

Zydeco Sont Pas Salés Chord Chart
Clifton Chenier 1965 recording (ARH 09053)

Key of G, 4/4 time

Approximately 210 beats per minute

Read left-hand column first, left to right, top to bottom, then middle, etc.

each chord symbol has a duration of one measure

underlined chord symbols are a ½ measure (2 beats)

u003Cp>some chord changes in middles of measures not marked

Section¹

Intro 1 1 1 1
5 5 5 1
1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1 1 1

Verse 1 5 5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1

5 5 1 1
Solo 1 1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1

Bridge 5 5 5 5
5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1

Verse 2 5 5 1 1
1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1

Solo 2 1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1 1

Bridge 5 5 5 5
5 5 5 5

1 1 1 1 1
5 5 1 1
1 1
5 5 1 1
1 1 5 1
1 1 5 1

Verse 3 5 5 1 1

Solo 3
Bridge 5 5 5 5
5 5 5 5
5 5 1 1
1 NC NC 1^{Δ7}

The “bridge” sections highlighted in yellow are variable-length improvisations on the 5 chord (D major, in the key of G). They get progressively more extended, while the rest of the accordion solo and the vocals become more condensed as the song draws to a close. The class could play with these ideas of variable-length sections without trying to follow the recording exactly.

¹ This chart uses conventions from the Nashville Number System.

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Verse 1

				G Oo ma-
-am',	D	<u>D²</u>	quoi t'as fait avec ton	G nèg'?
				G Zydeco est pas sa-
lés	G	G Zydeco est pas sa-	lés	G T'as volé mon trai-
neau	D	D T'as vo-lé mon trai-	neau	G Garde' hip et ta-
ïaut	G	G Garde' hip et ta-	ïaut	G Garde' hip et ta-
ïaut	D	D Garde' hip et ta-	ïaut	<u>G³</u>

Verse 2

				G Oo ma-
-am',	D	D Oo ma-	-am',	G Eh-
-eh maman!	G	G Oo-	oo maman!	G T'as vo-
lé mon traineau!	D	D T'as vo-	lé mon trai-neau	G

Verse 3

D Whoa mam!	D baby,	G o	G ma-man, ma-man	G
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² For simplicity's sake, this half-measure could be eliminated in class performance

³ For simplicity's sake, this half-measure could be expanded to a full measure in class performance