

DETROIT ROCK CITY

(Kiss-Destroyer)

Words and Music by Paul Stanley and Bob Ezrin

The four founding members of Kiss—Gene Simmons (bass/vocals), Paul Stanley (guitar/ vocals), Peter Criss (drums), and Ace Frehley (guitar)—came together in late 1972. In early 1973 Kiss did several shows around New York, and during this period they experimented with Kabuki-style makeup and costumes.

In June of 1973, Kiss entered Electric Ladyland Studios to record a demo produced by Eddie Kramer. After meeting Bill Aucoin, who became their manager, the band signed a deal with Casablanca Records. In February of 1974, their first record (*Kiss*) was released.

It was in 1975 upon the release of their fourth record, *Alive*, that Kiss found their biggest success. *Alive* went Platinum and flew to #9 on the charts. On the heels of this success, Kiss began recording *Destroyer* with noted grandiose producer Bob Ezrin (who had worked with Alice Cooper and would later co-produce some of Pink Floyd's most memorable recordings). The album was shipped to stores in March of 1976 and went Gold immediately, producing classic hits like "Beth" and "Detroit Rock City."

"Detroit Rock City" is a great bass line that provides us with the opportunity to work on a fast shuffle feel. This type of feel derives from the subdivision of each quarter note into three equal parts (eighth-note triplets). When only two eighth notes per beat are written (as in the first three measures of the intro) they are felt and counted as the first and third part of the triple sub-division. This is a difficult feel at any speed, but expect extra challenges at this fast tempo. Practice this song at a slower speed to insure the right feel.

Figure 23—Intro

The intro is two identical eight-measure phrases. Bass and guitar begin and are joined by the drums in the fourth measure for the unison triplet fill. The second four measures of the phrase are a preview of the chorus, as guitars and bass play sustained chords while the drums continue the shuffle groove.

Fig. 23

Tune down 1/2 step:
(low to high) Eb–Ab–Db–Gb

Intro

Fast Rock ♩ = 184 (♩ = $\frac{1}{3}$ ♩)

1 N.C.(C#m)

29 Full Band

30 Slow Demo
meas. 1-4