



Alabama Shakes

Hold On

Teachers Resource

Lyrics
Bass
Guitar
Piano / Keyboard
Ukulele

Uses 2 Chords:
C and F

Lyrics

1:

Bless my heart.
Bless my soul.
Didn't think I'd make it to 22 years old.
There must be someone up above,
sayin' "Come on Brittany, you got to come on up."

Chorus

"You got to hold on... "
"Hey, you got to hold on... "

2:

So, bless my heart and bless yours too.
I don't know where I'm gonna go
Don't what what I'm gonna do.
Well, must be somebody up above,
sayin' "Come on Brittany, you got to get back up! "

Chorus

"You got to hold on... "
"Hey, you got to hold on... "

Interlude:

"Yeah! You got to wait! "
"Yeah! You got to wait! "
But I don't wanna wait!
No, I don't wanna wait...

3:

So, bless my heart and Bless my mind.
I got so much to do, I ain't got much time
So, must be someone up above,
saying "Come on girl! You got to get back up! "

Chorus

"You got to hold on... "
"Hey, you got to hold on... "

Interlude

End:

"You got to hold on... "
"You got to hold on... "
"Got to hold on... "
"You got to hold on... "

Check Bass Tuning

Remember to tune your strings from low to high
E, A, D, G

Bass

There is a one bar intro of drums which leads into the main riff which is played throughout the verse and chorus;

Make sure to play the staccato notes (the ones with dots underneath or above them) short. Have a go at improvising in the second half of bars 2 and 4. For example;

Interlude:

Note: In this section it is just the bass and the drums playing at the start of beat 2 in bars 1 and 3. Listen to the song to hear how this sounds.

In the final section the main riff is played but the song slows down, so you could try playing slower and quieter to the end with longer notes.

(Guitar)

Listen to the track to pick up the rhythm / style of this part. The first 3 sections are mostly the same, try to keep the slurs steady and it will become easy. Use your first finger to barre across the 10th fret on the A/D-strings and use your 3rd finger to hammer on the 12th fret.

The second last bar contains some string bending in it. The brackets around the number 14 mean you don't actually play the 14th fret but rather you reach this note by bending the string from the note before it i.e the 12th fret on the D-string. So for this bar you bend up to the note, hold it and then bend back down.

Interlude:

The interlude has the same chords as the chorus but there is a little break at the start of the 1st and 3rd bars;

After this is played 3 times you could go into the last 2 bars of the chorus lead part.

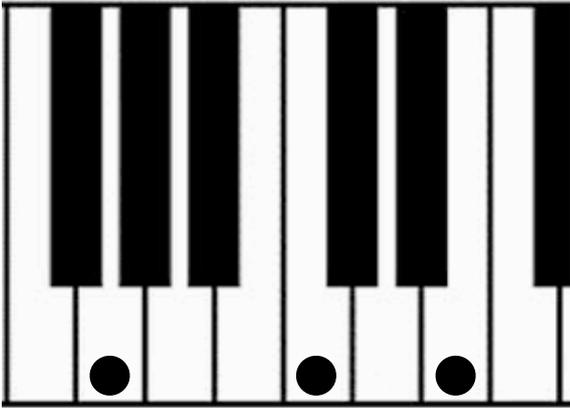
End:

For the end section the song slows down, so this riff should become increasingly lazy, dying away to the last line;

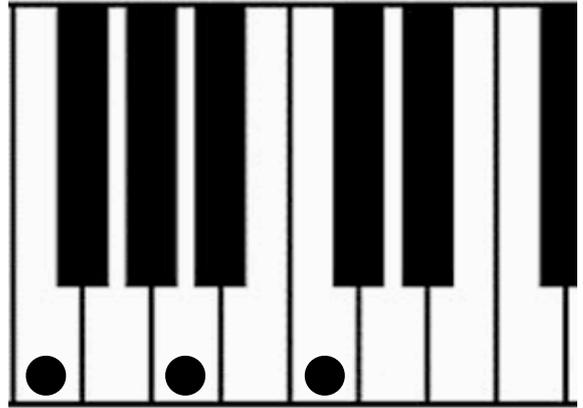
Piano / Keyboard

Here are the chords you will need for this song;

C major [G, C, E]



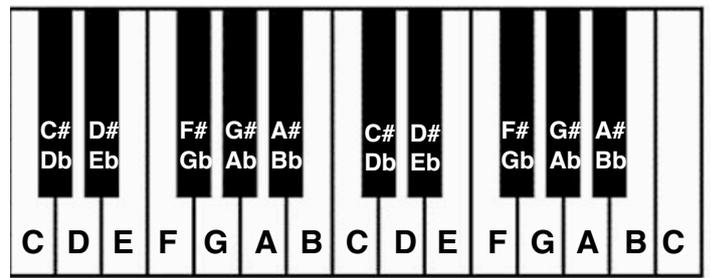
F major [F, A, C]



