

Tom Sawyer Tab by Rush

Tuning: E A D G B E

Rush: Tom Sawyer
From the album Moving Pictures (Mercury Records)
Copyright 1981 Core Music Publishing
Music by Lee and Lifeson
Lyrics by Dubois and Peart

All synth arrangements for guitar are located at the end of the tab file.

The song opens with an Oberhiem "Sweep" sound concurrent with a Moog Taurus Pedal bass sound.

Tempo: 1/4 note

Tuning: Standard [EADGBE]

- Guitar rest for 8 measures -

```

      E                      Dsus2
    e q  e hw                e q  e hw
|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|
|-----9-----|-----5-----|-----5-----|-----5-----|
|o-----9-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|
|o-----9-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|
|-----7-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|-----7-----|
|-0-0--0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|

```

```

      A7sus4                  Cadd9
    e q  e hw                e q  e hw
|-----3-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|
|-----3-----|-----3-----|-----3-----|-----3-----|
|-----2-----|-----5-----|-----5-----|-----5-----o|
|-----2-----|-----5-----|-----5-----|-----5-----o|
|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|
|-0-0--0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|

```

```

      The riv-er...
    Csus2 G/B  Asus4  Csus2 G/B  Asus4      E
    Q   Q   Q      Q   q   q   e q  e he      Q   q   q
|-----4-----|-----4-----|-----4-----|-----4-----|
|-3----3----3---|---3----3---3---|-----5-----|---5----5--5---|
|-0----0----2---|---0----0---2---|-----4-----|---4----4--4---|
|-x----x----x---|---x----x---2---|-----0-----|-----0-----|
|-3----2----0---|---3----2---0---|-----0-----|-----0-----|
|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|-----0-----|

```

Dsus2				A7sus4				D/E	A7sus4
e q	e he	Q	q q	e q	e he	Q	h		
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----2-----	-----3-----		
-----5-----	-----5-----	-----5-----	-----5-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----		
-----7-----	-----7-----	-----7-----	-----7-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----		
-----7-----	-----7-----	-----7-----	-----7-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----		
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----		
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----		

And what you say about his company...

Csus2	G/B	A7sus4	G	G/F#E	Repeat 4 times			
Q	Q	Q	Q	q q	Q	h he	w h	Q h he w h
-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----
-----x-----	-----x-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----3-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----x-----	-----x-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----3-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----3-----	-----3-----

				1st-3rd ending	4th ending	Bsus2
Q	Q h	hew		Q H Q q	Q H Q q	wH
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----2-----
-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----o-----	-----4-----	-----4-----
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----o-----	-----2-----	-----4-----
-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----2-----
-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----

				A5			
q	H	q	wH	q	q	q	q
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----
-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----
-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

Gsus2	A5	B5	A5				Gsus2
q	q	q	q	q	q	q	q h h q
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----2-----	-----2-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----4-----	-----2-----	-----0-----
-----x-----	-----x-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----	-----3-----

A5	Eno3rd	
w	+	+
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----2-----	-----4-----	-----4-----
-----2-----	-----2-----	-----2-----
-----0-----	-----2-----	-----2-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

- Guitar rests for 13 measures -

Repeat 4 times

```

w          Q      q  q      e e e e e q      q  e e e e e
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
7o-----|-----o|-----|-----|
8o2-----|4-----4-o|7---6---4-----|7-----6-----|
|-2-----|4---4-----|---9---7---5---|---9---7-5---|
|-0-----|2-----|-----|-----7-|

```

```

e e e e e q      q  e e e e e
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-7---6---4---|7---6-----|-----|-----|
|---9---7---5---|---9---7-5---|-----|-----|
|-----|-----7-|-----|-----|

```

- Guitar solo (tab expanded for clarity 7/8 except where noted) -
Heavily overdriven with short delay to get a "doubling" effect.

```

h          Q          eHw
|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|
|-1-----/-4-----/-|7-----~-----|
|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|

```

```

          s s e e      q      s s e e e
|-----p-----|-----h-p-----|
|-----9-7-9---10--|9-----7-9-7-----|
|-----|-----7-/-9-----| |
|---|---|---|
|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|

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```

          S S S e          q      q      q
|-----p-----|-----|-----|
|-----10-9-10-12\-----|-----|
|-----3-----|-----|
|-----4-----|-----|
|-----|-----5-----|
|-----5-----7-----|

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```

h          s s q          eH
|--1-----p-----|--2-----|
|-5^-----3-0-2-----|[3]^-----|
|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|

