Every Little Thing
She Does Is Magic

Words and music by Sting, arranged by Claus Boesser-Ferrari

I rediscovered “Every Little Thing She Does is Magic” in the early ‘90s while touring Brazil, where it played constantly on the radio. At a soccer game in Rio de Janeiro, I saw a young boy accompanying a singer by playing a complex samba rhythm on an empty Coca Cola can that he’d filled with sand. I immediately realized how under-developed my own sense of rhythm was.

After studying various percussion techniques, I could hear the Latin music elements in “Every Little Thing She Does is Magic”—especially the way Brazilian tambourine patterns influence the phrasing of the melody, and how the rhythm of the surdo (the large bass drum in Brazilian percussion ensembles) informs the bass line. I felt that influence when I recorded this arrangement on my album Welcome.

My goal was to create a solo-guitar arrangement that highlighted this Latin tinge. One of the fascinating things about Brazilian music is how multiple rhythmic layers get stacked on top of each other in an interlocking system. Notice how I integrated a Cuban clave pattern into the introduction (the harmonics in measures 1–2) and the surdo pattern into my bass line (measures 7–8). These patterns prepare the listener for further rhythmic variety that finds its way into the song’s melody.

I deviate from the original chord progression at the end of each chorus and throughout the bridge because the new chord changes fit better in this special rhythmic context. I’ve also changed the melody on the bridge to encourage other players to try the same thing. For a progression closer to what the Police played on their recording, play through the chord symbols for the vocal melody on page 104.

—CLAUS BOESSER-FERRARI
Chords, Capo II:

Verse

1. Though I've tried be-fore to tell her of the feel-ings I have for her in my heart.
2. See additional lyrics.

Chorus

Ev-ery little thing she does is mag-nificent.

Ev-en though my life be-fore was tra-agic Now I know my
Fine

G     A♭  E♭sus2

1.        Fsus2     Gsus4    Am7  Gsus4/B

23  love for her goes on

2. Bridge

A♭  E♭sus2  A♭  Gsus4  Fsus2  Gsus4

30 I resolve to call her up a thousand times a day

and ask her if she'll marry me in some old-fashioned way
But my silent fears have gripped me long before I reach the phone
Long before my tongue has tripped me

my tongue has tripped me
Must I always be alone

1. Though I've tried before to tell her

Am7  Gsus4/B  Fsus2  Gsus4  Am7  Gsus4/B
Of the feelings I have for her in my heart

Fsus2  Gsus4
Every time that I come near her

Am7  Gsus4/B  Cmaj7
I just lose my nerve as I've done from the start

F G7 Cmaj7 F G7 Cmaj7 F G7 C

Chorus

G     C
Every little thing she does is magic

G     C
Everything she do just turns me on

G     C
Even though my life before was tragic

G     B♭sus2 Fmaj7/F11 G7sus4
Now I know my love for her goes on

2. Do I have to tell a story

Am7  Gsus4/B  Fsus2  Gsus4  Am7  Gsus4/B
Of a thousand rainy days since we first met

Fsus2  Gsus4
It's a big enough umbrella

Am7  Gsus4/B  Cmaj7
But it's always me that ends up getting wet

F G7 Cmaj7 F G7 Cmaj7 F G7 C

Repeat Chorus

Bridge

A♭  Gsus4  Fsus2  Gsus4
I resolve to call her up a thousand times a day

Fsus2  Gsus4  A♭  Gsus4
And ask her if she'll marry me in some old-fashioned way

A♭  B♭sus2  A♭  B♭sus2
But my silent fears have gripped me long before I reach the phone

A♭  B♭sus2  A♭  B♭sus2  C
Long before my tongue has tripped me, must I always be alone?

Repeat Chorus