

Back to You

From *Any Given Thursday* (2003)

Words and Music by John Mayer

Copyright © 2001 Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC and Specific Horn Music
All Rights Administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 8 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved



Standard tuning pitches

TRACK 01

Intro Riff

The first John Mayer song we'll examine in depth is the gently rolling, highly melodic "Back to You." In many ways, "Back to You" is a typical Mayer composition, with plenty of room for his soulful vocals and deft guitar work. It also features a favored compositional device: the repetition of a short instrumental idea over changing harmony. This idea is shown in the forthcoming musical example. Essentially, we have a two-bar phrase that is repeated four times (with subtle variations) while the chords move from A_{sus2} (the I chord) to $F\#m11$ (vi chord), $Bm7add11$ (ii chord), $Eadd9$ (V chord), and, finally, back to $F\#m11$.

Stay in seventh position throughout the example so that all seventh-fret notes are played by the index finger (try a bar here), all ninth-fret notes are played by the ring finger, and all tenth-fret notes are played by the pinky. Throughout the excerpt, do your best to let each note ring out as long as possible.



TRACK 02

1 A_{sus2} $F\#m11$
let ring

4 $Bm7add11$ $Eadd9$

7 $F\#m11$