

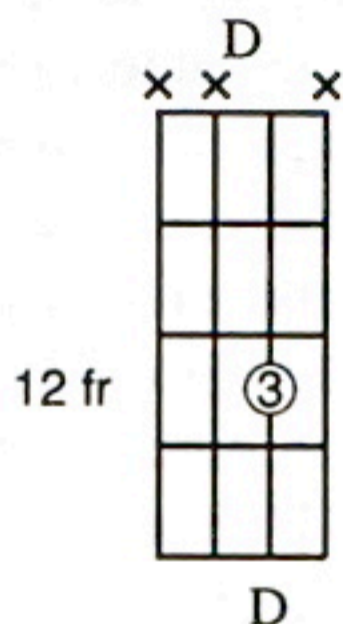
The Songwriting Secrets of The Beatles

'A Hard Day's Night': *that* chord . . . (probably!)

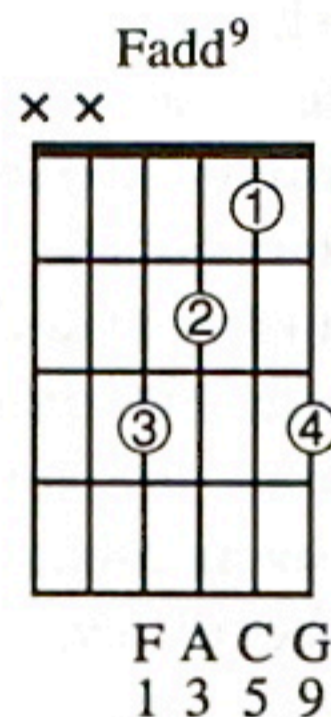
Note	Nominal Frequency (Hz) ⁵⁸	Left Channel		Right Channel	
		Paul McCartney	George Harrison	John Lennon	George Martin
		Bass	Guitar	Guitar	Piano
		<i>Hofner 500/1</i>	<i>Rickenbacker 360/12</i>	<i>Gibson J160E Acoustic</i>	<i>Steinway Grand</i>
A4	440		G-string, fret 2, 8 ^{va}		
G4	392		E-string, fret 3	E-string, fret 3	
F4	349		D-string, fret 3, 8 ^{va}		
D4	294				Harmonic
C4	261		B-string, fret 1	B-string, fret 1	
B3	247				Harmonic
A3	220		G-string, fret 2	G-string, fret 2	
G3	196				Harmonic
F3	175		D-string, fret 3	D-string, fret 3	
D3	147	D-string, fret 12			Thumb
G2	98				3rd finger
F2	87				
D2	73				5th finger

Left hand

Paul McCartney:



John Lennon:



⁵⁸ These frequencies have been set out to ensure there is no confusion with the relative register of the notes being suggested (with 'Harmonic' noted where we *feel* we hear them). However, in absolute terms, some of the instruments appear to be slightly sharp, at least as interpreted from the frequency analysis devices specified below. Certainly there is some tuning inconsistency suggested by the oscillation between the supposedly matching D notes in the bass and piano. On this subject *Guitarist* magazine draws our attention to the solo later in the song where 'a definite out-of-tuneness is apparent between bass and guitar'. It is thus possible that even small tuning inconsistencies between the instruments may also have contributed in certain incalculable ways to the dissonance of the overall opening chord. Meanwhile, Paul's bass fingering is shown right-handed by convention!

The 'A Hard Day's Night' Chord – Rock's Holy Grail

George Harrison:⁵⁹

Fadd⁹

x x

F A C G
1 3 5 9

Sounding chord as if played on 6-string guitar + Notes 'added' by extra strings on 12-string guitar = Total combined sonority

T 3
A 1
B 2
3

George Martin:

Middle C

D 5 G 1 D 5

The Final Formula – revealed

In the spirit of this mystery, this author acknowledges that these ideas may indeed be wide of the mark in various respects, and he duly invites other Beatles fans to shoot down in flames every last detail as they attempt to find The Truth.⁶⁰

Maybe we will never know for sure – and no doubt the very magic of The Beatles is that certain nuances could never be replicated even if The

⁵⁹ Note that guitar notation sounds an octave lower than written. This means that McCartney's highest D is the same note as George Martin's lowest D.

⁶⁰ For example, sharp ears may hear the sound of an open G string in the *left-hand* channel. Could this also have come from a bleeding pick-up?