SOFTWARE & TECH

# Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams Guitar Tab

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## Unlocking the Dark Art: Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams Guitar Tab Guide

When Marilyn Manson released his cover of the Eurythmics' 1983 synth-pop classic "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" in 1995, it became an instant anthem of industrial rock rebellion. The song's brooding, distorted guitar riff and Manson's haunting vocal delivery transformed a pop hit into a gothic masterpiece. For guitarists, learning the **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab**is not just about playing notes—it's about capturing a mood, a style, and a pivotal moment in rock history. This comprehensive guide breaks down the entire song, from tuning and the iconic main riff to the solo and rhythm techniques, ensuring you can master this dark classic on your own instrument.

### Understanding the Song and Its Guitar Context

To play the "Sweet Dreams" cover convincingly, you need to understand its musical DNA. Manson's version is built around a deceptively simple yet menacing guitar part, played primarily by long-time collaborator Daisy Berkowitz and later by other guitarists. The song is in the key of E minor, but the guitar is tuned down a half-step to Drop D&m or, more commonly, standard tuning with a capo or alternate tuning. Most guitarists find that playing the **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab**in Drop D tuning (D A D G B e) replicates the heavy, chugging sound of the record.

The original Eurythmics version uses a sequenced synth arpeggio, but Manson's band replaced it with a distorted power-chord riff that defines the track's aggressive edge. The guitar tab typically focuses on the main riff, verse variations, the bridge, and the solo. Let's dive into each section.

## The Essential Tuning and Gear

Before you look at any tablature, you need to get your guitar in the right tuning. While some transcriptions show the song played in standard tuning (E A D G B e), the most authentic tone comes from tuning down a full step to Drop D and then dropping the lowest string an additional half-step to D&m? Actually, the standard approach for this cover is Drop D&m (D&m A&m D&m G&m B&m e&m) or simply Drop D with a half-step down on all strings (D&
However, the easiest and most common method is to use Drop D tuning (D A D G B e) and then play the riff using the low D string as the root. The song's main riff revolves around the open low D string, giving it that heavy, droning quality.

Alternatively, you can play in standard tuning and capo on the 1st fret while playing Drop D shapes, but that can be awkward. For clarity, this **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab** guide assumes you have tuned your guitar to **Drop D** (D A D G B e).

In terms of gear, the song thrives on high-gain distortion. A bridge humbucker pickup, a distortion pedal (like a

Boss DS-1 or ProCo Rat), and a slightly scooped EQ will get you in the ballpark. Many players also add a touch of reverb and delay for the cleaner sections.

## Breaking Down the Main Riff

The main riff is the most recognizable part of the song. It consists of a series of power chords played on the low strings, with occasional open-string drones. Here is the standard **guitar tab**notation for the main riff (in Drop D tuning):

```
e |-----------------------------------------|
B |-----------------------------------------|
G |-----------------------------------------|
D |-----------------------------------------|
A |---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---------|
D |---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---------|
  (Play with heavy palm muting)
```

This is a simplified version. The actual riff includes variations. Listen closely: after the initial four hits, there is a slight pull-off or slide. A more accurate tab adds a quick hammer-on or pull-off on the 7th fret of the A string. A common transcription:

```
e |-------------------------------------------------------|
B |-------------------------------------------------------|
G |-------------------------------------------------------|
D |-------------------------------------------------------|
A |---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---7p5---5-------------|
D |---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---5---7p5---5-------------|
```

The “p” indicates a pull-off from the 7th fret to the 5th fret on the A string (which is the same as the D string in Drop D, but we read the A string for the note names). In reality, many guitarists simply play the open D string for the drone and then hit the 5th fret power chord. Experiment with palm muting to get that tight, percussive chug.

### Verse and Chorus Chord Progression

The verse and chorus use essentially the same riff but with slight dynamic changes. The **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab**for the verse keeps the riff sparse, often just the open D and the low power chord on the 5th fret (G power chord shape). The chorus adds a second chord – a shift to the 7th fret (A power chord). The progression is:

- Verse: D5 (open D) and G5 (5th fret) – repeat.
- Chorus: D5, G5, and then A5 (7th fret) – often with a small fill.

Use a metronome at around 100-110 BPM. The original tempo is about 107 BPM. The riff is syncopated – the power chords hit on beats 2 and 4, with the open D string ringing on the offbeats. This is crucial for the groove.

