



# CHINA GROVE RIFF

by THE DOOBIE BROTHERS

Words and Music by  
TOM JOHNSTON

Moderately fast ♩ = 144

E  
1333 7fr.

Elec. Gtr. (w/dist.)

1.2.3.  
D5 133 5fr. A/C# 14 4fr. A5 11

4.

E 1333 7fr. D5 133 5fr. A/C# 14 4fr. A5 11

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The riff for "China Grove" is built around mostly standard barre chord shapes, with the exception of the two-note A/C# chord that requires a bit of a stretch between the index finger and pinkie. The key technique you'll need to play the riff is fret-hand muting. Indicated by x's in the standard notation and tablature, fret-hand muting involves loosening your grip on the strings so that they are no longer touching the frets, effectively preventing them from ringing when strummed and "choking" the sound so that only a hollow, "chick" sound results. Strum the two E chords at the seventh fret with accented downstrokes and be sure to use down-up strumming for the eighth-note rhythms.