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Black Magic Woman Chords And Lyrics

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Unlocking the Magic: A Complete Guide to Black Magic Woman Chords and Lyrics

For decades, the sultry opening riff of "Black Magic Woman" has captivated guitarists and music fans alike. Originally written by Peter Green for Fleetwood Mac in 1968, the song was immortalized by Santana in 1970, becoming a defining track of Latin-infused blues rock. Whether you're a beginner trying to master the iconic progression or a singer looking for accurate lyrics, this article dives deep into the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics**, exploring the song's structure, theory, and performance tips. We'll break down every section so you can play and sing this timeless classic with confidence.

The Story Behind the Song

Before we get into the chords, it's important to understand the song's dual legacy. Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac originally recorded "Black Magic Woman" as a blues shuffle with a mysterious, minor-key vibe. When Carlos Santana reimagined it two years later, he added a hypnotic *bolero* groove, Latin percussion, and a clean guitar tone that made the song an instant radio staple. The **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics** in Santana's version are essentially the same as the original, but the feel shifted from a straight blues to a more syncopated, rhythm-driven arrangement. This fusion of blues and Latin music is what makes the chord progression so enchanting.

Essential Black Magic Woman Chords: The Basics

The song is played in the key of **D minor**, giving it a dark, slightly exotic flavor. For standard tuning, you'll need just four chords to get through the entire song: Dm, Bb, C, and Am. However, there are nuanced voicings that many guitarists prefer. Below is the main chord progression for the verse and chorus. Use barre chords for a full, resonant sound, or open-position shapes for a lighter texture.

Verse & Chorus Progression

- Dm (x57765 or xx0231 for simpler shape)
- Bb (x13331 or xx3331)
- C (x35553 or x32010)
- Am (x02210 or 577555)

The standard sequence goes: Dm – Bb – C – Am – Dm – Bb – C – Dm. This repeats throughout the verses. The chorus follows the same pattern but with a slight rhythmic emphasis on the Bb. Many guitar tabs list an alternate ending with an A major chord, but the core of the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics** revolves around these four chords.

Chord Tips for Beginners

If you are new to barre chords, you can substitute the Bb with an open A shape barred at the first fret (use your

index finger as a capo). Alternatively, play simpler voicings: Dm (xx0231), Bb (x13331 is standard but you can try xx3331 with just fingers), C (x32010), Am (x02210). The trick is to let the chords ring out fully, especially the minor sections, to capture that moody atmosphere.

Exploring the Lyrics: Meaning and Structure

The lyrics tell a story of a man bewitched by a "black magic woman" who has him under a spell. Peter Green's writing is poetic yet straightforward, using dark imagery to convey obsession and enchantment. The verses describe the woman's power, while the chorus repeats the iconic line, "Got me so blind I can't see." When learning the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics**, pay attention to the phrasing: the singer often delays the downbeat, creating a sense of longing and tension.

Full Lyrics (Santana Version)

1. Black magic woman, got your spell on me
2. Black magic woman, got your spell on me
3. Black magic woman, got your spell on me
4. Black magic woman, I can't break the spell

The bridge introduces the line: "And I was born a fool, to let you steal my heart away." Over the years, guitarists have debated the exact phrasing of the chorus. The recorded version uses a layered vocal harmony, but for solo performances, sing with a breathy, slightly detached delivery to match the original Santana vibe. The repetition in the lyrics works perfectly with the repetitive chord progression, creating a hypnotic cycle that mirrors the "spell" described.

Mastering the Iconic Guitar Riff

Beyond chords and singing, the instrumental riff is what truly defines the song. The opening line is a D minor pentatonic phrase played on the high E string, sliding from the 6th fret to the 8th fret and resolving on the 6th fret again. This riff appears in the intro, between verses, and as a solo theme. To play it alongside the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics**, you'll need to master the minor pentatonic scale in the fifth position (D minor pentatonic: D-F-G-A-C).

