

# DREIDEL

As recorded by Don McLean  
(From the 1972 Album DON MCLEAN)

Transcribed by  
www.6-string-videos.com

Words and Music by Don McLean

## A Intro

♩ = 149  
E7

1

Gtr I

T  
A  
B

## B Verse

E7

5

feel like a spinning to-  
-p or a dreidel the spinning don't stop till you leave the cradle you

T  
A  
B

E7

9

just slow down Round and a- round this wo- rld you go

T  
A  
B

13

spinning through the lives of the people you know we all slow down

T  
A  
B

17

A G E

How you gonna keep on turning from day to da- -y

T	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
A	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1	3 2 0 0 0 0	3 2 0 0 0 0
B	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0

21

A G B7

Ho you gonna keep from tu- -rning your life awa- -y

T	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2
A	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2
B	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2

25

C G C Am

No days you can bo- -rrow No time you can bu- -y

T	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1
B	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2


29

C G B11

No trusting tomo- -rrow it's a li- -e and I

T	0 0 0 0 0 0	3 3 3 3 3 3	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2
B	3 3 3 3	2 2 2 2	1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2

B7

33 

37

C

Am

world is a con-stant con-fusion my

T

A

B

41

C Bm

mind is pre- -pared to a- -ttack my

T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

B 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

45

C

past a per-sua-sive ill-

D

-u-sion I'm

T

A

B

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

## D Bridge 2

♩ = 128  
Am

49

G Bm Am

watch- -ing the fu- -ture it's black What do you know you know just

T	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2
B	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0

53

what you perceive What can you show nothing of what you believe and as you

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

56

♩ = 112  
E A6 Em7 A6

grow each thread of life that you leave will spin a- -round your deeds and dic- -tate your needs as you

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2
B	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	

60

E A6 Em7 A6 E A6 Em7 A6

sell your soul and you sow your seeds and you wound yourself and your loved one bleeds and your

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
B	2	2	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	2	2	2	5	5	5	4

64

E A6 Em7 A6 E A6 Em7 A6

habits grow and your conscience feeds on all that you thought you would be I never th-

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
B	2	2	0	0				5	5	4	4					2	2	4	4				
	0	0						0	0							0	0						

68

E A6 *accel.* E7

-ought this would ha-ppen to me I

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
B	2	2	4	4				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## [E] Verse in A

$\text{♩} = 149$   
A7

71

feel like a spinning to-p or a dreidel the spinning don't stop when you leave the cra-dle you

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

A7

75

just slow down Round and around this wo-rld you go

T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A7

79

spinning through the lives of the people you know we all slow down

T	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
A	2 2 0 2	2 0 2	2 2 0 2	2 0 2	2 2 0 2	2 0 2	2 2 0 2
B	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0

D

C

A

83

How you gonna keep on turning from day to da-y

T	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
A	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2
B	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0

D

C

E7

87

How you gonna keep on turning your life awa-y

T	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
A	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
B	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0