



## Uncle Tupelo, “Screen Door”

Words and music by Jay Farrar, Jeff Tweedy, and Mike Heidorn, produced by Paul Q. Kolderie and Sean Slade. Contained on the album *No Depression*, which was released in 1990 and did not chart.

**FORM:** The form in this song is similar to the standard AABA. The verses loosely employ the 12-bar blues structure, though the song is not in the blues style. The bridge is 8 measures, but ends with a short refrain, “outside the screen door,” with no return of the verse to round off the AABA. The interlude that follows leads to only one verse and a bridge (partial reprise), with the bridge extended by the repetition of the refrain to create a sense of conclusion. The song ends with a short 6-bar return to the Introduction. Notice how instrumentation is used to help define the form: during the bridges, the fiddle drops out to underscore the musical contrast. Note as well how the harmonica appears only during the Introduction and the Ending, its appearances creating musical “bookends” that enclose the song.

**TIME SIGNATURE:** 4/4 throughout, with most of the rhythm provided by the strummed guitars.

**INSTRUMENTATION:** Acoustic guitars, bass, fiddle, harmonica, lead and background vocals.

0:00–0:13	<b>Introduction</b> , 6 mm.	After two bars of strummed acoustic guitar, the other instruments join in, with harmonica melody.
0:13–0:41	<b>Verse 1</b> , 12 mm.	Vocal enters, harmonica drops out, 12-bar blues. “Down here . . . weather . . .”
0:41–1:07	<b>Verse 2</b> , 12 mm.	Harmony vocal added to lead vocal. “Down here . . . all we do . . .”
1:07–1:25	<b>Bridge w/ refrain</b> , 8 mm.	Lead and harmony vocal, fiddle drops out to provide contrast. “Down here . . . everybody . . .”
1:25–1:34	<b>Interlude</b> , 4 mm.	Like intro, fiddle returns, no harmonica.
1:34–2:00	<b>Verse 3</b> , 12 mm.	Like verse 2. “Down here . . . sweat drips . . .”
2:00–2:26	<b>Bridge w/ refrain</b> , 12 mm.	As before, but refrain is expanded by 4 bars at end. “Down here . . . everybody . . .”
2:26–2:39	<b>Ending</b> , 6 mm.	Like intro, harmonica returns