

“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. Arrangement 1 is the main melody line and an excellent simple solo break for the First Year Guitarist.
3. Guitar solo 2 blends some banjo style “cross picking” with some other tasty blues style runs.
4. I use a hammer on at measure two with the middle and ring fingers. This will keep the left hand into 3rd position, ready for the hammer at measure six. The open E string, at the end of measure six, you will want to quickly move the left hand back to first position for the remainder of the break.
5. 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”.
6. The chords to this song are simple and work well with western swing style backup. The backup for Arrangement 2 uses the first position western swing chords. This technique can be used on a variety of songs with simple chord changes like this song.
7. 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

Arrangement 1:

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

T 4 0 0 0 2 0 | 0 0 2 | 0 0 0 0 0 2
A 4 | | |
B 4 | | |

4 **D** **G** **Em** **G**

Pearl - y Blue 'bout so high her hair is brown, pret - ti - est thing boys
off my shoes. Don't know why I love her so, that gal of mine lives
down the road. Gon - na see that gal of mine; find me there most
to the barn. from the barn down to the rail. He makes his liv - in'

T 0 4 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 2
A 0 4 | | | | 2
B 4 | | | | 4

8 **D** **G**

in this town.
down the road.
an - y time.
carrying the mail.

T 2 | 4 0 | | |
A 4 0 | 4 | | |
B 4 | 4 | | |

Chorus:

11 **G** **Em** **G**

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

T 0 0 3 | 0 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 0 0 2 0

A | | |

B | | |

14 **D** **G**

down the road.

T 2 | 4 | |

A 4 0 | 4 0 | |

B 4 | 4 | |

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

- The Guitar solo
- western swing backup arrangement
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
- with or without the Guitar
- with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

on this page:

Guitar: http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/guitar_isd.htm