

“DOWN THE ROAD”

You will hear this song played at most bluegrass festivals, coast-to-coast, on stage and in the campgrounds. One of the most famous versions is by Flatt & Scruggs. My arrangement closely follows theirs.

Performance Notes:

1. I chose the key of G for my arrangement. Flatt & Scruggs recorded it in A and other groups take it up another step to B. A lot depends on the vocalist. The key of G is a good place to start and work from there.
2. There are two Bass back up parts:
 - a. The first is a straightforward break based on the root and fifth of each chord and a few simple bass walks between specific parts of the song where the singer takes a breath or the group moves into the bridge.
 - b. The second backup break includes some tasty western swing bass walks. They are very effective on this song because the harmonic line is so simple. The entire song could almost be played with just one chord, G. There is an E minor chord, however, E minor shares two notes of the G chord, therefore, the bass line is simplified enough for the western swing bass walk.
3. Measure nine is shortened into 2/4 time, then at measure ten, we go back to 4/4. This is a common feature in old-time-bluegrass. You'll find this similar “kick” effect in other songs, like “Clinch Mountain Backstep”.
4. Don't play this tune too fast; it should maintain a fast “walking” style with some punch.

Down the Road

www.jaybuckey.com

Traditional
Arrangement by Jay Buckey

Verses:

1 **G**

Em G

Down the road just a mile or two lives a lit - tle girl named
Ev - ry day and Sun - day too, I walk the soles right
An - y time you wan - na know where I'm head - in'
Old man Hicks he owns a farm, from the hall down

Bass Line 1 - Standard:

T 4 0
A 4 0
B 4 0

4 **D**

G

Em

Pearl - y Blue 'bout so high her hair is brown,
off my shoes. Don't know why I love her so, that
down the road. Gon - na see that gal of mine;
to the barn. from the barn down to the rail. He

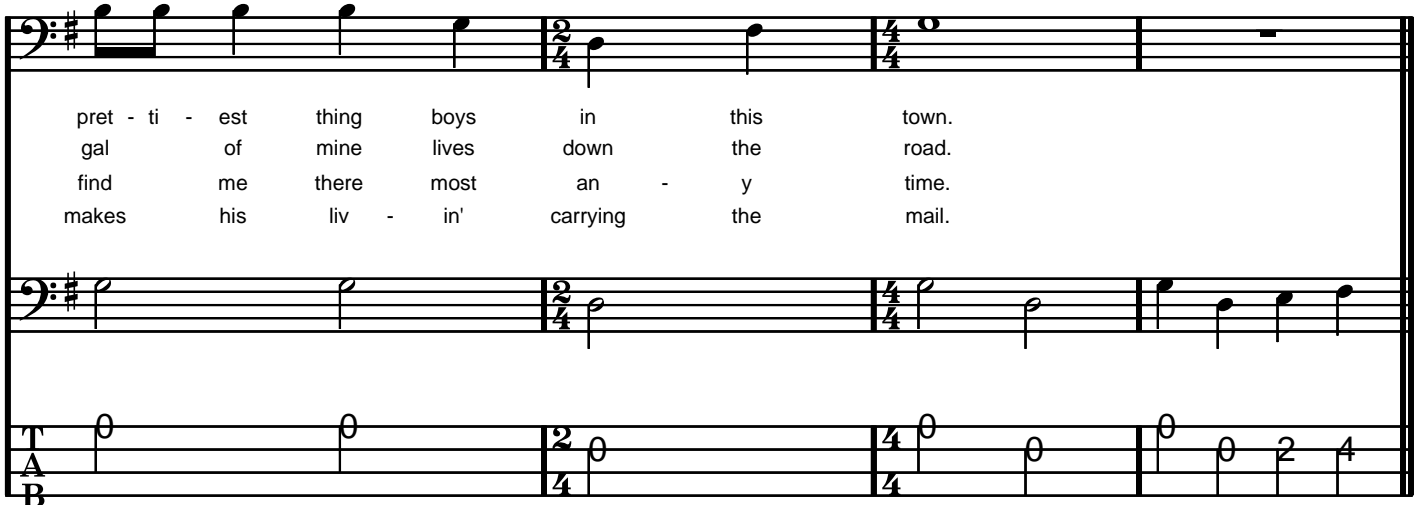
T 0
A 0
B 0

7

G

D

G



pret - ti - est thing boys in this town.
gal of mine lives down the road.
find me there most an - y time.
makes his liv - in' carrying the mail.


Chorus:

11

G

Em

G

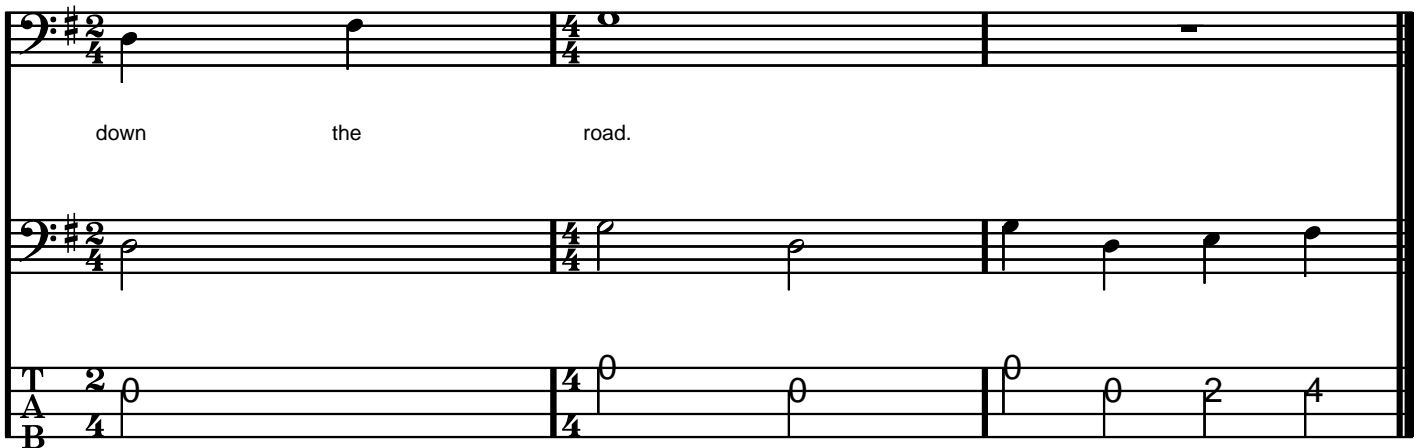


Down the road Down the Road, got a lit - tle pret - ty girl

14

D

G



down the road.

The complete arrangement for “Down the Road”, including:

- multiple Bass backup arrangements
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
- with or without the Bass
- with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

on this page:

Bass (Standard Music Notation and Bass Guitar Tablature):

http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/bass_isd.htm