And here is how they look written out in music;



Alabama Shakes - Hold On



(Piano / Keyboard)

Verse / Chorus:

The whole song alternates between the chords C and F. The verse and chorus are a repeating two bar phrase;

C F/C

If you would like a challenge try this version below;

C F/C

Interlude:

The interlude has the same chords as the verse/chorus but there is a little break at the start of the 1st and 3rd bars;

C F/C

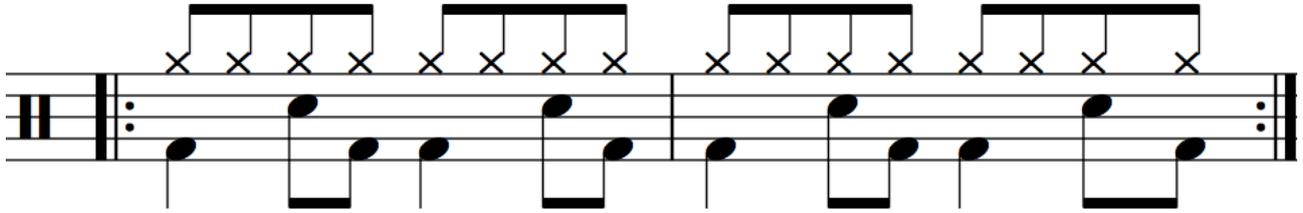
End:

For the end section the song slows down, so this riff should become increasingly lazy, dying away to the last line;

Drum Kit

Verse / Chorus:

This beat is played throughout the majority of the song;



Feel free to add fills leading into the chorus.

Interlude:

The drums are very important in the interlude. The beat from above still applies except that the first beat is left out and the second half of the second bar is yours to build up as you please. Here is a couple of examples of fills you can use;

Two musical staves showing drum fills. The top staff shows a hi-hat pattern with a single 'x' mark on the first beat, followed by two groups of four 'x' marks with brackets. The bottom staff shows a similar hi-hat pattern, but with a flam (a small note followed by a quaver) on the first beat of the last bar. Both staves have a double bar line and a repeat sign at the beginning and end.

Note: The hi-hat has switched to ride cymbal for this section. Also the little note followed by the quaver in the last bar is called a flam. This is a percussion technique where one of the sticks falls just before the other, like a little bounce.

The best part about this section is that the listener expects the build up to lead to the first beat of the bar and instead everyone comes in on the second beat. You should leave the rest at the start of the first time at least but the fill can continue across the first beat as well. Listen to how it is in the song to get some ideas.

End:

No drums for the end section. The cymbals can be gently hit to add atmosphere.

Verse / Chorus:

This beat is played throughout the majority of the song;

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Hi-Hat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snare			X				X	
Bass	X			X	X			X

Feel free to add fills leading into the chorus.

Interlude:

The drums are very important in the interlude. The beat from above still applies except that the first beat is left out and the second half of the second bar is yours to build up as you please. Here is an example of a fill you can use;

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Crash			X					
Ride				X	X	X	X	X
Snare			X				X	
Bass				X	X			X

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Ride	X	X	X	X				
Snare			X		X X	X X	X X	X X
Bass	X			X	X			

Note: The hi-hat has switched to ride cymbal for this section.

The best part about this section is that the listener expects the build up to lead to the first beat of the bar and instead everyone comes in on the second beat. You should leave the rest at the start of the first time at least but the fill can continue across the first beat as well. Listen to how it is in the song to get some ideas.

End:

No drums for the end section. The cymbals can be gently hit to add atmosphere.

Check Ukulele Tuning
Remember to tune
your strings
G, C, E, A

Ukulele

Verse / Chorus:

The verse and chorus use the same chord pattern;

The diagram shows two chord diagrams: C (C4) and F (F4). The C chord diagram has three open strings (G, C, E) and one fingered string (A2). The F chord diagram has two open strings (G, C) and two fingered strings (E2, A2). Below these is a musical staff with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers for the Verse/Chorus are: Bar 1: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 2: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 3: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 4: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 5: F (0,0,0,2); Bar 6: F (0,0,0,2); Bar 7: F (0,1,0,2); Bar 8: F (0,1,0,2).

Interlude:

The interlude is the same as the verse / chorus except there is a break at the start of the first bar;

The diagram shows two chord diagrams: C (C4) and F (F4). Below these is a musical staff with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers for the Interlude are: Bar 1: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 2: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 3: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 4: C (0,0,0,0); Bar 5: F (0,0,0,2); Bar 6: F (0,1,0,2); Bar 7: F (0,1,0,2).

End:

The end section slows down gradually. Play random notes from a C chord, becoming increasingly lazy and dying away to the last line.