

Bluegrass Songbook

November 25, 2025



Notes

This songbook was created strictly for educational purposes.

It is distributed for free as a community resource.

If you find any errors or suggestions for improvement,
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Revision History

Date	Revision	Notes
2024, March 29	1	Info: All Songs: 179 Bluegrass Songs: 91 Americana Songs: 100 Jam & Blues: 59
2024, May 5	2	Jam & Blues now called Electric Info: All Songs: 201 Bluegrass Songs: 112 Americana Songs: 115 Electric: 60
2024, Aug 24	3	Info: All Songs: 213 Bluegrass Songs: 123 Americana Songs: 118 Electric: 60
2025, Oct 11	4	Info: All Songs: 292 Bluegrass Songs: 152 Americana Songs: 176 Electric: 61
2025, Nov 25	5	Info: All Songs: 293 Bluegrass Songs: 153 Americana Songs: 177 Electric: 61

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A Hundred Years From Now

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- 1** **5⁷**
Ch. Well a hundred years from now I won't be crying
- 1**
A hundred years from now I won't be blue
- 4**
And my heart will have forgotten that you broke every vow
- 5⁷** **1**
I won't care a hundred years from now
- 1** **5⁷**
1. Lord it seems that it was yesterday you told me
- 1**
You couldn't live without my love somehow
- 4**
Now that you're with another it breaks my heart somehow
- 5⁷** **1**
I won't care a hundred years from now
- 1** **5⁷**
2. Now do you recall the night sweetheart you promised
- 1**
Another's kiss you never would allow
- 4**
That's all in the past dear it didn't seem to last
- 5⁷** **1**
I won't care a hundred years from now

All The Good times are Past and Gone

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. I wish to the Lord I'd never been born
Or died when I was young
I never would a' seen your sparklin' blue eyes
Or heard your lying tongue
- ch. All the good times are past and gone
All the good times are o'er
All the good times are past and gone
Little darlin' don't you weep no more.
2. Now don't you see that turtle dove
Flyin from pine to pine
It's mournin' for It's own true love
Just like I mourn for mine.
(Chorus)
3. Don't you see that passenger train
Going around the bend
It's taking away my own true love
To never return again
(Chorus)
4. Come back, come back my own true love
And stay a while with me
For if ever I've had a friend in this world
You've been a friend to me
(Chorus)

Amazing Grace

Artist: Gospel

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(3 / 4 time)

1. Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fear relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
3. When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright Shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Amelia Earhart

Artist: Country Gentlemen

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1. An airship out o'er the ocean, just a speck against the sky,
Amelia Earhart flying out that day
With her partner, Captain Noonan, on the second of July
Her plane fell into the ocean, far away.

- ch. There's a beautiful, beautiful field
In a land far away that is fair.
Happy landings to you, Amelia Earhart
Farewell, first lady of the sky.

(Solo over Verse Chords only)

2. About half an hour later an SOS went out,
The signal weak, but still her voice was brave.
In shark infested waters her plane went down that night
In the blue Pacific, to her watery grave.
3. Now you have heard my story of this awful tragedy
We prayed that she might fly home safe again
For in years to come there're others... blaze a trail across the sea
We'll never forget Amelia and her plane

The Ballad of Jed Clampett

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Come and listen to my story 'bout a man named Jed
Poor mountaineer, barely kept his family fed
Then one day he was shootin' at some food
And up through the ground come a-bubblin' crude
Oil that is. Black gold. Texas tea.
2. Well, the first thing you know ol' Jed's a millionaire
Kin folks said "Jed move away from there"
Said "California is the place you ought to be"
So they loaded up the truck and they moved to Beverly
Hills that is. Swimmin' pools. Movie stars.
3. Now it's time to say goodbye to Jed and all his kin
They would like to thank you folks for kindly stoppin' in
You're all invited back next week to this locality
To have a heapin' helpin' of their hospitality.
Beverly Hillbillies. That's what they call them now.
Nice folks. Y'all come back, y'hear!

(composer: Paul Henning)

(number: 1962)

The Ballad of Jed Clampett

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Come listen to a story 'bout a man named Jed
A poor mountaineer, barely kept his family fed
Then one day he was shootin' at some food
And up through the ground came a-bubblin' crude
Oil that is. Black gold. Texas tea.
2. Well, the first thing you know old Jed's a millionaire
The kin folks said "Jed move away from there"
Said "California's the place you ought to be"
So they bundled up the truck and moved to Beverly
Hills that is. Swimmin' pools. Movie stars.
3. Well, now it's time to say goodbye to Jed and all his kin
They would like to thank you for kindly stoppin' in
You're all invited back next week to this locality
To have a heapin' helpin' of their hospitality

Basket Case

Artist: Green Day

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(tempo: 87)

(Loosely based on the 'Picking on Green Day' version)

(original version is in Eb)

(Intro (verse progression):)

| 1 / 5 / | 6m / 3m / |
| 4 / 1 / | 5 / / / | (x2)

1 5 6m 3m

1. Do you have the time to listen to me whine

4 1 5

About nothing and everything, all at once

1 5 6m 3m

I am one of those melodramatic fools.

4 1 5

Neurotic to the bone, no doubt about it.

4 5 1

Ch. Sometimes I give myself the creeps

4 5 1

Sometimes my mind plays tricks on me.

4 5 1 5 6m

It all keeps adding up, I think I'm cracking up

4 5 1

Am I just paranoid or am I stoned? (hold 1 chord 4 extra beats)

(Breaks:)

| 1 / 5 / | 6m / 3m / |
| 4 / 1 / | 5 / / / | (x2)

1 5 6m 3m

2. I went to a shrink, to analyze my dreams

4 1 5

She said it's lack of sex that's bringing me down.

1 5 6m 3bm

I went to a whore, he said my life's a bore

4 1 5

So quit my whining 'cause it's bringing her down.

4 5 1

Ch. Sometimes I give myself the creeps

4 5 1

Sometimes my mind plays tricks on me.

4 5 1 5 6m

It all keeps adding up, I think I'm cracking up

4 5 1

Am I just paranoid or am I stoned? (hold 1 chord 4 extra beats)

4

5

1

Bridge Grasping to control, so I better hold on. (hold 1 chord 4 extra beats)

(Breaks:)

| 1 / 5 / | 6m / 3m / |

| 4 / 1 / | 5 / / / | (x2)

4

5

1

Ch. Sometimes I give myself the creeps

4

5

1

Sometimes my mind plays tricks on me.

4

5

1

5

6m

It all keeps adding up, I think I'm cracking up

4

5

1

Am I just paranoid or am I stoned? (hold 1 chord 4 extra beats)

(composer: Green Day)

(lyricist: Billie Joe Armstrong)

(number: 1994)

Big River

Artist: Johnny Cash

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. Now I taught the weeping willow how to cry,
And I showed the clouds how to cover up a clear blue sky
And the tears I cried for that woman are gonna flood you Big River
And I'm gonna sit right here until I die.
2. I met her accidentally in St. Paul (Minnesota)
And it tore me up every time I heard her drawl, Southern drawl
Then I heard my dream went back downstream cavortin' in Davenport
And I followed you, Big River, when you called.

(Solo)

1	%	%	%
1	%	2'	5
1	%	4	%
1	5	1	%

(Instrumental break)

3. Then you took me to St. Louis later on (down the river)
A freighter said she's been here but she's gone, boy, she's gone
I found her trail in Memphis, but she just walked up the bluff
She raised a few eyebrows and went on down the line.
4. Now, won't you batter down by Baton Rouge, River Queen, roll it on
Take that woman on down to New Orleans, New Orleans
Go on now, I've had enough; dump my blues down in the gulf
She loves you, Big River, more than me.

(Repeat verse 1)

(composer: Johnny Cash)

(number: 1958)

Big Spike Hammer

Artist: Doc Watson; Bluegrass Album Band

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Can't you hear the ripple of my big spike hammer
Lord it's busting my side
I've done all I can do to keep that woman
Still she's never satisfied
- ch. Hey hey Della Mae
Why do you treat me this way
Hey hey Della Mae
I'll get even some day
2. I'm the best hammer swinger in this big section gang
Big Bill Johnson is my name
I swing this old hammer for a dollar and a half a day
And it's all for my Della Mae
(Chorus)
3. Well I've been lots of places and there's lots of things i've done
And still some things I wanna see
This hammer that I swing or the woman that I love
one of them's gonna be the death of me
(Chorus)

Blue Moon of Kentucky

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

(Sing chorus and verse in 3/4 time)

(Change to 4/4 time, Sing both again)

- 1 1⁷ 4
- ch. Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
- 1 1⁷ 5
- Shine on the one that's gone and proved untrue
- 1 1⁷ 4
- Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
- 1 5 1
- Shine on the one that's gone and left me blue
- 4 1
1. It was on a moonlight night the stars were shining bright
- 4 1 5
- When they whispered from on high your love has said good-bye
- 1 1⁷ 4
- Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
- 1 5 1
- Shine on the one that's gone and said good-bye

Blue Ridge Cabin Home

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Bluegrass Album Band

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. There's a well beaten path on this old mountainside
Where I wandered when I was a lad
And I wandered alone to the place I call home
In those Blue Ridge hills far away
- ch. Oh I love those hills of old Virginia
From those Blue Ridge hills I did roam
When I die won't you bury me on the mountain
Far away, near my Blue Ridge mountain home
2. Now my thoughts wander back to that ramshackle shack
In those Blue Ridge hills far away
Where my mother and dad were laid there to rest
They are sleeping in peace together there
(Chorus)
3. I return to that old cabin home with a sigh
I've been longing for days gone by
When I die won't you bury me on that old mountain side
Make my resting place upon the hills so high
(Chorus)

Bluebirds Are Singing for Me, The

Artist: Country Gentlemen; Lester Flatt; Mac Wiseman; Osborne Brothers

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

(composer: Traditional)

(number: 1951)

1. There was a girl I loved so dearly,
She lived a-way back in the hills.
When the bluebird sings, I miss my darling,
She loved me I know she always will.
- ch. There's a bluebird singing (bluebird singing)
In the Blue Ridge Mountains (Blue Ridge Mountains)
Calling me back to my home.
Oh I can hear (I can hear)
Those bluebirds calling (bluebirds calling)
Calling me back to my home.
2. When I reached my home, I was so lonely,
The one I loved had gone away.
That sad, sad news came from her mother,
She's sleeping there beneath the clay.
3. Now tonight I'm far from the Blue Ridge Mountains
Far from my home back in the hills.
I'm going back to the Blue Ridge Mountains,
These memories they haunt me still.