## The Intro and Bridge – Cleaner Textures

The song’s intro uses the same riff but with a cleaner tone (or with a slight chorus effect) before the distortion

guitar tab. The intro is identical, but you play it without palm muting, letting the strings ring slightly. Alternatively, some live versions start with a single note melody – a high E string bend – but the recording begins with the muted riff.

The bridge section (after the second chorus) introduces a shift: a chord progression that goes D5 – Bb5 (6th fret on the A string? Actually Bb5 is usually played on the 6th fret of the low D string in Drop D: D string 6th fret, A string 6th fret gives Bb5). A common bridge tab:

```
e |-----------------------------------------------|
B |-----------------------------------------------|
G |-----------------------------------------------|
D |-----------------------------------------------|
A |---6---6---6---6---6---6---6---6---5---5-------|
D |---6---6---6---6---6---6---6---6---5---5-------|
```

Then back to D5. This creates a dark, suspenseful feeling. The bridge is often played with heavy distortion and more aggressive picking.

## The Guitar Solo – Tab and Techniques

The solo in Manson's version is short but memorable. It is played over the same chord progression (D5 and G5) and uses the E minor pentatonic scale (E G A B D). The solo consists of bends, slides, and pull-offs. Here is a note-for-note **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab** for the solo (assuming Drop D tuning, but notes are relative):

```
e |-----------------------------------------12b14r12-10-12-10----------|
B |---------------------------------10-12-----------------------------|
G |-----------------------------9-11-----------------------------------|
D |----------------------7-9-10-----------------------------------------|
A |-----------5-7-8-10-------------------------------------------------|
D |---5-7-8-----------------------------------------------------------|
```

This tab starts low on the D string (5th fret) and then climbs up to the high E string with a bend. The "12b14" means bend the 12th fret up to the pitch of the 14th fret, then release back to 12. The solo ends with a quick descending run. Focus on vibrato and bending in tune. The solo is played with moderate gain and a slight delay effect.

## Rhythm Variations and Strumming Patterns

Throughout the song, the rhythm guitar maintains a consistent pattern: down-picked, synchronized with the kick drum. However, there are subtle variations. During the line "Sweet dreams are made of this," the guitar rests on the open D string for a half note before the next power chord. Listen to the recording and practice aligning your picking with the vocal phrasing.

For the **guitar tab** of the verse, you can write it as:

```
e |-----------------------------------------------|
```

```
B |-----------------------------------------------|
G |-----------------------------------------------|
D |-----------------------------------------------|
A |---5---5---5---5------5---5---5---5---------------|
D |---5---5---5---5------5---5---5---5---------------|
  (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +  1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + )
```

The '+' sign indicates offbeat strums. The open D string is often played between the chugs. In many transcriptions, the open D is included as a separate note, e.g., playing D (open) on the "and" of 1, then the power chord on beat 2. This creates a driving rhythm.

## Common Mistakes When Learning This Tab

Here are some pitfalls to avoid when tackling the **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab**:

- Not using palm muting: The song's aggression comes from tight, muted chugs. Keep your palm resting lightly on the strings near the bridge.
- Playing too fast: The riff needs to breathe. Focus on the syncopation between the open D and the power chords.
- Ignoring tone: Use a bridge pickup, high gain, and a touch of midrange. A scooped mid can make the riff sound thin.
- Wrong tuning: Playing in standard tuning will not produce the same heavy low end. Drop D is essential for the deep drone.

## Where to Find Accurate Tabs and Resources

While this guide provides a solid foundation, you may want to cross-reference with multiple sources. Websites like **Ultimate Guitar**, **Songsterr**, and **911Tabs** offer user-submitted tabs for Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams. Look for the version with the highest rating and most comments. Many of them include both the main riff and the solo in accurate **guitar tab format**.

Additionally, watching live performance videos can help you understand the picking hand dynamics and stage presence. Note that Manson's live guitarists sometimes add extra flourishes, so stick to the studio version for the core tab.

## Adapting the Tab for Acoustic or Beginner Players

If you are a beginner or want an acoustic version, you can simplify the riff. Instead of heavy distortion, play the power chords with a clean strum, and omit the pull-offs. Use a capo on the 1st fret and play standard Drop D shapes (or simply play open D and G chords with a muted strum). The melody can be picked gently on the high strings. This makes the **Marilyn Manson Sweet Dreams guitar tab** accessible to players of all levels.

## The Importance of Feel and Attitude

Technique alone won't make you sound like Manson's version. The song requires a certain swagger and dark energy. Play with confidence, use aggressive downstrokes, and let the distorted sustain ring out when appropriate. The guitar tab

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