



AMERICAN IDIOT RIFF

by GREEN DAY

Words by BILLIE JOE
Music by GREEN DAY

Moderately fast ♩ = 176



Elec. Gtr. 1 (w/light dist.)

Elec. Gtr. 2 (w/dist.)
dbld. by Elec. Gtr. 1

mf



N.C.

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Attitude! That's what this iconic guitar riff conveys right from the song's start. There used to be a television game show called *Name That Tune* where contestants heard just a few short seconds of a song's intro and had to try to guess the title. This song doesn't take more than the first two (or maybe even the first) Ab5 chord to know what it is. Attitude and the sound of a Gibson Les Paul Junior with P-90 pickups screaming at you—what a difference from humbucking pickups; the sound of these nasty "soap bars" will seal the deal!

This riff is comprised of three power chords (commonly referred to as "5" chords because they only contain two notes, the root and the 5th; leaving out the 3rd makes the chord neither major nor minor.) Notice, for the Ab5 and Gb5, you're only playing two notes (root and 5th), but for the Db5 you're playing three notes (root, 5th, and the root one octave higher.) Also, notice the last chord, referred to as N.C. (no chord). Even though technically the notes (D-G-B) comprise a G major chord, the idea here is making use of the open strings as a "filler," prior to repeating the riff. The open strings are often struck like this to provide a strong rhythm drive—but not designed to imply a G chord being played.

Elec. Gtr. 1

Elec. Gtr. 2