Bringing In The Georgia Mail

Artist: *Flatt & Scruggs*

Key: *G*

Book: *Bluegrass, Americana*

(*Sam Bush Key of A*)

1. See the engine puffing, boy she's making time
That old train's wearing out the rail, rail, rail
Heading for the mountain that she's got to climb
Bringing in the Georgia mail
2. Ninety miles an hour and she's gaining speed
Listen to the whistle moan and wail, wail, wail
Has she got the power, I'll say yes indeed
Bringing in the Georgia mail
3. See the driver's travel, watch her on the tracks
Ought to put that engineer in jail, jail, jail
Has he got her rolling, watch her ball the jack
Bringing in the Georgia mail
4. Rocking and a reeling, spouting off the steam
Stoke the fire and hope the brakes don't fail, fail, fail
Serving all the people, listen to her scream
Bringing in the Georgia mail

Brown's Ferry Blues - Arr. Watson

Artist: Doc Watson; Billy Strings; Tony Trischka

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(NOTE: Sung verses have an extra beat on "got them." Instrumental breaks don't.)

- 1
1. Hard luck papa comin' down the lane
4 4⁷
Mama give him back his walkin' cane
1 5⁷
Lord, Lord, I got them* Brown's Ferry Blues
1
Thrown it away and he went to town
4 4⁷
To see that woman and now he's down
1 5 1
Lord, Lord, I got them* Brown's Ferry Blues
(Instrumental breaks between each verse)
2. Hard luck papa gettin' too tired
If he don't quit drinkin', he'll be high as a kite
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
He's drinkin' that block and tackle kind
He can walk a block and tackle a lion
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
3. I walked up to my girl's old man
And I asked him for my true love's hand
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
He said, "You la-la-little galoot"
And instead of her hand, I got his foot
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
4. Hard luck papa standin' in the rain
If the world was corn, he couldn't buy grain
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
He runs around in secondhand clothes
You can smell his feet wherever he goes
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
5. Revenue man took my gin
I hope they won't come back again
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
Took my sweetie with them too
'Cause she'd had a little drink or two
Lord, Lord, I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
Said that's why he took her

(composer: Alton Delmore)

(lyricist: Doc Watson)

(number: 1970)

Brown's Ferry Blues

Artist: Delmore Brothers

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(*Sung verses have an extra beat on "got them." Instrumental breaks don't.)

- 1
1. Hard luck poppa can't stand his ground
4 4'
He wants good pop but he's done gone down
1 5'
Lord Lord I got them* Brown's Ferry Blues
1
Hard luck poppa standing in the rain
4 4'
If the world was corn he couldn't buy grain
1 5 1
Lord Lord I got them* Brown's Ferry Blues

(Instrumental breaks between each verse)

2. Two old maids playing in the sand
Each one wishing that the other was a man
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
Two old maids done lost their style
If you want to be lucky you got to smile
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues.
3. Hard luck poppa counting his toes
You can smell his feet wherever he goes
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
Hard luck poppa can't do his stuff
Trouble with him he's been too rough
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues.
4. Early to bed and early to rise
And your girl goes out with other guys
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
If you don't believe it, try it yourself
I tried it but I got left
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues.
5. I got a girl in the Cumberland Gap
She's got a boy that calls me pap
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues
I don't smoke and I don't chew
And I don't go with the girls that do
Lord Lord I got them Brown's Ferry Blues

(composer: Alton Delmore)

(lyricist: Rabon Delmore)

(number: 1933)

Bury Me Beneath The Willow

Artist: Traditional; Skaggs & Rice; Molly Tuttle

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. My heart is sad and I am lonely for the only one I love
When shall I see her, oh no never, 'til we meet in Heaven above
- ch. Oh bury me beneath the willow, under the weeping willow tree
So she will know where I am sleeping and perhaps she'll weep for me
2. She told me that she dearly loved me, how could I believe it untrue?
Until the angel softly whispered, "She will prove untrue to you"
(Chorus)
3. Tomorrow was our wedding day, oh God, oh God where can she be?
She's out a-courting with another and no longer cares for me
4. Place on my grave a snow white lily to prove that my love for her was true,
To show the world I died of grieving, for her love I could not win.
(Chorus)

California Sober

Artist: Billy Strings featuring Willie Nelson

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. Well, I used to like to ramble with my good-time friends and neighbors
Now I find I'd rather lie awake in bed.
And I don't get to actin' mean when I keep my buzzes clean
And keep the hard stuff and the whiskey from my head.
Well, I guess that's just the trouble when you're always seein' double
And the lines are gettin' twice as hard to see.
I've had years I don't recall, but I'm told I had a ball
At least somebody did who looked a lot like me.

ch. So I'm California sober as they say
And lately I can't find no other way
I can't stay out and party like I did back in the day
So I'm California sober as they say

2. Well, I heard out in the hills, they got pills to get their thrills
And they love their liquor down in New Orleans.
Maybe for a New York minute, sugarcane will fit the bill
But in no time flat, you're out of what you need.
The old crew don't get together anymore these days much ever
After some went straight and some went straight to jail.
Now they're busy postin' vids and just tryin' to raise their kids
Instead of raisin' holy hell and postin' bail.

(Chorus)

Outro I was California sober 'til I thought the world was over
Now I'm sittin' on the roadside once again.
When that wagon passes by, I don't even bat an eye
Because the devil on my shoulder always wins.
When that ol' wagon passes by, I don't even bat an eye
Because the devil on my shoulder always wins.

Carolina Star

Artist: Tony Rice

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass

1. Back in those hills oh slow rollin' hills
Where North Carolina comes close to the stars
There's livin' a lady she's shinin' so high
They call her the "Carolina Star"
{start_of_verse}
She works at the factory from Monday through Friday
She's raisin' three daughters alone
Their daddy's away, he's chasing a dream
They're waitin' for the day that he comes home
- Ch. Oh..., Carolina...
Even stars get lonesome now and then
Oh..., Carolina...
Don't you worry, he'll be comin' home again
2. He's playin' his songs stand in Nashville
He's pickin' for tips in a bar
He's broke and all alone, but he ain't ready to come home
Where he wants to be a bluegrass pickin' star
(Chorus)
3. Sometimes she wakes up just thinking of him
She remembers him beside her in the night
While out across those hills that old moon is settled in
And those Carolina stars are shining bright
(Chorus)
- Outro Don't you worry, he'll be comin' home again
(composer: Hugh Moffatt)

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Written by Tex Logan)

(Last Line of the Pre-Chorus has a half measure on the word "Country")

1

Ch. Christmas Time's A-Comin';

5

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

1

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

5

1

And I know I'm goin' home

1. Snow flake's a-fallin'

My old home's a callin'

Tall pines are hummin'

Christmas time's a comin'

1

Pre-Chorus Can't you hear them bells ringin', ringin'?

4

Joy, oh Lord, to hear them singin'

1

When it's snowin', I'll be goin'

5

1

Back to my country home

(Chorus)

(Solos)

2. White candles burnin'

My old heart's a yearnin'

For the folks at home when

Christmas time's a comin'

(Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus)

(Solos)

3. Holly's in the window

Home where the wind blows

Can't walk for runnin'

Christmas time's a comin'

(Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus x2)

The Church in the Wildwood

Artist: Carter Family; Charlie Pride

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(composer: Dr. William S. Pitts)

(number: 1857)

1. There's a church in the valley by the wildwood
No lovelier place in the dell.
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the dell.
- ch. Oh, come, come, come, come,
Come to the church in the wildwood
Oh, come to the church in the vale.
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the dell.
2. How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning
To listen to the clear ringing bell.
It's tones so sweetly are calling
Oh, come to the church in the vale.
3. There, close by the church in the valley
Lies one that I love so well .
She sleeps, sweetly sleeps, 'neath the willow
Disturb not her rest in the vale.
4. There, close by the side of that loved one
Neath the tree where the wild flowers bloom,
When the farewell hymn shall be chanted
I shall rest by her side in the tomb.

Columbus Stockade Blues - Major

Artist: Bill Monroe; Doc Watson

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Bill Monroe played in G; Doc Watson played in Cm, see minor version.)

1. Way down in Columbus Georgia
I want to be back in Tennessee
Way down in Columbus Stockade
My friends all turned their backs on me.
- ch. Go and leave me if you wish to
Never let me cross your mind__ "
In your heart you love another
Leave me, little darling, I don't mind
2. Last night as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke, I was mistaken
I was peering through the bars
3. Many a night with you I've rambled
Many an hour with you I've spent
Thought I had your heart forever
Now I find it's only lent.

Columbus Stockade Blues - Minor

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: Cm

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Guitar, Suggest Capo 3, Am shapes 1 = Am, 4 = Dm, 5 = E/E7)

1m

1. Way down in Columbus Georgia

5⁷

1m

Lord I'm wishing I was back in Tennessee

1m

Way down in that old Columbus Stockade

5⁷

1m

My friends all have turned their backs on me.

4m

1m

- Ch. Go and leave me if you wish to

4m

5⁷

Never let me cross your mind__

1m

In your heart you love another

5⁷

1m

Leave me, little darling, I don't mind.

(Instrumental breaks over verse and chorus)

2. Many a night with you I've rambled
Honey, countless hours with you I've spent
Thought I had your sweet love and your little heart forever
And now I find it was only lent.

3. Last night as I lay sleeping
I am dreaming that I am lying in your arms
When I awaken I was mistaken
Lord, I was still right here behind these bars

5⁷

1m

Outro Lord I've got the walking blues.

