

technique: acoustic master

 On the CD

TRACK 24

BYTE 1 The introduction, played slowly
 BYTE 2 The introduction at speed, continuing through the first verse

TRACK 25

The chorus section on its own.

The guitar used was a Dobro brass-bodied resonator guitar, in order to get as close as possible to Mark Knopfler's original sound.

Romeo and Juliet


DIRE STRAITS

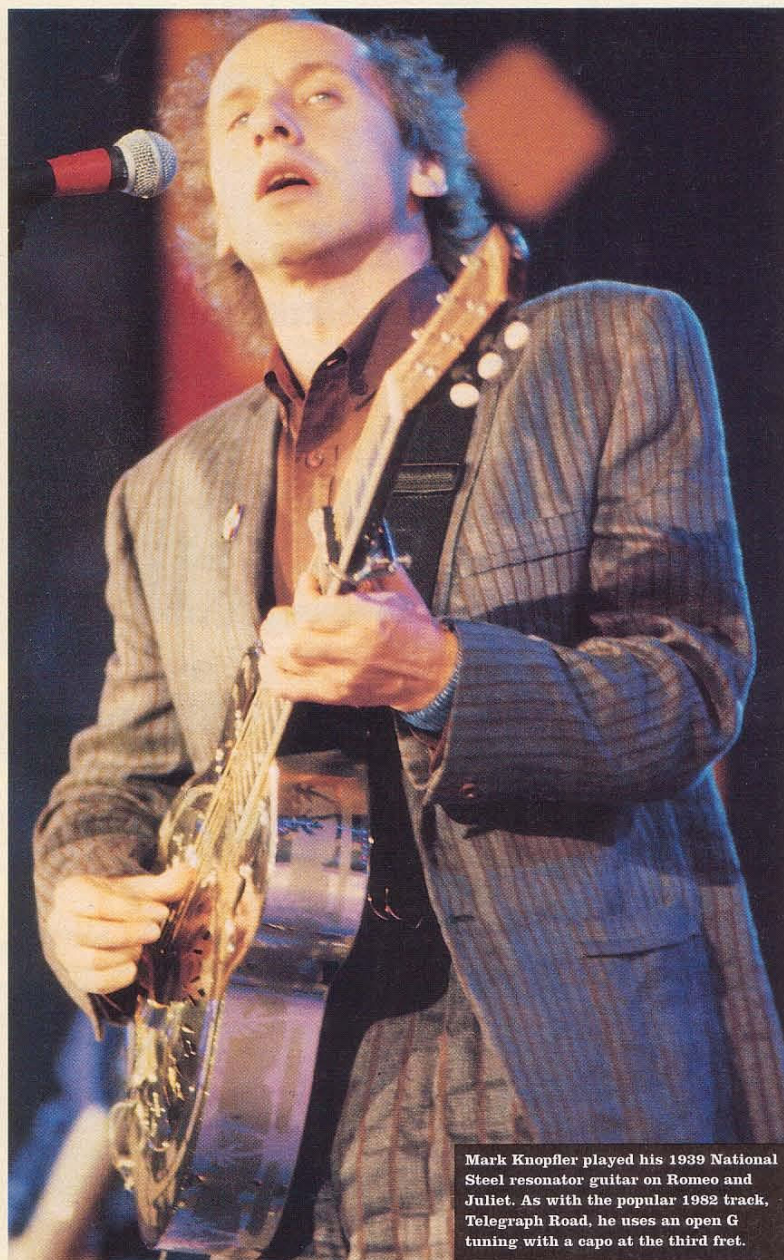
This 1980 ballad is one of the most requested tracks in readers' letters. ROD SINCLAIR steps out of the shade and says something like "you and me babe, how about it?"

ROMEO and Juliet appeared on Dire Straits' third studio album, *Making Movies*, recorded in 1980. It was their first single to feature a prominent acoustic guitar part. The intro and rhythm lines were played on

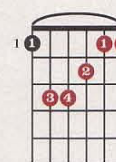
Mark Knopfler's 1939 National Duolian style 0 steel guitar – the same one pictured on the cover of *Brother in Arms*. Resonator guitars like this are often used for slide playing, and have a distinctive sound, but the part will work on any acoustic.

OPEN TUNING

The song is recorded in the key of F major, but played with a capo at the third fret, and the whole guitar is in open G tuning (D, G, D, G, B, D), making the capo'd-up tuning an open Bb (F, Bb, F, Bb, D, F). The picking pattern uses the thumb, first and second fingers; as with most patterns the thumb picks out the bass notes and the fingers add the melody. For the verse, you use thumb and first finger only, to play bass notes and up/down chord strums respectively. I've recorded the guitar part for the introduction slowly to make things easier – this is a difficult song to play, so the dice are pretty much loaded from the start... 



Mark Knopfler played his 1939 National Steel resonator guitar on *Romeo and Juliet*. As with the popular 1982 track, *Telegraph Road*, he uses an open G tuning with a capo at the third fret.

 CHORD SHAPES

F



F (position 2)



Bb



C



Dm



Gm

If you prefer to simply make up a picking part in normal tuning, here are the six chord shapes you'll need.



acoustic master: technique

DIRE STRAITS: Romeo and Juliet (intro/bridge section)

CD TRACK 24 »

Capo 3

Honestly, it's in F! The bass E is detuned to a D, the capo's at the third fret, so the open 6th string becomes F.

» DIRE STRAITS: Romeo and Juliet (verse)

CD TRACK 24 »

Capo 3

The part in this section is more reserved to make room for the vocal line. Use the thumb-and-one-finger approach for this section.

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» DIRE STRAITS: Romeo and Juliet (verse) ...cont

CD TRACK 24

Capo 3

Chords: F, C, Dm, B \flat , F, C, Dm, B \flat , F, B \flat , Dm, B \flat , Gm7, B \flat , Dm, C

The 'D-shaped' F chords should be strummed down then up with the first finger, after picking the bass note.

» DIRE STRAITS: Romeo and Juliet (chord sheet)

Intro

F B \flat F B \flat C F B \flat

Verse

F B \flat C F Dm C F C Dm B \flat

to Coda

C B \flat C F B \flat C 8 Chorus F C

Dm F/C B \flat F C Dm F/C B \flat C F C B \flat Dm B \flat Gm7

Bridge

B \flat F/C Dm C F B \flat F B \flat C F

B \flat F B \flat C DS al Coda Coda B \flat C Repeat to fade

The chord sheet gives you the structure for the whole song. When you see DS Al Coda, go back to the § sign, then jump to the Coda where indicated.