

## I SHOT THE SHERRIFF - BOB MARLEY (1973)

♩ = 160

**MAIN RIFF: (E MINOR)**

The main riff is written in E minor and 4/4 time. The melodic line starts on the 7th fret of the 5th string, moving to the 5th, then the 2nd, then a double-fret on the 2nd fret of the 4th string, followed by the open 4th string, the 3rd fret of the 4th string, the open 2nd string, the 2nd fret of the 2nd string, the 3rd fret of the 2nd string, the open 1st string, the 3rd fret of the 1st string, the open 1st string, and finally the open 1st string.

### CHORUS 1

Em                      Am                      Em  
 I shot the sheriff.....But I didn't shoot the deputy... oh no, oh!  
 Em                      Am                      Em  
 I shot the sheriff....But I didn't shoot no deputy....Ooo, ooo, oooh!

### VERSE

C        D                      Em  
 All around in my home town  
           C        D                      Em  
 They're tryin' to track me down  
           C                      D                      Em  
 They say they want to bring me in guilty  
           C                      D        Em  
 For the killing of a deputy  
           C                      D        Em  
 For the life of a deputy.....But I say (PLAY RIFF) ("oh, now, now")

### CHORUS

Em                      Am                      Em  
 I shot the sheriff..... But I swear it was in self defence. ("Oh, no...no!")  
 Em                      Am                      Em  
 I shot the sheriff.... And they say it is a capital offence. Ooo, ooo, oo-oh

### VERSE

C        D                      Em  
 Sheriff John Brown always after me  
 C                      D                      Em  
 For what.....I don't know  
           C        D                      Em  
 Every time I plant a seed

C D Em  
He say kill it before it grow

C D Em  
He said kill them before they grow....and so (PLAY RIFF) ("Read it in the news!")

### CHORUS

Em Am Em  
I shot the sheriff..... But I swear it was in self defence! ("Where was the deputy?")

Em Am Em  
I shot the sheriff.....But I swear it was in self-defence! ooo-oo

### VERSE 3

C D Em  
Freedom came my way one day

C D Em  
And I started...out of town

C D Em  
All of a sudden I saw.....Sheriff John Brown

C D Em  
Aiming to shoot me down

C D Em  
So I shot, I shot, I shot the sheriff....and I say (PLAY RIFF) ("If I am guilty, I will pay")

### CHORUS 1

### VERSE 4

C D Em  
Reflexes got the better of me

C D Em  
And what is to be must be

C D Em  
Every day, the bucket goes to the well

C D Em  
One day the bottom a-go drop out

C D Em  
One day the bottom a-go drop out....I say (PLAY RIFF)

FINAL CHORUS 1....END.