Crawdad Song

Artist: Doc Watson; Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Key for Doc Watson most in D, but "Songs for Little Pickers" is E)

1

Ch. You get a line and I'll get a pole, honey

5⁷

You get a line and I'll get a pole, babe

1

You get a line and I'll get a pole

4

We'll go down to the crawdad hole

1

5

1

Honey, baby, mine

1. Sittin on the bank till my feet got cold, honey
Sittin on the bank till my feet got cold, babe
Sittin on the bank till my feet got cold
Watching those Crawdads jumping down a hole
(Honey, baby, mine)
2. Yonder come a man with a sack on his back, honey
Yonder come a man with a sack on his back, babe
Yonder come a man with a sack on his back
Packin all the crawdads he can pack
(Honey, baby, mine)
3. The man fell down and he broke that sack, honey
The man fell down and he broke that sack, babe
The man fell down and he broke that sack
See those crawdads crawling back
Honey, baby, mine.
4. What you goin' do when the lake runs dry, honey
What you goin' do when the lake runs dry, babe
What you goin' do when the lake runs dry
Sit on the bank and watch the crawdads die
Honey, baby, mine
5. What did the hen duck say to the drake, honey
What did the hen duck say to the drake, babe
What did the hen duck say to the drake
Ain't no Crawdads in the lake
Honey, baby, mine

Cripple Creek

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Flatt & Scruggs played it as an instrumental but the song with lyrics was around in the early 1900s)

1. I got a gal at the head of the creek
goin up to see her bout the middle of the week
kiss her on the mouth just as sweet as wine
wraps herself around me like a sweet potato vine
- Ch. Goin' up Cripple Creek goin' in a run
Goin' up Cripple Creek to have some fun.
Goin' up cripple creek goin in a whirl
Goin' up Cripple Creek , see my girl
2. I got a girl and she loves me
She's as sweet as sweet can be
She's got eyes of baby blue
Makes my gun shoot straight and true.
(Chorus)
3. Cripple Creek's wide and Cripple Creek's deep
I'll wade old Cripple Creek before I sleep
Roll my breeches to my knees
I'll wade ol' Cripple Creek when I please
(Chorus)
4. I went down to Cripple Creek
To see what them girls had to eat
I got drunk and fell against the wall
Old corn likker was the cause of it all
(Chorus)
5. girls up cripple creek bout half grown
jump on a man like a dog on a bone
Roll my breeches to my knees
I'll wade ol' Cripple Creek when I please
(Chorus)

Dark Hollow

Artist: Grateful Dead; Del & Dawg; Seldom Scene

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass, Americana, Electric

1. I'd rather be in some dark hollow
Where the sun don't ever shine
Than to be at home alone just knowing that you're gone
Would cause me to lose my mind.

- ch. So blow your whistle freight train,
Take me far on down the track.
I'm going away, I'm leaving today,
I'm going, but I ain't coming back.

2. I'd rather be in some dark hollow
Where the sun don't ever shine
Than to be in some big city
In a small room with her on my mind.

(composer: Bill Browning)

(number: 1958)

Dig a Little Deeper in the Well

Artist: Billy Strings; Oak Ridge Boys

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Chorus)

1
ch. Dig a little deeper in the well boys,
4 1
Dig a little deeper in the well.
1
If you want a good cool drink of water,
2 5 5
You better dig a little deeper in the well.
1
Dig a little deeper in the well boys
4 1
Dig a little deeper in the well.
1
Well, you need a good cool drink of water,
5 1
You better dig a little deeper in the well.

(Chorus & Break)

3. There's a mighty river flowing,
And there's water that's cool and sweet.
Don't be fooled by a muddy stream
Be careful where you drink.
Life is what you make it
Sometimes it's a livin' hell.
If you want to get to the promised land
You better dig a little deeper in the well.

(Chorus)

(composer: Jody Emerson; Roger Bowling)
(number: 1978)

1. Well, my papa used to tell me,
4 1
Don't be fooled by the things you see.
1
If you wanna get at the heart of things
2 5 5
You gotta dig way down deep.
1
Yeah, second place don't get it son,
4 1
The winner gotta come in first.
1
There's nothing worse than to take a drink
5 1
That leaves you with a thirst.

(Chorus & Break)

2. Well, a good man needs a good woman
She's the rock that'll make him strong.
She'll be there to lean on
When the whole world's done him wrong.
There ain't nothing like good loving
That's the way it's meant to be.
Better find you a woman that'll be good to you
Like your mama's been to me.

Distant Land to Roam, A

Artist: Carter Family; Mighty Poplar

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. I remember very well on one dark and dreary day

5

1

Just as I was leaving home for a distant land to roam.

1

- ch. Mother said (mother said) my dear boy (my dear boy)

5

I hope to see you next year again.

6m

1

Fare you well, fare you well,

5

1

So I left my dear old home for a distant land to roam.

(Instrumental breaks)

2. Now I wandered far away from my home I've gone astray
But I'll soon be coming home never more from thee to roam.

3. Well, these words she said to me as she took me by the hand,
If on earth we meet no more, we'll meet at God's right hand.

(composer: A. P. Carter)

(number: 1929)

Don't This Road Look Rough and Rocky

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Darling, I have come to tell you,
Though it almost breaks my heart,
That before the morning darling,
We'll be many miles apart.
- ch. Don't this road look rough and rocky,
Don't that sea look wide and deep,
Don't my baby look the sweetest,
When she's in my arms a-sleep.
2. Can't you hear the night birds calling
Far across the deep blue sea?
While of others you are thinking,
Won't you sometimes think of me?
3. One more kiss before I leave you,
One more kiss before we part.
You have caused me lots of trouble.
Darling, you have broke my heart.
- (composer: Lester Flatt; Earl Scruggs)
(number: 1954)

Dooley

Artist: Dillards

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- 1 4 1 5
1. Dooley was a good ole man, he lived below the mill
- 1 4 1 5 1
Dooley had two daughters, and a forty-gallon still
- 1 4 1 5
One gal watched the boiler, the other watched the spout
- 1 4 1 5 1
And mama corked the bottles, when ole Dooley fetched 'em out
- 1
ch. Dooley, slippin' up the holler
- 4
Dooley, try to make a dollar
- 1
Dooley, give me a swaller
- 5 1
And I'll pay you back someday
2. The revenueurs came for him a-slippin' though the woods
Dooley kept behind 'em all and never lost his goods
Dooley was a trader when into town he'd come
Sugar by the bushel and molasses by the drum
(Chorus)
3. I remember very well the day ole Dooley died
The women folk looked sorry and the men stood round and cried
Now Dooley's on the mountain he lies there all alone
They put a jug beside him and a barrel for his stone
(Chorus)

Drink Up And Go Home

Artist: Garcia/Grisman; Jimmy Martin

Key: A

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(time: 6/8)

(composer: Johnny Bond and Joe Maphis)

(number: 1962)

(3rd line, add walk From A G# F# E)

(Intro)

| | 4 | 5 | 1 4 | 1 | |

1

1. (You sat there a) crying... crying in your beer

1

4

5

You say you got troubles my friend listen here

4

1

(Don't tell me your) troubles I got enough of my own

1

4

5

1

4

1

Be thankful you're living drink up and go home ...

(Solo)

| 4 | 4 | 1 _ | 1 |

| 4 | 4 | 5 _ | 5 |

| 4 | 4 | 1 _ | 1 |

| 4 | 5 | 1 4 | 1 |

1

2. (I'm fresh out of) prison six years in the can

1

4

5

Lost my wife and family no one to call friend

4

1

(Don't tell me your) troubles I got enough of my own

4

5

1

4

1

(Be thankful you're) living drink up and go home...

(Solo)

1

3. (Now there stands a) blind man a man that can't see

4

5

Yet he's not complaining why should you or me

4

1

(Don't tell me your) troubles I got enough of my own

4

5

1

(Be thankful you're) living... drink up and go home

4

5

1

41

(Be thankful you're) living... drink up and go home

Drinkin' Dark Whiskey

Artist: *SteelDrivers*

Key: A

Book: *Bluegrass, Americana*

1

Ch. Drinkin dark whiskey, tellin' white lies

5

One leads to another on a Saturday night

4

1

Don't you cross your heart unless you hope to die

5

1

Drinkin dark whiskey, tellin' white lies

1

1. The first drop burns but the second one goes down smooth

4

1

And then that ol' black label gets a hold of you

5

1

It'll loosen your tongue but it don't ever tell the truth

2. When the bottle 's talkin be careful what he might say
He talks in the dark like he never would in the day
Then he gets in trouble just as soon as he gets his way
(Chorus)

3. A little white lie don't mean anyone no good
When it's makin the rounds all over the neighborhood
Next thing you know you're all misunderstood
(chorus)

(composer: *Chris Stapleton; Michael Henderson*)

(number: 2003)

Drunken Sailor

Artist: Traditional; Irish Rovers

Key: Em

Book: Bluegrass

(Maybe we start a Sea Shanty book circle?)

1m

1. What shall we do with a drunken sailor?

7b

What shall we do with a drunken sailor?

1m

What shall we do with a drunken sailor?

7b

1m

Early in the morning

1m

- ch. Way hay and up she rises

7b

Way hay and up she rises

1m

Way hay and up she rises

7b

1m

Early in the morning

2. Shave his belly with a rusty razor
Shave his belly with a rusty razor
Shave his belly with a rusty razor
Early in the morning

(Chorus)

3. Put him in a long boat till he's sober
Put him in a long boat till he's sober
Put him in a long boat till he's sober
Early in the morning

(Chorus)

4. Put him in the bed with the captain's daughter
Put him in the bed with the captain's daughter
Put him in the bed with the captain's daughter
Early in the morning

(Chorus)

5. That's what we do with a drunken sailor
That's what we do with a drunken sailor
That's what we do with a drunken sailor
Early in the morning

(Chorus)

Dust in a Baggie

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Solo over Verse chords)

1. I ain't slept in seven days
Haven't ate in three
Methamphetamine has got a damn good hold of me
My tweaker friends have got me to the point of no return
I just took my lighter to the bulb and watched it burn
- ch. This life of sin, (life of sin) it's got me in (got me in)
Lord it's got me back in prison once again
I used my only phone call to contact my daddy
I got twenty long years for some dust in a baggie
2. Well, if I would have listened to what
Mom and Papa said
I wouldn't be locked up in prison troubled in the head
Lord I took that little pop and suck until my mind was spun
I got twenty years to sit and think of what I've done
(Chorus)
3. Sometimes I sit and wonder
Where my little life went wrong
These old jailhouse blues have got me singing this old song
Well my life is a disaster
and I feel so ashamed
In here where they call me by a number not a name
(Chorus)

East Bound Freight Train

Artist: Grandpa Jones

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Intro)

| 1 | 4 | 1 5 | 1 |

1 5 1

1. I never was so lonely for my hometown

1 5 1

Seems I never was so far away

4 1

Now I can hear the freight train a-blowing

2 5

I'll be gone before the break of day

1 5 1

2. I'll have to quit my daily rambling

4 3⁷

Tonight I'm gonna start my journey back

4 1 6⁷

Sitting on the top an old box car

2 5 1

Sailing down that silver stream of track

1 4

- Ch. East bound freight train east bound freight train

1 5

Take me home again

1 4

East bound freight train east bound freight train

1 5 1

Let me stay 'til the end

(Instrumental breaks over chorus chords)

