

## **Hush Little Baby** (Trad.)

### **VERSE 1:**

**1**

**5**

Hush, little baby, don't say a word

**1**

Papa's going to buy you a mockingbird

**1**

**5**

And if that mockingbird don't sing

**1**

Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring

### **VERSE 2:**

**1**

**5**

If that diamond ring is glass

**1**

Papa's going to buy you a looking glass

**5**

And if that looking glass gets broke

**1**

Papa's going to buy you a billy goat

## MORE VERSES:

<sup>1</sup>  
 If that billy goat won't pull <sup>5</sup>  
 Papa's going to buy you a cart and bull <sup>1</sup>  
 If that cart and bull fall over <sup>5</sup>  
 Papa's going to buy you a dog named Rover <sup>1</sup>  
 And if that dog named Rover won't bark <sup>5</sup>  
 Papa's going to buy you a horse and cart <sup>1</sup>  
 If that horse and cart fall down <sup>5</sup>  
 you'll still be the sweetest little baby in town <sup>1</sup>

The best place to start playing guitar chords is with a simple song that you already know, that only has two chords. This song is widely-known, and a number of pop stars have even done it. Because "regular" beginner guitar chords (page 1) all take 3 and 4 fingers to play, beginners have always started with simple songs like this one.

*Liberty Tuning* allows us to play in 2 different keys with the same simple chord shapes. Here we learn how to play one in the key of A, which the full capo pushes up to C. With a full capo added in various places, you could play and sing this song in all 12 keys with nothing more than a single 2-finger chord shape moved slightly between chords. The key of A is a little better-sounding, since the 5 chord in E is a "suspended" chord with an added note in it.

There are of course variations in the lyrics: the ring is sometimes *brass*, not *glass*. It is also easy and fun to make up your own rhymes. If there are young kids in your world, this is a famous lullaby that might even help get them to sleep. Children as young as 4 can even play these chords themselves on a full-size adult guitar.

This is as simple as "troubadouring" gets, with slow 1-5 chord changes and lots of repetition. (We should have put it first, but didn't want to start a "cool" project with this song.) The key of C should be singable for men, women or children. There are no strings to avoid, so just strum away. Count 8 beats of the 1 chord, then 8 beats of the 5 chord...

**Key of C**

**1**  
**C**

E A D G C E

full capo fret 3

**Playing in A, Bb, B, C, C# or D**

(add a full capo at frets 1 - 5)

G E C E G G

**5**  
**G**

E A D G C E

full capo fret 3

Pitch of first word in this key: "Hush" = G

If you capo higher than this on a 12-fret guitar neck, you may run out of room. 14-fret cutaway guitars are best.

G G B D G G