“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 fingerings 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.
Verses:

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

2. D G Em G
   Pearl y Blue 'bout so high her hair is brown, prettiest thing boys
   off my shoes. Don't know why I love her so, that gal of mine lives
   down the road. Gonna see that gal of mine; find me there most
   to the barn. from the barn down to the rail. He makes his livin'

3. D G
   in this town.
   down the road.
   any time.
   carrying the mail.

4. D
   down this town.
   the road.
   time.
   mail.
Chorus:

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G    Em    G
Down the road  Down the Road, got a little pretty girl
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D    G
down the road.
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A
T 2 2 5 2 0 5 2 2 2 2 2 0 8
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B
T 2 0 4 4 5
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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](http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/mandolin_isd.htm)