3. Now I'll never stray from my hometown

Never leave again to roam

I know I was born to wander

But I'm a-gonna stick around my home

4. Now I see the smoke a-rolling

Out of that old smoke stack

I'm a-sitting on the top of an old box car

Sailing down that silver stream of track

(Chorus, instrumental breaks over chorus chords, chorus)

(composer: Grandpa Jones)

(number: 1946)

East Virginia Blues

Artist: Carter Family; Del & Dawg; Stanley Brothers

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass

1. I was born... in East Virginia
To North Carolina I did go
There I met a fair young lady
But her age, I did not know
2. O her hair was dark and curly
Her cheeks were rosy red
Upon her breast she wore a lily
That's where I longed to lay my head
3. I don't want your greenback dollar
I don't want your watch and chain
All I want is your heart darlin'
So you'll take me back again
4. The ocean's deep and I can't wade in
And I have no wings to fly
I'll just get some blue-eyed boatman
For to row me o'ver the tide
5. For you know I'd like to see you
At my door you're welcome in
At my gate I'll always greet you
For you're the girl I tried to win
6. I'll go back to East Virginia
North Carolina ain't my home
I'll go back to East Virginia
Leave them North Carolinians alone
7. Molly dear... go ask your monther
If you my bride might ever be
If she says no come back and tell me
And I'll run away with thee
8. No I'll not go ask my mother
When she lies on her bed of rest
In her hand she hold a dagger
To slay the man that I love best

Eight More Miles to Louisville

Artist: Grandpa Jones; Sam Bush

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. I've traveled o'er this country wide seeking fortune fair
Up and down both coast lines I've traveled everywhere
From Portland East to Portland West and all along the line
I'm going now to the place that's best, that old hometown of mine
(Chorus)
- Ch. Eight more miles and Louisville will come into my view
Eight more miles on this old road and I'll never more be blue
I knew some day that I'd come back I knew it from the start
Eight more miles to Louisville, the hometown of my heart
(Instrumental breaks over verse chords)
2. Now you might have a gal somewhere that you like best of all
Mine comes down from Louisville, she's little and she's small
She's the kind you just can't find traveling through the land
I'm on my way this very day to win her heart and hand
(Chorus, breaks)
3. I can picture in my mind a place we'll call our home
A humble little hut for two, we'll never have to roam
The place that's right for that love site is in those bluegrass hills
Where gently flows the Ohio by a place called Louisville
(Chorus, breaks, chorus, tag the last line)
(composer: Grandpa Jones)
(number: 1946)
(This has Sam Bush's lyrics, which are slightly different than the original.)

Everlasting Arms

Artist: Dr John

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(tempo: 120)

(Intro)

1

1. You can lean on me brother I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me brother I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me brother I believe you've carried too long
It's such a long, long way back home

2. You can lean on me sister I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me sister I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me sister I believe you've carried too long
It's such a long, long way back home

- ch. We're just leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
I've been leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
We're just leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
It's such a long long way back home

(Solo)

1 1 1 1 1⁷

4 4 4 1

1 1 1 3⁷ 4

1 5⁷ 1 1

3. You can lean on me stranger I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me stranger I believe you've carried too long
You can lean on me stranger I believe you've carried too long
It's such a long long way back home

1 17
 4. Oh, my dear sister am I not a brother to you
 4 1
 Oh, my dear sister am I not a brother to you
 1 37 4
 Oh, my dear sister am I not a brother to you
 1 57 1
 I know, I know, make it through

1
 Ch. We're just leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
 4 1
 I've been leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
 1 37 4
 We're just leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
 1 57 1
 It's such a long long way back home

1 17
 Outro We're just leaning (leaning...) leaning on the everlasting arms
 4 1
 We're just leaning (leaning...) on the everlasting arms
 1
 We're just leaning (leaning...) leaning on the everlasting arms
 1
 We're leaning (leaning...)
 (End in G)

Everything's the Same

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Well, I'm goin' to Florida

5

I'm goin' to Maine

1

4

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

1

I can sketch out a plan

5

I could change my name

4

5

1

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

2. I've been a lock-pick

I've been a thief

I'll lie to your face and make you believe

I'll tear through town like a hurricane

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

3. I killed a rounder

I killed a priest

I stole the gold right out of their teeth

I've sold my soul for fortune and fame

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

4. Well, I'll drink your whiskey

I'll drink your beer

By this time tomorrow, I'll be anywhere but here

I'll burn down your orchard and dance in the flames

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

5. It's always "goodbye"

It's always "farewell"

The day I slow down'll be a cold day in hell

And I'm on the run; it's a crying shame

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

1

5

Outro Well, I'm on the run; it's a crying shame

4

5

1

1

No matter where I roam, everything's the same

Fireball Mail

Artist: Roy Acuff; Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1

1. Here she comes look at her roll

5

There she goes eatin' that coal

1

Watch her fly huggin' the rails

5

1

Let her by, by, by it's the fireball mail

2. Let her go look at her steam
hear her blow whistle and scream
Like a hound waggin' his tail
Dallas bound, bound, bound it's the fireball mail
3. Engineer makin' up time
Tracks are clear look at her climb
See that freight clearin' the rail
Bet she's late, late, late it's the fireball mail
4. Watch her swerve look at her sway
Get that curve out of the way
Watch her fly look at her sail
let her by by by it's the fireball mail

Five Pounds of Possum

Artist: Traditional

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

1. My children are hungry, my dog needs a bone.
I'm out of a job now, so I'm just drivin' home.
An hour after sundown, when what to my delight,
There's five pounds of possum in my headlights tonight.
- ch. There's five pounds of possum in my headlights tonight.
If I can run him over, every thing'll be all right.
We'll have some possum gravy, oh what a sight;
There's five pounds of possum in my headlights tonight.
2. Won't have to clean no chicken, won't have to open no cans.
Just a little bit closer, and I'll have him in my hands.
I think the time has come now, to go from "dim" to "bright."
There's five pounds of possum in my headlights tonight.

(Chorus)

Fox on the Run

Artist: Manfred Mann; Country Gentlemen

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1 **5** **2m** **4**
ch. She walks through the corn leading down to the river

2m 5 4 1

Her hair shone like gold in the hot morning sun.

1 5 2m 4

She took all the love that a poor boy could give her

2m 5 4 1
And left me to die like a fox on the run.

4 1
Like a fox, (like a fox, like a fox, like a fox) on the run.

(Instrumental breaks)

4 1 5 1

1. Everybody knows the reason for the fall

4 1 2 5
When woman tempted man down in paradise's hall.

4 1 5 1
This woman tempted me and took me for a ride.

4 1 5 1
Like the lonely fox, I need a place to hide.

2. We'll pour a glass of wine to fortify our soul,
We'll talk about the world and friends we used to know.
I see a string of girls who have put me on the floor,
The game is nearly over, the hounds are at my door.

(composer: Tony Hazzard)

(number: 1968)

Freeborn Man

Artist: Jimmy Martin; Tony Rice; Billy Strings

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. I was born in the Southland

1

Twenty some odd years ago

1

I ran away for the first time

1

When I was four years old

1

4

- ch. I'm a free-born man

4

1

My home is on my back

5

I know every inch of highway

1

Every foot of back road every mile of railroad track

2. I got a gal in Cincinnati
Got a woman in San Antone
I always love the girl next door
But anyplace is home

(Chorus)

3. I got me a worn out guitar
I carry an old tote sack
I hocked it about two hundred times
But I always get 1 back

(Chorus)

4. Well you may not like my appearance
You may not like my song
You may not like the way I talk
But you like the way I'm gone

(Chorus)

The Garden

Artist: Sierra Ferrell

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(time: 3/4)

(capo: 3)

(tempo: 130)

(original in Bb)

(Intro)

1 / 4	1 / /
5 / /	1 / /
5 / /	1 / /

1. In the time of the harvest, the leaves fallin' down
I held what my true love could reap from the ground
But the bounty of a garden can all rot away
Without love and protection and a hard will to stay

- Ch. I will never have a garden again
Where I fall to my knees and work with the land
Now I'm just praying with two dirty hands
I'll never, no, never have a garden again

2. For the land it can dry up, and seasons will change
A weak love will falter and hearts rearrange
Gardens need sunshine and gardens need rain
but my tears are too salty to water that garden

- Ch. But I'm dreamin' of a garden again
where I'd fall to my knees and work with the land
'Til then, I'll be prayin' with two dirty hands
I'm dreamin', yes, dreamin' of a garden again

(Break)

4	%	6m	%	
1	%	%		
5	%	6m	%	%
4	%	1	%	
5	1	%		

3. Now me and my new love, the seeds for the soul

Are tendin' the soil and plantin' a rose

For after the winter comes springtime again

And the garden can grow like a heart that can mend

Ch. I'm livin' in the garden again

where I fall to my knees and work with the land

And I keep on prayin' with two dirty hands

I'm livin', yes, livin' in the garden again

I'm livin', yes, livin' in the garden again

(Outro)

| 1 / 5 | 1 / 5 | 1 / 5 |
| 1 |

Georgia Mail

Artist: Traditional; Sam Bush

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Also listed as "Bringing in the Georgia Mail")

- 1
1. See the engine puffing, boy she's making time
- 5
- That old train is wearing out the rail, rail, rail
- 1
- Heading for the mountain that she's got to climb
- 5 1
- Bringing in the/that Georgia Mail
- 1
2. Ninety miles an hour and she's gaining speed
- 5
- Listen to the whistle moan and wail, wail, wail
- 1
- Has she got the power, I'll say yes indeed
- 5 1
- Bringing in the/that Georgia Mail
- 1
3. See the driver's travel, watch her spin the track
- 5
- Ought to put that engineer in jail, jail, jail
- 1
- Has he got her rolling, watch her ball the jack
- 5 1
- Bringing in the/that Georgia Mail
- 1
4. Rocking and a reeling, spoutin' off the steam
- 5
- Stoke the fire and hope the brakes don't fail, fail, fail
- 1
- Turning all the people, listen to her scream
- 5 1
- Bringing in the/that Georgia Mail

