

“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 Mandolin solos. The first is rather straight forward, based on the G major pentatonic scale. The second is similar but with more “blue” notes giving it a more “grassy” flavor. The basic vocal line can also be used as a solo; perfect for the First-Year-Mandolinist.
3. Solo 2, measures seven and eight, the fingering is a little tricky. There is a double E played with the open E string and fourth finger on the A string. Then, at measure eight, I play the D note with the fourth finger followed by the third finger for D flat, then middle for C. The index finger will slide from the B flat to B natural. This will keep this passage cleaner. Too many slides would blur the lick.
4. 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”.
5. Don’t play this tune too fast; it should maintain a fast “walking” style with some punch.

Chorus:

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

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

T 2 2 5 | 2 0 5 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 0 5 | 2/4

A | | |

B | | |

14 **D** **G**

down the road.

T 2 | 4 | |

A 4 0 | 4 | 4 5 |

B 4 | 5 | |

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

- Mandolin solos 1 and 2
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
- with or without the Mandolin
- with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

are on this page: http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/mandolin_isd.htm