

Head Down – Soundgarden

Oh boy this one is a masterpiece, one of my personal favourite Soundgarden songs. It's one of those wonderfully weird ones that came from the depths of Ben Shepherd's mind.

This tab may not be 100% accurate, but I'd say it's pretty close. I like to think of it this way: It may not be *THE* way to play Head Down, but it's definitely *A* way to play Head Down.

Tuning

Ben wrote this using that super wacky open C tuning which they later used for Pretty Noose and Burden in my Hand as well, CGCGGE.

- High E string stays on E.
- B string goes **down** 4 half steps to G.
- G string stays on G.
- D string goes **down** 2 half steps to C.
- A string goes **down** 2 half steps to G.
- Low E string goes **down** 4 half steps to C.

Your used-to-be B and G strings should now be in unison on the exact same G note, which creates that awesome chorus-y effect that we know and love from Seasons.

Right, that's enough from me, on with the tab! The song is a big musical mess, so there are times where I had to add a bit of text to explain everything. Hope that's alright.

- Sloth

Intro

(p) denotes pull off, / denotes slide up, and \ denotes slide down.

```
E|--1/2\1(p)0--0--
G|--2/3\2(p)0--0-- PLAY
G|--2/3\2(p)0--0-- TWICE
C|-----0--
G|-----
C|-----
```

All 6 open strings are up for grabs on that second strum, and I definitely hear a C note on the recording, but it sounds to me like they just play the 4 high strings and leave the low C and G out.

The awesome main riff that we're all here for (first played at ~00:08)

^ denotes bend, v denotes vibrato, (h) denotes hammer on.

```
E|-----12-|-----
G|---12-11^----10v-10(h)12-----12-|--5-7-8---7-----
G|---12-11^----10v-10(h)12-----12-|--5-7-8---7-----
C|-----12-----10---10-|--5-5-5---5-8-10-8-7---7\--
G|-----10---10-|--5-5-5---5-8-8--8-7---7\--
C|--0-----10---10-|--5-5-5---5-8-8--8-7---7\--
```

The big tasty slide down from 7 right at the end isn't actually on the recording, but it makes for a really nice transition to that low open C string at the beginning of the next repetition.

At first listen, this may not sound *exactly* like the recording to you, but I'm willing to bet that's because Kim's lead guitar is so prominent in the mix, from the 2nd repetition and onwards. Kim plays this over Chris' rhythm:

```
E|-----
G|--12-11^----10v-10(h)12-5---5-7-8---7-1-3-1-0----
G|--12-11^----10v-10(h)12-5---5-7-8---7-1-3-1-0----
C|-----12-----
G|-----
C|-----
```

Those are almost entirely the same notes as what Chris plays, some of is just played elsewhere on the fretboard - with a tiny exception after the hammer on, when Chris plays an A#

power chord on the 10th fret, and Kim plays a C note on the double G strings 5th fret. How neat is that? :)

The song then goes into the first verse. The transition from the main riff to the verse is just a power chord on the 5th fret:

```
E|-----  
G|-----  
G|-----  
C|--5-----  
G|--5-----  
C|--5-----
```

Verse (the "I see that smile"-part ~00:43)

Sloppy, heavy strumming for this part. Add some open string strumming to your heart's content before the 3rd and 2nd fret power chords.

```
E|-----  
G|-----  
G|-----  
C|--3---2---2/5---7-8--0----  
G|--3---2---2/5---7-8--0----  
C|--3---2---2/5---7-8--0----
```

Then it goes back to the main riff, followed by another verse, and then it goes into the chorus (although it's really more of an extended verse than it is a chorus).

Chorus (the "bow down"-part ~01:56)

Starts with a big tasty slide up to the 8th fret.

```
E|-----  
G|-----  
G|-----  
C|--/8---7---5---3-2--0----  
G|--/8---7---5---3-2--0----  
C|--/8---7---5---3-2--0----
```

Kim's lead plays the exact same, he just plays it on the double G strings instead.

Bridge (at ~02:45)

The first part of the bridge is just the slide-up-slide-down-pull-off bit from the intro again. Then it goes to the more heavy bit of the intro:

```
E|-----  
G|-----  
G|-----  
C|--0-2-3-5-7-8-0-----0-2-3-5-7-8-0--  
G|--0-2-3-5-7-8-0-----0-2-3-5-7-8-0--  
C|--0-2-3-5-7-8-0-----0-2-3-5-7-8-0--
```

And then the last part of the bridge is just a bunch of weird Ben Shepherd madness, which isn't particularly tab-able. Once more, Kim's lead is the more prominent in the mix, and he's just playing around on the double G strings again, so that's what I'd suggest doing. That's what I do myself when I play this song anyway.

After the bridge, it goes back to the main riff, then a verse, and then a chorus. Then finally the song ends in another giant, chaotic mess of weird Ben Shepherd madness, for which I would once again suggest just messing around on the double G strings like Kim does.

And that's it! I hope this was useful :)