Goin Down the Road Feeling Bad

Artist: Traditional; Doc Watson; Grateful Dead

Key: E

Book: Electric, Americana, Bluegrass

(Song also called "Lonesome Road Blues")

1

Ch. Goin' down the road feelin' bad

4

1

Goin' down the road feelin' bad

4

1

6m

Goin' down the road feelin' bad, bad, bad

1

5

1

Don't Wanna be treated this a way

1. Goin' where the water tastes like wine
Well I goin' where the water tastes like wine
Goin' where the water tastes like wine,
I don't Wanna be treated this a way
2. Goin' where the climate suits my clothes
I'm goin' where the climate suits my clothes
Goin' where the climate suits my clothes
Don't wanna be'treated this a way
3. These two dollar shoes hurt my feet
These two dollar shoes hurt my feet
These two dollar shoes hurt my feet
Don't wanna be treated this a way
4. They feed me on cornbread and beans.
They feed me on cornbread and beans
They feed me on cornbread and beans
Don't wanna be treated this a way
5. Goin where the chilly winds don't blow
Goin where the chilly winds don't blow
Goin where the chilly winds don't blow
Don't wanna be treated this a way

Gold Watch and Chain

Artist: Carter Family

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- ch. Oh I'll pawn you my gold watch and chain, love
And I'll pawn you my gold wedding ring
I will pawn you this heart in my bosom
Only say that you'll love me a-gain
1. Darling, how could I stay here without you
I have nothing to ease my poor heart
This old world would seem sad, love, without you
Tell me now that we never will part
2. Take back all the gifts you have given
A diamond ring and a lock of your hair
And a card with your picture upon it
It's a face that is false but is fair
3. Oh, the white rose that blooms in the garden
(Oh) it grows with the love of my heart
It broke through on the day that I met you
It will die on the day that we part

Gone a Long Time

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

(Original Key in F)

1. Well, I'm heading south to Georgia for two shows in a row
Didn't get much sleep last night the way these drivers roll
Heaven seems so far away
I believe my weary soul will be gone a long time (long gone, long time)
2. I heard my baby laughing like a jackal in the night
I looked in through the window and I saw an awful sight
Well, he took off my overcoat and she turned out the light
And I'll be gone a long time (long gone, long time)
3. Well, a Jay bird sees a little worm a'dancing on the ground
I guess there ain't no hiding place no matter where you're found
I just came from Traverse City, now I'm Withlacoochee bound
I'll be gone a long time (long gone, long time)
4. Jesus took the water and turned it into wine
Me, I'll take them pretty girls and try to make 'em mine
And I tell 'em not to worry, that I'll see them down the line
And I'll be gone a long time (long gone, long time)
5. Well, I just keep a-rolling to the rhythm of the band
And if you think I'm lucky boys you just don't understand
I'll pick this old guitar until my fingers turn to sand
And I'll be gone a long time (long gone, long time)
I'll be gone a long time (long gone, long time)

(composer: William Apostol, Jarrod Walker)

(number: 2024)

Graveyard Shift

Artist: Steve Earle; Del McCoury

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Tag)

1	1
4	1
5	1

1. Work the graveyard shift, stay up all night long __
Work the graveyard shift, stay up all night long
Wake up someday, find your good gal gone
2. Said if you don't treat your baby right __
Said if you don't treat your baby right
She'll come see me... some lonely night
- Ch. (ring) When the sun goes down and the moon is gone
That's when I come around, don't you think I won't
On the graveyard shift, stay up all night long
Wake up someday and find your good gal gone
3. I drive a Cadillac, it rides just like a dream __
Drive a Cadillac, it rides just like a dream
All the pretty gals, they want to ride with me
4. 'Cause I got what all the women want __
Said I got what all the women want
I never say I do when I really don't

Hand Me Down My Walking Cane

Artist: Norman Blake

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. I got high, lord I got in jail,
Lord I got high, and I got in jail.
I got high and I got in jail, had nobody for to go my bail,
My sins, they have overtaken me.

- ch. Hand me down my walking cane,
Lord hand me down my walking cane,
Hand me down my walking cane,
I'm a gonna leave on the morning train,
My sins, they have overtaken me.

2. Well, the beans was tough, and the meat was fat,
Oh the beans was tough, and the meat was fat,
Well the beans was tough, and the meat was fat,
Oh good god, I couldn't eat that,
My sins, they have overtaken me.

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks)

3. Well it's come on Ma, and go my bail,
Lord come on Mom, and go my bail,
Come on Mama and go my bail,
Get me outta this Nashville jail,
My sins, they have overtaken me.

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks)

4. Well if I die in Tennessee,
Lord if I die, in Tennessee,
Boy if I die in Tennessee,
Ship me back by C.O.D.,
My sins, they have overtaken me.

(Chorus)

(composer: James Bland)

(number: 1880)

Handsome Molly

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. Well I wish was in London Or some other seaport town
Step my foot on a steamboat And sail the ocean round
- ch. Sailing round the ocean Sailing round the sea
I'd think of Handsome Molly Wherever she might be
2. Her hair as black as a Raven's Her eyes were black as coal
Her teeth shown like lilies Out in the morning cold
3. I went to church last Sunday... She passed me on by
I knew her heart was changing By the roving of her eye
4. Don't you remember Molly When you give me your right hand
You said if you ever married I would be your man
5. Now you've broke your promise Go marry whom you please
My heart is broken 'Til I get some ease
6. I go down to the river, through everyone's asleep
I think of handsome Molly and I begin to weep

Hear the Willow Cry

Artist: *SteelDrivers*

Key: *A*

Book: *Bluegrass, Americana*

(composer: *Chris Stapleton; Liz Hengber*)

(*Play breaks over chorus*)

6m

3⁷

ch. Won't you bury me beneath the tree

5

2

Where my family lies where my family lies

6m

3⁷

Let the fog lay low on the mountain high

5

6m

Hear the willow cry hear the willow cry

4

1

1. Ain't no redemption for the thing that I have done

5

2m

The devil owns you once the bullet's left the gun

4

1

All I can think of with this rope around my neck

2m

3⁷

Is I'd be much obliged if you grant me one request

(*Chorus*)

2. My soul turned black as coal when I walked the streets that night

'Cause in my heart I knew that something wasn't right

And I went crazy when I found her with that man

But I felt better once the blood was on my hands

(*Chorus*)

Hellbender

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass

(time: 3/4)

1. In the cold early morning in the hills of Kentucky, I woke to the sound of the rain
And the girl from last evening laid silently sleeping though I couldn't remember her name.
My head was a pounding and the sweat poured around me like the faucet that she left on high,
With a chip on my shoulder I'm another day older and I swear I could break down and cry.
2. I Never once made a dollar, which I didn't gamble or scramble to burn at both ends.
I've raged all night long, in the hour before dawn on spirits and bitters and blends.
What's left of my day might be crimson or grey but never again black and white.
With a chip on my shoulder I'm another day older and I swear I could break down and cry.
(Instrumental breaks)
3. I'm a fool with my money and I'm a fool with my drinking I'm sinking to bottom of the well,
Adding fuel to the fire like my wildest desire is to spend the next lifetime in hell.
I could cruise down to Hades, in a snow white Mercedes and a devilish look in my eye.
With a chip on my shoulder I'm another day older and I swear I could break down and cry.
(Instrumental breaks)
4. There's a hard place on one side and a rock on the other, no corners to cut in this maze,
Only one way to do it, just to grin and bear through it, I've been drinking up the courage for days.
So I'll drain every cup and keep stacking them up 'til the sun stumbles out of the sky
With a chip on my shoulder I'm another day older and I swear I could break down and cry.
(last half of the verse chords)
5. I'll keep on this way till my last dying day, it's a blessing I've tried to disguise
With a chip on my shoulder I'm another day older and I swear I could break down and cry.
(composer: Aaron Allen, Jon Weisberger, William Apostol)
(number: 2021)

Hold Whatcha Got

Artist: Jimmy Martin

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home baby,

4

Hold whatcha got, and I don't mean maybe.

1

5

I've been thinking about you, and I'm on my way.

1

Don't sell the house, don't wreck the car,

4

Stay there honey, right where you are.

1

5

1

If you hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home to stay.

1

1. Well, in my mind I can see you,

4

That's a pretty good sign that I need you,

1

5

That's why I can't wait to get back home.

1

So squeeze yourself real good and tight,

4

I'll there before daylight,

1

5

1

If you hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home to stay.

- 2.** Well, when I get back honey, I ain't leaving,
I've been too long, a little too much grieving,
When I get back, this time I'm gonna stay.
Well, we won't fuss and we won't fight,
This time things is gonna be all right,
If you hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home to stay.

(composer: Jimmy Martin)

(number: 1959)

Home Sweet Home

Artist: Traditional

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass

1. Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam
Be it ev-er so humble, there's no place like home!
A charm from the skies seems to hallow us there
Which seek through the world, is never met elsewhere.

- Ch. Home! Home!
Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home
There's no place like home!