```

e e e e e e s s s e e eq	
[5]-[7]-[5]-----[5]--	-----5--
-6--[7]--6--4--6--7--	

e s s e e e s e e	
-----p- -----12-----h-----	
-----15--1512 -14-----14-----1215--12--	

e e e q	q q q
-----12-----	-----
-12--14-----14-----	-----15-----
-----3-14-----16-----	
-----4-----	

Q q e qw	
--2-----r-----16 ¹	-----
-15 ¹ ----- (15) ¹ -----17-----	-----

s s s s s s s s s s s s e E	
r	2
-----(16)---16-17-19-17-16-17- -19-17-16-17-16-19-17-16--19 ²	

e e e Q	q e e e e
2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2
-----19 ² -19 ² -19 ² -19 ² -----	-----19 ² -----19 ² -19 ² -19 ² -19 ² -----

q ²	q ²	Q ²	q ²	e ²	e ²	e ²	e ²
-19^	-19^	-19^	(19)^	-19^	-19^	-19^	-19^
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

- Tab returned to normal width -

e e e e e q	q e e e e e	e e e e e q	q q q q
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
7-----	-----	-----	4-----
8-7--6--4--	-7--6--	-7--6--4--	4-----
--9--7--5--	-----9--7-5--	-----9--7-5--	-----5--7--
-----	-----7-	-----	-----5--7--

e q	E hw	e q	Dsus2 hw
-----	-----	-----	0-----
-----	9-----	-----	5-----
o-----	9-----	-----	7-----
o-----	9-----	-----	7-----
-----	7-----	-----	-----
-0-0--0-	-----	-0-0--0-	-----

e q	A7sus4 hw	e q	Cadd9 hw
-----	3-----	-----	0-----
-----	3-----	-----	3-----
-----	2-----	-----	5-----
-----	2-----	-----	5-----
-----	0-----	-----	-----
-0-0--0-	-----	-0-0--0-	-----

			But change...						
Csus2 Q	G/B Q	Asus Q	Csus2 Q	G/B q	Asus4 q	e q	E e he	Q	e e q
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	4-----	4-----	4-5-4--
-3-----	-3-----	-3-----	-3-----	-3-----	-3-----	-----	5-----	5-----	5-5-5--
-0-----	-0-----	-2-----	-0-----	-0-----	-2-----	-----	4-----	4-----	4-4-4--
-x-----	-x-----	-2-----	-x-----	-x-----	-2-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-3-----	-2-----	-0-----	-3-----	-2-----	-0-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-0-0--0-	-----	-----	-----

e q	Dsus2 e he	Q	q	q	e q	A7sus4 e he	D/E Q	A7s4D/E q	q
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	3-----	2-----	3-----	2-----
-----	5-----	5-----	5-----	5-----	-----	3-----	3-----	3-----	3-----
-----	7-----	7-----	7-----	7-----	-----	2-----	2-----	2-----	2-----
-----	7-----	7-----	7-----	7-----	-----	2-----	2-----	2-----	2-----
-----	5-----	5-----	5-----	5-----	-----	0-----	-----	-----	-----
-0-0--0-	-----	-----	-----	-----	-0-0--0-	-----	-----	-----	-----

What you say about his company...

Cs2	G/B	A7sus4	G	G/F#E	Repeat 4 times
Q	Q	Q	Q	q q	Q h he w h Q h he w h
-3	-3	-3	-3		
-3	-3	-3	-3		0 0 0 0
-0	-0	-2	-0	-0	o 4 4
-x	-x	-2	-0	-0	o
-3	-2	-0	-x	-x	-0
			-3	-2	-0

			1st-3rd ending	4th ending	Bsus2
Q	Q h	hew	Q H Q q	Q H Q e q	wH
	-0	-0	-0	-0	-2
		4		o 4 4	-4
	-2			o 2 2	-4
	-3		-2	-0 -0 -0	-2

	The world is...		A5
	q H q wH q		q q q q
	-2	-2	-2 -2
	-4	-4	-4 -4 -2 -2 -2 -2
	-4	-4	-4 -4 -2 -2 -2 -2
	-2	-2	-2 -2 -0 -0 -0 -0

Gs2	A5	B5		A5	Gsus2
q q	q q		q q q	q q q q	q h h q
-2	-2	-2	-4	-4	-4
-0	-0	-2	-4	-4	-4
-x	-x	-0	-2	-2	-2
-3	-3				-3

