Jailhouse Rock – Elvis Presley
My Tempo: 165 bpm (straight)
Official Tempo: 168 bpm (straight)
Tuning: Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Bb, Eb (all flats)

Chords Used:

Eb : x688xx (I would stick to this version. The other version is all wonky)
E : x799xx (I would play this version during the verse. You can play 022100 during the chorus)
B7 : x21202 (During the chorus. You can also play 797877 if you'd like)
A7 : x02020 (During the chorus. You can also play 575655 if you'd like)

Chord Explanation: The Eb – E during the verse is logically best to be played using the barred versions. However, you can play this entire song using barre chords if you'd like. This is up to you. In the video I play the open chord versions during the chorus, because those are likely more familiar to beginner guitar players.

Strumming Patterns: You'll need to know 2 strumming patterns here. One is rather strict, and one can be played rather loosely.

The intro/verse strumming pattern: The intro/verse strumming pattern is the Eb – E. This is a bit more strict in terms of strumming than the chorus, but it's actually very easy. It's just D, D......(which translates to “down-down” with no real break between the strums. They are just abrupt.)

The chorus strumming pattern: This isn't too hard either, but try not to get too funky with it, as there is a walking bass line that plays behind it. The first time I did this I strummed it entirely too funky, and it threw off the overall feel of the walking bass line. Since the walking bass line plays straight eighth notes, I would strum the chorus like this: D, D, UU, DU (which translates to “down, down, up-up, down-up” with no real break between the UU and DU)

Additional Notes: The Eb – E is a quick shift, so unlike the usual reference file, it's not real easy to place over the lyrics for prompting. However, I think you'll do just fine here. The easy way to think on the Eb – E movement is to “set up” the lyrics with that Eb – E. You can just let it ring through. I played the intro 4 times in the video to provide you with a chance to get familiar with the feel of it, but you can play it however many times you would like.

The Tabs: There are 2 overall tabs to this song. I don't think they need much explanation on this reference sheet, but I am providing them to you so you can print them out and practice.
Reference 1 – The Walking Bass Lines:

This part is played over the entire chorus. It's all eighth notes, and while it's rather brisk – it's not difficult to actually play. It's just quick.

Reference 2 – The Little Solo:

This is the small lead part that is played during the solo. It's not nearly as hard as it may look. In all honesty, some of this can be faked very easily. These 4 measures are played during the A7 and E that starts the chorus theme. In other words, the first 2 measures are played over the A7 rhythm part. The next 2 measures are played over the E rhythm part. As long as you get the overall idea down, I think you'll have no issue with this one at all.

After playing the above 4 measures, all you're really doing is going back to the ending of the chorus theme. So, once you've played the above parts, follow up with B7 - A7 | E - A7 - E. If you'd like, you can actually follow up from those chords directly into the next verse, which is just Eb - E. You can also just stop on the E Major if you'd like.
Intro: Eb – E (x4)

Verse:

Eb - E
The warden threw a party in the county jail...
Eb - E
prison band was there and they began to wail...
Eb - E
band was jumpin' and the joint began to swing...
Eb - E
should've heard those knocked out jail birds sing!

Chorus:

A7
Lets Rock ! (Everybody...)
   E
Lets Rock !
   B7                                     A7
Everybody in the whole cell block
   E                     A7           E
Was a-dancin' to the Jailhouse Rock!

Verse:

Eb - E
Spider Murphy played the tenor saxophone...
Eb - E
Little Joe was blowin' on the slide trombone...
Eb - E
The drummer boy for Illinois went crash, boom, bang!
Eb - E
The whole rhythm section was the purple gang!

(Repeat Chorus)

Verse:

Eb - E
Number forty seven said to Number Three:
Eb - E
“You're the cutest jailbird I ever did see....
Eb - E
I sure would be delighted with your company...
Eb - E
Come on and do the jailhouse rock with me!”

(Repeat Chorus and THEN go into the solo part, which is just the chorus chords again.)
Verse:

Eb - E
The sad sack was a-sittin' on a block of stone....
Eb - E
Way over in the corner weeping all alone.....
Eb - E
The warden said: "Hey, buddy, don't you be no square.
Eb - E
If you can't find a partner use a wooden chair!"

(Repeat Chorus)

Eb - E
Shifty Henry said to Bugs: "For Heaven's sakes,
Eb - E
No one's lookin' now's our chance to make a break!"
Eb - E
Bugsy turned to Shifty and he said "Nix, nix...
Eb - E
I wanna stick around a while and get my kicks!"

(Repeat Chorus and end on E)