(Instrumental breaks over verse chords)

2. An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain
Oh give me my lowly thatched cottage again!
The birds singing gaily that came at my call
And gave me the peace of mind dearer than all.
3. To thee, I'll return overburdened with care,
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there.
No more from that cottage again will I roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

(Chorus)

(composer: Henry Rowley Bishop)

(lyricist: John Howard Payne)

(number: 1823)

(Scruggs instrumental version is verses only, key of C)

Hot Corn Cold Corn

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Hot corn cold corn bring along the demijohn

5

Hot corn cold corn bring along the demijohn

1

Hot corn cold corn bring along the demijohn

5

Fare thee well Uncle Bill see you in the morning, yes sir **1**

1. Well it's upstairs downstairs out in the kitchen (3x)
See you Uncle Bill just a raring and a pitching, yes sir
2. Old Aunt Peggy won't you fill 'em up again (3x)
Ain't had a drink since the lord knows when, yes sir
3. Well yonder comes the preacher and the children are a crying (3x)
Chickens are a' hollering and the toenails a flying, yes sir

How Mountain Girls Can Love

Artist: Stanley Brothers; Tony Rice; Ricky Skaggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. I was riding tonight in the high cold wind
On the trail of that old lonesome pine
Thinkin' of you feelin' so blue
Wonderin' why I left you behind
- ch. Get down boys go back home
Back to the girl you love
Treat her right never wrong
How mountain girls can love
2. Remember the night we strolled down the lane
Our hearts were gay and happy then
You whispered to me when I held you close
We hoped that night would never end

(Chorus)

(composer: Carter Stanley)

(number: 1958)

I Ain't Gonna Work Tomorrow

Artist: *Traditional*

Key: *G*

Book: *Bluegrass*

1

1. I'm going to leave this country

4

1

I'm going around the world

4

1

I'm going to leave this country

1

5

1

For the sake of one little girl

1

- ch. Oh, I ain't gonna work tomorrow

4

1

And I ain't gonna work the next day

4

1

I ain't gonna work tomorrow

1

5

1

For it is my wedding day

2. Don't you hear my banjo rining
Don't you hear that mournful sound
Don't you hear them pretty girls laughing
Standing on the cold cold ground
3. Oh I'll hang my head in sorrow
Lord I'll hang my head and cry
Oh I'll hang my head in sorrow
As my darling passes by

I Am A Man of Constant Sorrow

Artist: Traditional; Soggy Bottom Boys

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass

(O' Brother song in F)

(Group echo of the last line of each verse)

- 1** **1⁷** **4**
1. I am a man of constant sorrow
- 4** **5** **1**
- I've seen trouble all my day
- 1** **1⁷** **4**
- I bid farewell to ole Kentucky
- 4** **5** **1**
- The place where I was born and raised
- 1** **5** **1**
- (The place where he was born and raised)
2. For six long years I've been in trouble
No pleasures here on earth I've found
For in this world I'm bound to ramble
I have no friends to help me now
(He has no friends to help him now)
3. It's fare thee well my old true lover
I never expect to see her again
For I'm bound to ride that northern railroad
Perhaps I'll die upon this train
(Perhaps he'll die upon this train)
4. You can bury me in some deep valley
For many years where I may lay
Then you may learn to love another
While I am sleeping in my grave
(While he is sleeping in his grave)
5. Maybe your friends think I'm just a stranger
My face you'll never see no more
But there is one promise that is given
I'll meet you on God's golden shore
(He'll meet you on God's golden shore)

I Am A Pilgrim

Artist: Doc Watson; Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

- 5 1
1. I am a pilgrim and a stranger
- 4⁷ 1
- Traveling through this wearisome land
- 1 4⁷
- I've got a home booked in that yonder city, good Lord
- 1 5 1
- And it's not, made by hand
- 5 1
2. I got a mother, a sister and a brother
- 4⁷ 1
- they've done gone onto that other shore
- 1 4⁷
- And I'm determined to go and see them, good Lord
- 1 5 1
- And live up there for ever more
3. When I go down to the river of Jordan
- Just to 'bathe my weary soul
- If I can but touch the hem of His garment, good Lord
- Then I believe he'll make me whole
4. I am a pilgrim and a stranger
- Traveling through this wearisome land
- I've got a home booked in that yonder city, good Lord
- And it's not, made by hand

I Call Her Sunshine

Artist: Laurel Mountain Boys; Kody Norris Show

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass

1. I met her there one morning, hiking on her way.
She smiled at me as I drove up, said, "It's gonna be a happy day."
- ch. And I__ call her sunshine, that's what she is to me,
And I can't get her off my mind, her face keeps haunting me.
2. Faded jeans and hair like gold, a smile warm as summer sun,
I hope I find that gal again, for now I know that she's the one.
3. I was a lonesome traveler when I met her on that day,
I looked into her smilin' eyes and my blues just up and ran away.

(composer: Don Sowards)

(number: 1978)

(The Kody Norris Show plays this up in C.)

I Saw the Light

Artist: Hank Williams; Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1

Ch. I saw the light I saw the light

4

1

No more darkness no more night

1

Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight

1

5

1

Praise the Lord I saw the light.

1

1. I wandered so aimless my heart filled with sin.

4

1

I wouldn't let my dear Savior in.

1

Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.

1

5

1

Praise the Lord I saw the light.

2. Just like a blind man I wandered along.

Worries and fears I claimed for my own.

Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight

Praise the Lord I saw the light.

3. I was a fool to wander and stray.

Straight is the gate and narrow the way.

Now I have traded the wrong for the right.

Praise the Lord I saw the light.

(composer: Hank Williams)

(number: 1947)

I Washed My Hands In Muddy Water

Artist: Stonewall Jackson

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. I was born in Macon, Georgia
They kept my dad in the Macon jail
Dad said Son, if you keep your hands clean
You won't hear them bloodhounds on your trail
2. But I fell in with bad companions
We robbed a man in Tennessee
The sheriff caught me way up in Nashville
They locked me up and threw away the key
- Ch. I washed my hands in muddy water
Washed my hands but they didn't come clean
Tried to do like Daddy told me
But I must have washed my hands in a muddy stream
3. Asked the jailor when's my time up
He said Son, we won't forget
And if you try to keep your hands clean
We may make a good man of you yet
4. I couldn't wait to do my sentence
I broke out of the Nashville jail
I just crossed the line of Georgia
And I can hear them bloodhounds on my trail

Ch. I washed my hands in muddy water
Washed my hands but they didn't come clean
Tried to do like Daddy told me
But I must have washed my hands in a muddy stream

I Wonder Where You Are Tonight

Artist: *Tony Rice*

Key: *D*

Book: *Bluegrass*

- 4 1
Ch. That old rain is cold and slowly fallin'
5
Upon my window pane tonight
1 4
And though your love was even colder
5 1
I wonder where you are tonight
- 1 4
1. Tonight I'm sad, my heart is weary
5 1
I'm wonderin' if I'm wrong or right
4
To think about you though you left me
5 1
I wonder where you are tonight
2. Your heart was cold, you never loved me
Though you often said you cared
And now you've gone and found another
Someone who knows the love we shared
3. Then came the dawn, that day you left me
I tried to smile with all my might
But you could see the pain within me
That lingers in my heart tonight

If You Can't Be Good Be Gone

Artist: *SteelDrivers*

Key: *A*

Book: *Bluegrass, Americana*

(composer: *Chris Stapleton; Michael Henderson*)

1

Ch. If you can't be good, be gone

5

Don't take my love where it don't belong

1

1⁷

4

You got no right to do me wrong

1

5

1

If you can't be good, be gone

1

1. You say one thing and mean another

5

But now it's all coming back on you

1

1⁷

4

I trusted your lies for the last time

1

5

1

What makes you do the things you do

(Chorus)

2. If you don't love me darling

I don't know what you want me for

Take the ring off of your finger

It don't mean nothing anymore

(Chorus)

I'll Fly Away

Artist: Traditional; Gospel

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1

1. Some bright morning when this life is over,

4

1

I' - ll... fly a - way.

1

To that home on God's celestial shore,

1

5

1

I' - ll... fly a- way.

1

- ch. I'll fly away oh glory,

4

1

I'll fly a -way, (in the morning),

1

When I die Halle - lujah by and by,

1

1

5

1

I' - ll ... fly a - way.

2. When the shadows of this life have gone,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

3. Oh how glad and happy when we meet,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

No more cold iron shackles on my feet,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

4. Just a few more weary days and then,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

To a land where joys will never end,

I' - ll... fly a - way.

I'll Go Stepping Too

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Don't think I'll be hanging around

5

While you're having fun

1

I won't sit here crying over you

1

From now on when you step out

5

I'll tell you what I'll do

5

I'll lock the door, put out the cat

1

And I'll go stepping too

1

- ch. Yes I'll go stepping too my honey

5

I'll go stepping too

5

I'll lock the door, put out the cat

1

And I'll go stepping too

2. Now every time you come in late
And we begin to fight
You tell me there are more fish in the sea
But the bait ain't what it used to be
And I got news for you
Now after this when you step out
I'll go stepping too

(Chorus)

3. From now on when you come in
And won't tell where you been
With your hair mussed up and you clothes don't fit you right
Don't start to yell if you find
Lipstick on me too
You will know that I have been
Stepping just like you

(Chorus)

I'm Going Back to Old Kentucky

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. When I left old Kentucky
Linda kissed me and she cried
I told her that I would not linger
I'd be back__ by and by
- ch. I'm going back to old Kentucky
There to see my Linda Lou
I'm going back to old Kentucky
Where the skies__ are always blue
(Instrumental breaks)
2. Linda Lou, she is a beauty
Those pretty brown eyes I loved so well
I'm going back to old Kentucky
Never more to say farewell
(Chorus, instrumental breaks)
3. Linda Lou, you know I love you
I long for you each night and day
When the roses bloom in old Kentucky
I'll be coming back to stay
(Chorus)
(composer: Bill Monroe)
(number: 1949)

In the Gravel Yard

Artist: *Blue Highway*

Key: *G*

Book: *Bluegrass*

1 **4** **1**
Ch. In the gravel yard, with a number for my name

1 **5** **1**
Making little rocks out of big rocks all day

1 **4** **1**
Oh, the work is mighty hard in the gravel yard

1 **5** **1**
I'll never be a free man, so they say.

1. Warden hear my plea, listen now to me
I killed a man that I caught with my wife
You'd probably do the same, so why am I to blame
Sentenced to the rest of my life
2. In the driven rain with a ball and chain
My hammer rings a low and mournful sound
I sing a little song for the one who done me wrong
She's lyin' in the cold, cold ground

In the Pines

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(3/4 time)

1. 1 4 1
The longest train that I ever saw
 1 5⁷ 1
Went down that Georgia line.
 1 4 1
The engine passed at six o'clock
 5⁷ 1
(And) the cab passed by at nine.
- Ch. 1 1⁷
In the pines, in the pines
 4 1
Where the sun never shines
 5⁷ 1
And you shiver when the cold wind blows.
2. I asked my Captain for the time of day
He said he threwed his watch away.
A long steel rail and a short cross tie
I'm on my way back home.
(Chorus)
3. Little girl, little girl, what have I done
That makes you treat me so?
You have caused me to weep, and you cause me to mourn,
You have caused me to leave my home.
(Chorus)
4. If I listened to what my Mama said, then I would not be here today.
Well the same old train that bought me here,
will soon take me away.
(Chorus)
(Some versions (Monroe, Stanley) repeat chorus singing "Whoo")
(Similar to "Where Did You Sleep Last Night")

Jambalaya (On the Bayou)

Artist: Hank Williams

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

- 1 5⁷
1. Goodbye, Joe, me gotta go, me oh my oh
- 1
Me gotta go, pole the pirogue down the bayou
- 5⁷
My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh my oh
- 1
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou
- 1 5⁷
Ch. Jambalaya and a crawfish pie and Filé gumbo
- 1
Cause tonight I'm gonna see my ma cher amio
- 5⁷
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be gay-o
- 1
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou
2. Thibodaux, Fontaineaux, the place is buzzin'
Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the dozen
We dress in style and go hog wild, me oh my oh
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou
(Chorus)