Step-by-Step Riff Breakdown

- Intro: Play Dm chord and then the single-note phrase on the 1st string: 6-8-6-6-8-6-8-6 (with slight bends). Use your ring and pinky fingers for a smooth slide.
- Verse fills: Add little licks between chord changes. For example, after the Dm chord, hit the 10th fret of the B string to create a bluesy tension before landing on Bb.
- Solo section: Santana's solo uses D Dorian mode (D-E-F-G-A-B-C), which is essentially D minor with a raised sixth. Experiment with bends and vibrato to emulate his signature sustain.

Many online tutorials provide tablature for the exact notes, but practicing by ear with the original recording is highly recommended. The riff's magic lies in the rhythmic placement — it's not fast, but it swings. Sync your picking hand with the hi-hat pattern on the drum track for the best feel.

Playing the Song on Guitar: A Complete Walkthrough

Now let's combine everything. Set your guitar to standard tuning. Use a clean tone with a slight reverb (Santana used Fender amplifiers with a small amount of spring reverb). For the Latin feel, strum with a light, percussive touch. The basic strumming pattern is down-down-up-down-up, with an accent on the second beat of each bar. Here's how we recommend structuring your practice:

Section 1: Intro Riff (4 bars)

Play the riff described above. End on a held Dm chord.

Section 2: Verse (8 bars)

Strum the progression: Dm – Bb – C – Am – Dm – Bb – C – Dm. Sing the first verse lyrics over this.

Section 3: Chorus (8 bars)

Same progression but play the Bb chord with a slightly stronger attack. Sing “Got me so blind I can’t see…” over the top. Add a fill going from the C to the Am chord.

Section 4: Instrumental Break

Return to the single-note riff for two bars, then back to the verse progression. This keeps the song grounded.

For the second verse, you can add light palm muting to create dynamic contrast. The bridge — “I was born a fool…” — uses the same chords but at a slightly slower tempo. If you are performing with a band, the bass player will hold the root notes (D, Bb, C, A) while the rhythm guitar fills in the upper register. Solo guitarists can play alternating bass notes by plucking the 4th string open (D) and then the 6th string (A) to emulate bass movement.

Lyrics and Chords: Side-by-Side Reference

To make learning easier, here is a quick reference of the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics** for the first verse and chorus. Use this to practice chord changes while singing.

Chords	Lyrics
Dm	Black magic woman
Bb	Got your spell on me
C	Black magic woman
Am	Got your spell on me
Dm	Black magic woman
Bb	Got your spell on me
C	Black magic woman
Dm	I can't break the spell

Repeat the same pattern for the chorus but with different phrasing. The key is to land the word “woman” exactly on the downbeat of the Dm chord. Practice slowly with a metronome set to 90 BPM, then gradually increase to the original tempo (around 110 BPM).

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced guitarists sometimes stumble on "Black Magic Woman." Here are the most frequent pitfalls when playing the **Black Magic Woman chords and lyrics**:

- Rushing the Bb chord: The Bb barre can be slow to grab. Use a simplified voicing (x13331) and keep your index finger loose. Practice the change from Dm to Bb repeatedly.
- Overplaying the riff: The riff is subtle. Do not bend notes too aggressively; smooth slides are better. Listen to the original recording — Santana's bends are precise but gentle.
- Ignoring the rhythm: Many players strum straight eighth notes. Instead, use a dotted eighth-sixteenth pattern to get the Latin swing. Count "1-and-a-2-and-a-3" with accents on "1" and "3."
- Forgetting the dynamics: The verses should be quieter, with the chorus swelling slightly. Use a volume control or your picking hand to adjust.

Performing "Black Magic Woman" Live

If you plan to perform this song at an open mic or with a band, consider the arrangement. Santana

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DIGITAL EDITION

black-magic-woman-chords-and-lyrics

DIGITAL EDITION

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