“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 Banjo solos. Solo 1 is rather straight forward, based on the classic Earl Scruggs version. Below the tab, there will be *larger/bold* letters. These are the melody notes. Play them a little harder to help the melody surface.

3. For Solo 2, I kept the Scruggs feel with the basic roll patterns that Earl was famous for, however, I put a little melodic flow keeping the notes ringing as long as possible. Measure two is a “brush” with the thumb, Ralph Stanley style. Keep the brush dramatic; “milk it” by making the brush similar to a big wide strum on the guitar; almost with a delayed feel, trailing the down beat. The left hand fingering is represented by the capitol letters above the tablature. These are, of course, only suggestions. Always feel free to experiment.

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.
Down the Road

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Traditional
Arrangement by Jay Buckey

Verses:

1

\[ G \quad \text{Em} \quad \text{G} \]

Down the road just a mile or two lives a little girl named Ev'ry day and Sunday too, I walk the soles right Any time you wanna know where I'm head in' Old man Hicks he owns a farm, from the hall down

D

[\text{B} \quad G \quad \text{Em}]\]

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

G

[D \quad G]\

prettiest thing boys in this town.
gal of mine lives down the road.
find me there most any time.
makes his livin' carrying the mail.

Chorus:

\[ G \quad \text{Em} \quad \text{G} \quad \text{D} \quad \text{G} \]

Down the road Down the Road, got a little pretty girl down the road.
Banjo Solo 1:

1

Em

G

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

D

G

Em

G

D

Em

G

D

G

D

G

D

G

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

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

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