

“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. If you were to play this arrangement in A, you would simply capo at the second fret, or for the key of B, the fourth fret. The solo would remain the same.
2. 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”.
3. Don't play this tune too fast; it should maintain a fast “walking” style with some punch.
4. The melody line is a simple solo line for the First Year Dobroist. The melody is simple and straight forward.
5. The Dobro Solo is based on the playing of Josh (Buck) Graves with Flatt and Scruggs. I've heard other arrangements but, I felt that Graves approach is a classic example of “hound dog” style Dobro playing. The Dobro solo begins with a similar banjo style roll, like Earl Scruggs. At measure eight, to the end, the break deviates from the melody and works out of a standard Blues Scale. The timing change between measures eight and nine are tricky. Listen carefully to the slower recordings for an accurate interpretation and play along practice.
6. The **BOLD** letters are notes that should be played with more force to help the melody surface and give the solo “punch” and “drive”.

Down the Road

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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

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

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** **D** **G**

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

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

- Josh (Buck) Graves style Dobro solo
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
- with or without the Dobro
- with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

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