Jersey Giant

Artist: Tyler Childers; Elle King

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Elle King version capo 3)

(Tag)

| 1 | 5 | 2m | 4 |

1. I remember all them summers
2m Playing till my fingers bled
1 You'd sing the songs and I'd sing with you 5
2m We'd get drunk and go to bed 4
1 Looking back at all them memories 5
2m Lord I hate to sleep alone 4
1 But if you ever get the notion 5
2m That you need me let me know 4

- Ch. Cause it's just 2 hours to get there, babe 1
5 I can make it back about an hour or so
2m Hold you close against my skin
4 I need a little warmth on a night so cold
1 Singing songs you used to sing
5 The one about the lady in the long black veil
2m Should have seen the warnings signs
4 But Lord I love to hear you wail
1 High and lonesome, hard and strong
5 Even if it was a little out of tune
2m Hotter than socks on a Jersey giant
4 Lord I thought you hung the moon

(Tag)

2. I remember all them winters 1 5
2m Drinking Woodford till we drowned 4
1 We'd get wind about a party 5
2m Bundle up and go to town 4
1 Never worry 'bout the police 5
2m Never worried much at all 4
1 I miss those nights of reckless glory 5
2m I'd come back if you'd just call 4

(Chorus + Tag)

- 2m I left town when we were over 4
Bridge Cause it didn't feel the same 4
2m Every backroad had a memory 4
2m Every memory held your name 5

(Chorus (palm mute/No Chords/Full) + Tag)

John Hardy

Artist: Traditional; Tony Rice; Doc Watson; Shadowgrass; Carter Family; Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Alternate Title: John Hardy Was a Desperate Little Man)

(song modeled after Tony Rice version)

(Intro)

4	1	4	1
4	1	5	5
5	1		

1. Oh, John Hardy was a desperate little man,
He strapped on his guns every day.
He shot down a man on the West Virginia line,
And you oughta seen John Hardy getting away.
And you oughta seen John Hardy getting away.
2. When he run up to Virginia around East Stone Bridge
Thought he would surely be free
And along came a marshall with a gun in his hand
Said, "Johnny... come along with me
Johnny... come along with me."
3. Oh, John Hardy had himself a little woman
The dress she wore was blue
And she hollered up to Johnny as he rode on out of town
Said: Johnny, I'll be true to you
Honey, I'll be true to you
4. Now his legend had traveled from the East to the West
From the North to the South in the town
But when the sun comes up tomorrow they'll take John Hardy down
And show him to his hanging ground
They'll gonna let John Hardy swing down

(Optional Repeat 1st Verse to close out the song)

Katy Daley

Artist: Ralph Stanley

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Oh Come on down the mountain Katy Daley

5

Come on down the mountain Katy do

5'

Can't you hear us calling Katy Daley

1

We want to drink your good old mountain dew

1

1. With her old man she came from Tipperary

5

In the pioneering days of '42

5'

Her old man was shot in Tombstone City

1

For the making of his good old mountain dew

(Chorus)

2. Wake up and pay attention Katy Daley

For I'm the judge that's gonna sentence you

All the boys in court have drunk your whiskey

To tell the truth I like a little too

(Chorus)

3. So to the jail they took poor Katy Daley

And pretty soon the gates were open wide

Angels came for poor old Katy Daley

Took her far across the great divide

(Chorus)

Keep on the Sunny Side

Artist: Carter Family

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Well there's a dark and a troubled side of life.
There's a bright and a sunny side too.
But if you meet with the darkness and strife,
The sunny side we also may view.
- ch. Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life.
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.
2. Oh the storm and its fury broke today,
Crushing hopes that we cherish so dear.
Clouds and storms will in time pass away.
The sun again will shine bright and clear.
(Chorus)
3. Let us greet with a song of hope each day.
Though the moments be cloudy or fair.
Let us trust in our Savior always,
To keep us, every one, in His care.
(Chorus)

Life Is Like A Mountain Railroad

Artist: Traditional; Rice Brothers

Key: E

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1. Life is like a mountain railway with an engineer that's brave
We must make this run successful from the cradle to the grave
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels never falter never fail
Keep your hand upon the throttle and your eye upon the rail
- ch. Blessed savior there to guide us till we reach that blissful shore
Where the angels wait to join us in God's praise forever more
2. You will roll up grades of trial, you will cross the bridge of life
See that Christ is your conductor on this lightning train of life
Always mindful of obstruction, do your duty never fail
Keep your hand upon the throttle and your eye upon the rail
3. As you roll across the trestle spanning Jordan's swelling tide
You will reach the Union Depot into which the train will ride
There you'll meet the Superintendent, God the Father, God the Son
With a hearty, joyous greeting weary pilgrims welcome home.

Little Cabin Home on the Hill

Artist: Bill Monroe; Flatt & Scruggs; Billy Strings

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Tonight I'm alone without you my dear
Its seems there's a longing for you still
All I have to do is sit alone and cry
In our little cabin home on the hill
- ch. Oh someone has taken you from me
And left me here all alone
Just listen to the rain beat on my window pane
In our little cabin home on the hill
2. I hope you are happy tonight as you are
For in my heart there's a longing for you still
I'll just keep it there so I won't be alone
In our little cabin home on the hill
(Chorus)
3. And when you have come to the end of your way
And find there's no more happiness for you
Just let your thoughts turn back once more if you will
To our little cabin home on the hill
(Chorus)

Artist: Carter Family

Book: Bluegrass

5 1
How I love you none can tell

4 1
In your heart you love another

1 5 1
Little darling, pal of mine

(Instrumental breaks)

1. Many a night while you lay sleeping
Dreaming of your amber skies
Was a poor boy broken hearted
Listening to the winds that sigh

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks)

2. Many a day with you I've rambled
Happiest hours with you I've spent
Thought I had your heart forever
But I find it's only lent

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks)

3. There is just three things I wish for
That's my casket, shroud, and grave
When I'm dead don't weep for me
Just kiss those lips that you betrayed

(Chorus)

(composer: A. P. Carter)

(number: 1928)

(Similar to 'This Land Is Your Land,' except 3rd line melody goes down.)

(Woodie Guthrie based 'This Land Is Your Land' on this song.)

Little Joe

Artist: Mighty Poplar; Norman Blake; Bill Monroe; Carter Family;

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. What will the birds do, mother, in the spring,
will they gather the crumbs around our door?
Will they fly from the nest in the top of the tree
and ask why Joe wanders out no more?
2. What will the kitten do, mother, all a-lone,
will he stray from his frolic for a day?
Will he lie on the rug be-side my bed
like he did before I went away?
3. What will Thomas, the old gardener do
when you ask him for flowers for me?
Will he give you a rose he has tended with care,
the fairest of that lot 'round the tree?
4. Well, I saw the tears coming to his honest eyes.
He said it was the wind that brought 'em there.
As he gazed on my cheeks growing paler each day,
his hand trembled over my hair.
5. Won't you keep Tag, mother, my little dog.
So blind and helpless it's true.
Treat him with kindness the older he grows
sleeping the whole summer through.
6. Show him my coat, mother, so he may know
his master, who will then be dead.
Talk to him kindly and often of Joe
and pat him on his brown shaggy head.
7. And you, dearest mother, shall miss me a while,
yet in heaven, no larger grow.
And any a-kind angel you meet at the gate
Gonna take you to your darling Little Joe.

Little Liza Jane

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. I got a gal and you got none, little Liza Jane

5

1

I got a gal and you got none, little Liza Jane

1

- ch. Oh little Liza, little Liza Jane

5

1

Oh little Liza, little Liza Jane

2. I got a friend in Baltimore, little Liza Jane
Streetcars running by her door, little Liza Jane
3. I got a friend in Chicago, little Liza Jane
Walk and feel those cold winds blow, little Liza Jane
4. I got a friend in San Antone, little Liza Jane
Where the tumbleweeds and cactus grow, little Liza Jane
5. I've got a friend in Providence, little Liza Jane
Bluebird sitting on the fence, little Liza Jane
6. I've got a friend in Sioux falls, little Liza Jane
Where sunflowers grow so tall, little Liza Jane
7. I've got a friend in Cape Cod, little Liza Jane
Bullfrogs singing in the pond, little Liza Jane
8. I got a friend in Roswell Town, little Liza Jane
Drunk down on Canton Street, little Liza Jane
9. Come my love and go with me, little Liza Jane
I will take good care of thee, little Liza Jane

Little Maggie

Artist: Traditional; Billy Strings; Ralph Stanley

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Over yonder stands little Maggie
With a dram glass in her hand
She's drinking away her troubles
And courting some other man
2. Oh how can I ever stand it
Just to see those two blue eyes
Shining just like diamonds
Like two diamonds in the sky
3. The last time I saw little Maggie
She was standing by the banks of the sea
With a forty-four a-round her
And a banjo on her knee
4. Pretty flowers were made for blooming
Pretty stars were made to shine
Pretty women were made for loving
Little Maggie was made for mine
5. Lay down your last old dollar
Lay down your gold watch and chain
Little Maggie's gonna dance for daddy
Just listen to that old banjo ring
6. I'm going down to the station
With my suitcase in my hand
I'm going away for to leave her
I'm going to some far distant land

Little Sadie

Artist: Doc Watson; Tony Rice

Key: Dm

Book: Bluegrass

(Few recordings in Em, so Capo 2)

(2 Verses at a time, except last verse)

- 1m 3b 1m
1. Went out one night to make a little round
7b 5m
I met Little Sadie and I shot her down
7b 7b
Went back home, I got into bed
5m 1m
.44 pistol under my head
- 1m 1m
2. I woke up in the morning about half-past-nine
7b 5m
The hacks and the buggies standing in line
7b 7b
Gents and gamblers standing around
5m 1m
Taking Little Sadie to her burying ground
3. I began to think of what a deed I'd done
I grabbed my hat and away I did run
Made a good run, just a little too slow
They overtook me in Jericho
4. Standing on the corner a reading a bill
And up stepped the sheriff from Thomasville
He said young man, is your name Brown?
Remember the night you shot Sadie down?"
5. I said, "Oh yes sir, but my name is Lee
And I shot Little Sadie in the first degree
First degree and second degree
Got any papers, will you read 'em to me?"
6. So they took me downtown and dressed me in black
Put me on a train and started me back
All the way back to the Thomasville jail
Had no money for to go my bail
7. The judge and the jury they took their stand
The judge had the papers in his right hand
41 days, 41 nights
41 years to wear the ball and stripes

Lonesome Johnny Blues

Artist: Cracker

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Tabbed from O Cracker Where Art Thou?)

