“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 fiddle 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.

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.
Down the Road

Verses:

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

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

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:

Down the road Down the Road, got a little pretty girl

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

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

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