 0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 1, 12), and a bass clef staff with fret numbers (4, 4, 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 4, 3, 2, 0, 1, 11, 11, 11). Chord diagrams for "A7" and "E M6/9" are provided.

This is a real fun blues in the key of E.

Measure 17 starts off with a slightly awkward A chord being used to good effect. At the end of the measure he restores a standard A shape by using a little harmony run in 1/8ths. The middle finger of the left hand (which was playing the seventh fret of the fourth string) shouldn't be lifted from the string when moved to the sixth fret for the first note of the harmony run. Once this note has been played, the middle finger is moved rapidly to the sixth fret of the third string and the ring finger replaces it on the fourth string.

The run beginning in measure 25 can be tricky. I chose a fingering which brings the left hand progressively down the neck in reasonably small steps and leaves a natural anchor (index finger on the fourth fret of the third string) for the descending figure beginning with the C#m6 in measure 26. If you prefer, you can play: 1 (12), 1 (9), 2 (12), 2 (8), 1 (0), 3 (6), 2 (0) before setting the C#m6.