



Cane Break Blues

Merle Travis

Transcription by Tom Thomason (1995)
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T = L.H. thumb

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26

C# min 6 C min 6 E 9 A

T 4 3 2
A 4 2 1
B 3 2 0 4 2

30

E maj B 9+

T 6 5 4 5
A 2 2 2
B 0 5 4 0 1

34

A7 E maj 6/9

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

This is a real fun blues in the key of E.

Measure 17 starts off with a slightly awkward A chord being used to good effect. At the end of the measure he restores a standard A shape by using a little harmony run in 1/8ths. The middle finger of the left hand (which was playing the seventh fret of the fourth string) shouldn't be lifted from the string when moved to the sixth fret for the first note of the harmony run. Once this note has been played, the middle finger is moved rapidly to the sixth fret of the third string and the ring finger replaces it on the fourth string.

The run beginning in measure 25 can be tricky. I chose a fingering which brings the left hand progressively down the neck in reasonably small steps and leaves a natural anchor (index finger on the fourth fret of the third string) for the descending figure beginning with the C#m6 in measure 26. If you prefer, you can play: 1 (12), 1 (9), 2 (12), 2 (8), 1 (0), 3 (6), 2 (0) before setting the C#m6.