A5		Eno3rd
w		+ +
		0
		0
-2		4
-2		2
-0		2
		0

- Guitar Rests for 7 measures -


```

- - - - -
Eno 3rd      F#no3rd      Eno 3rd      F#no3rd
q  q  q  e  Q    q  q    q  q  q  e  q  q  q
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-2-----2---2-|-4-----4---4-|-2-----2---2-4-4-----4-|-3-----|
|-2---2-----2-|-4---4-----|-2---2-----2-|-4---4-----|
|-0-----0-|-2-----|-0-----0-|-2-----|

```

- Pre-guitar solo synth arranged for guitar -
Repeat 8 times

```

e e e e e q    q  e e e e e  e e e e e q    q  e e e e e
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
7o14--13--11---|-14---13--11-o7-14--13--11---|-14---13-----|
8o--16--14--12--|-----16--14--o4---16--14--12--|-----16--141214|
|-----|-----14|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```

e e e e e +

```

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-14--13--11---|-----|-----|-----|
|---16--14--12--|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```

- Ending Synth arranged for guitar -

e e e e QH +

```

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-14--13--11---|-----|-----|-----|
|---16--14-----|-14-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```

q q q e e e e w S S

```

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----3-----11--7-14--13--11---|-----1411|
|-----4-----11-----8---16--14-----|-----|
|-----|-----9-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```

+

```

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-14-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```



```

e e e e e q      +
|-17--16--14----|-----|-----|-----|
|---19--17--15--|-17-----|-----|-----|
7-----|-----|-----|-----|
4-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

```

A note about the "Taurus Pedal 'Sweep' sound" - this is actually an analog synth (probably an Oberheim) playing octaves. The resonance of the synth is set high and filter is set to sweep from top to bottom. Play the lowest E on

the synth plus an octave above simultaneously and you'll get this sound. Live, Alex triggers this sound with his pedals. While it's probably just a sampled sound now, in the good old days before MIDI, Alex had Moog Taurus pedals interfaced with an Oberheim synth off-stage. The Taurus pedals didn't

actually make this sound but rather doubled it with a thick bass pedal tone (or else the Taurus pedal settings would have had to be changed throughout the set and I don't believe that the pedals were programmable).

Lyrics

A modern-day warrior
Mean mean stride,
Today's Tom Sawyer
Mean mean pride.

Though his mind is not for rent,
Don't put him down as arrogant.
His reserve, a quiet defense,
Riding out the day's events.
The river.

And what you say about his company
Is what you say about society.
Catch the mist, catch the myth
Catch the mystery, catch the drift.

The world is, the world is,
Love and life are deep,
Maybe as his eyes are wide.

Today's Tom Sawyer,
He gets high on you,
And the space he invades
He gets by on you.

Guitar Solo

No, his mind is not for rent
To any god or government.
Always hopeful, yet discontent,

He knows changes aren't permanent,
But change is.

And what you say about his company
Is what you say about society.
Catch the witness, catch the wit,
Catch the spirit, catch the spit.

The world is, the world is,
Love and life are deep,
Maybe as his skies are wide.

Exit the warrior,
Today's Tom Sawyer,
He gets high on you,
And the energy you trade,
He gets right on to the friction of the day.

Disclaimer:

This tablature represents how the song is played as closely as reasonably achievable to the studio recording. Video footage was utilized as much as possible to validate the information (Exit Station Left, LeStudio version, A Show of Hands). Alex Lifeson may have played it slightly differently.

Tablature Explanation:

NT = Nashville Tuning is when the low E, A and D strings are replaced with lighter gauge strings and tuned one octave higher than normal.

| = bar separating measures

~ = vibrato

x = percussive note with no pitch; muted note

. = staccato; mute the note immediately after striking it

h = hammer

p = pull

s = slide (used when \ or / don't fit)

^ = bend string up to indicated pitch/fret shown in parenthesis ()

r = release bend (string/fret may be indicated)

t = fret board tap (not many of these with Rush)

/ = slide up

\ = slide down

x/ = pick slide up

x\ = pick slide down

<5> = natural harmonic (lightly touch the string at fret indicated)

[5] = artificial harmonic (use thumb to follow through the pick attack)

(5) = note sustained from previous measure

o = \ repeat sign

o = /

DC = "Da capo" - means "from the head", when you see these initials you go back to the beginning of the piece of music.

DS = "Dal segno" - means "from the sign", go back in the tablature

only as far as the (%) sign.

Coda = A passage at the end of a movement or composition that brings it to a formal close.

Al

Coda = means "to the tail", tells you that you must go to the end section which starts with the Coda sign (+).

RF = repeat and fade

rit = "ritardando" - Gradually slowing in tempo; retarding.