(Tag)

4	--	1 6m
1 5	1	---

1

1. Well, lucky number seven passed me by

5

Lucky number seven called my name and passed on by

1

Well he came back don't you know

4

With his brother six in tow

1

5

1

And that is how number thirteen wound up by my side

1

Ch. And that is how I got these lonesome johnny blues

4

1

How I got these lonesome johnny blues

4

Got the lonesome johnny blues

1

6m

And there's nothing I can do

1

5

1

'cept sing these sad old weary lonesome johnny blues

(Tag)

1

2. Grim reaper he pulled up into my drive

5

Grim reaper pulled his little old chevrolet right up onto my drive

1

"johnny, I haven't come for you

4

But I want someone who's dear to you

1

5

1

And the price you pay is to remain alive"

1
ch. And I'll stay here with these lonesome johnny blues
4 1
Stay here with these lonesome johnny blues
4
With the lonesome johnny blues
1 6m
And there's nothing I can do
1 5 1
'cept sing these sad old weary lonesome johnny blues
(Solo over Verse)

1
3. Woah, no more trouble send him down the road, won't you please
5
No more trouble won't you beat him up, won't you send him down the road
1
Trouble dumped out the trash
4
Ransacked the place for cash
1 5 1
And he wound up taking much more than I own (HALT)

1
ch. And he left me with these lonesome johnny blues
4 1
Left me with these lonesome johnny blues
4
With the lonesome johnny blues
1 6m
And there's nothing I can do
1 5 1
'cept sing these sad old weary lonesome johnny blues
(Solo over Verse)

1
ch. Now I've got these these lonesome johnny blues
4 1
Now I've got these lonesome johnny blues
4
With the lonesome johnny blues
1 6m
And there's nothing I can do
1 5 1
'cept sing these sad old weary lonesome johnny blues

Outro Johnny blues

The sad old weary lonesome johnny blues

Johnny blues (PULL / TREMELO)

(SLOW / Trash Can) The sad old weary lonesome johnny blu____ uues

Long Gone

Artist: Lonesome River Band

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Long gone (echo: Long Gone) is how I'm leaving

4

1

Long gone, why do you cry

1

This is what you wanted baby

5

1

So I'm gone, long gone

1

1. I have tried to make you happy

4

1

Still you say "You've done me wrong"

1

This is it, we're through forever

5

1

So I'm gone, long gone

2. Please don't try to overtake me
Cause What I ride will be too fast
This is it, we're through forever
So I'm gone and free at last

3. Please don't shed no tears at parting
For those tears they won't atone
After all the pain you cause me
I'm gone, long gone

Long Journey Home

Artist: J.D. Crowe & the New South; Stanley Brothers; Billy Strings

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Also known as "Two Dollar Bill")

1

Ch. Lost all my money but a two dollar bill,

4

1

Two dollar bill boys, a two dollar bill

1

Lost all my money but a two dollar bill,

5

1

I'm on my long journey home

1

1. Cloudy in the west and it looks like rain

4

1

Looks like rain Lord, it looks like rain

1

Cloudy in the west and it looks like rain

5

1

I'm on my long journey home

(Chorus)

2. Black smoke a-rising and it surely is a train

Surely is a train boys, surely is a train

Black smoke a-rising and it surely is a train

I'm on my long journey home

(Chorus)

3. It's dark and a raining and I want to go home

Want to go home, boys, want to go home

Its dark and a raining and I want to go home

I'm on my long journey home

(Chorus)

4. Homesick and lonesome and I'm feeling kind of blue

Feeling kind of blue, boys, feeling kind of blue

Homesick and lonesome and I'm feeling kinda blue

I'm on my long journey home

Love Oh Love Please Come Home

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. As you read this letter that I write to you
Sweetheart I hope you'll understand
That you're the only love I knew
Please forgive if you can
- ch. Sweetheart I beg you to come home tonight
I'm so blue and all alone
I promise that I'll treat you right
Love oh love oh please come home
2. The wind is cold and slowly creeping around
And the fire is burning low
The snow has covered up the ground
Your baby's hungry sick and cold

Mama Don't Allow

Artist: Traditional; JJ Cale

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Mama don't allow no music playing 'round here

5

Mama don't allow no music playing around here

1

We don't care what Mama don't allow allow

4

Gonna play our music any how

1

5

1

Mama don't allow no music playing around here

(Replace "music" with instruments, dancing, singing, etc)

(use players name on 3rd line instead of "we")

Man Of Constant Sorrow, (I am a)

Artist: Traditional

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1

Intro

1

5

1

In constant sorrow all through his days

1

4

1. I Am A Man Of Constant Sorrow

5

1

I've seen trouble all my day.

1

4

I bid farewell to old Kentucky

5

1

The place where I was born and raised.

5

1

(echo) The place where he was born and raised

2. For six long years I've been in trouble

No pleasures here on earth I found

For in this world I'm bound to ramble

I have no friends to help me now.

(echo) He has no friends to help him now

3. It's fare thee well my old lover

I never expect to see you again

For I'm bound to ride that northern railroad

Perhaps I'll die upon this train.

(echo) Perhaps he'll die upon this train.

4. You can bury me in some deep valley

For many years where I may lay

Then you may learn to love another

While I am sleeping in my grave.

(echo) While he is sleeping in his grave.

5. Maybe your friends think I'm just a stranger

My face you'll never see no more.

But there is one promise that is given

I'll meet you on God's golden shore.

(echo) He'll meet you on God's golden shore..

Meet Me At The Creek (Simplified)

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: E

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(The Jam part as been greatly simplified)

(Intro)

1 7b	4 _ 3b
1 1	5⁷ 5⁷
1 7b	4 _ 3b
1 5⁷	1 _ 1

1. Well I'm standin' all alone
By the river of my home
Thinkin' 'bout the days I've left behind
All the years I rode
Not a nickel can I show
And the river helps to
ease my worried mind
2. Well the river run all night
Lord, the river runs all day
I can't run no more 'cause
I'm here to stay
I had an eye for trouble
And I've lived a life of pain
I sit back and let that water heal my brain

- ch. I'm lettin' go of all my trouble
I think I'll be right here to stay
Well the water keeps a-churnin'
while my poor heart is burnin'
Muddy water, take my pain away
(Solo over Verse & Chorus Chords)
3. Well one thing I want to know
Lord, is where we people go
When everything comes crashin' to the ground
Meet me at the creek
Grab a beer and tap your feet
See that muddy water flowin' down
(Chorus)
(Chop on lines 1 and 3)
| 1 7b | 4 _ 3b |
| 1 1 | 5⁷ 5⁷ |
| 1 7b | 4 _ 3b |
| 1 1 | 1m 1m |
| 1m (ring then groove) |
(Riff/Groove on Em until all solos are finished)
(Exit the Jam. Chop Verse Chords)

4. Well I'm standin' all alone
By the river of my home
Thinkin' 'bout the days I've left behind
All the years I rode
Not a nickel can I show
And the river helps to ease my worried mind
(Chorus + Tag Last Line)

Mole In The Ground

Artist: *Traditional*

Key: *G*

Book: *Bluegrass*

1

5

1

Ch. I wish I was a mole in the ground
I wish I was a mole in the ground...
If I's a mole in the ground.. Then I'd root that mountain down

5

I wish I was a Mole in the ground.

1. I wish I was a lizard in the spring (2x)
If I's a lizard in the spring.. I'd hear my darling sing
I wish I was a lizard in the spring.
2. Honey let your hair roll down (2x)
Let your hair roll down them pretty bands curl all around
Honey let your hair roll down
3. I don't like that railroad man (2x)
Cause that railroad man... he will kill you if he can
I don't like that railroad man
4. I wish I was a turtle dove (2x)
If I's a turtle dove.. I'd fly away to my true love
I wish I was a turtle dove
5. I wish I was a hole in the groud (2x)
If I's a hole in the ground.. I'd be a mountain upside down
I wish I was a hole in the ground

Mountain Dew

Artist: Stanley Brothers; Stringbean

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(composer: Bascom Lamar Lunsford)

(number: 1928)

1. Down the road here from me there's an old holler tree Where you lay down a dollar or two
Go on round the bend come back again There's a jug full of that good ole mountain dew
- ch. Oh they call it that good ole mountain dew and them that refuse it are few
I'll hush up my mug if you'll fill up my jug with that good ole mountain dew
2. Now Mr. Roosevelt told 'em just how he felt
When he heard that the dry law 'd gone through
If your liquor's too red it'll swell up your head
You better stick to that good ole mountain dew
(Chorus)
3. The preacher rode by with his head hasted high
Said his wife had been down with the flu
He thought that I o'rt to sell him a quart
of my good ole mountain dew
(Chorus)
4. Well my uncle Snort he's sawed off and short
He measures four feet two
But he feels like a giant when you give him a pint
of that good old mountain dew
(Chorus)
5. My old Aunt June she bought some new perfume
It had such a sweet smellin' "pew"
But to her surprise, when you had it analyzed,
It was nothing but good old mountain dew
(Chorus)
6. Well, my brother Bill, has got a still on the hill
Where he runs off a gallon there or two
The buzzards in the sky got so drunk they couldn't fly
From just smellin' that good ole mountain dew
(Chorus)

Artist: Billy Strings

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

- 98

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Book: Bluegrass

- [Jump to Songs TOC](#) | [Jump to Artists TOC](#)

My Home's Across the Blue Ridge Mountains

Artist: Carter Family; Doc Watson; Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(The C / 4 on 3rd line is optional, and very quick)

1

Ch. My home's across the blue ridge mountains

5

1

My home's across the blue ridge mountains

4

1

My home's across the blue ridge mountains

5

1

Oh I never expect to see you anymore

1

1. I'm a gonna leave here Monday morning

5

1

Oh I'm a gonna leave here Monday morning

4

1

Oh I'm a gonna leave here Monday morning

5

1

Oh I never expect to see you anymore

(Chorus)

2. Oh, how I hate to leave you

Oh, how I hate to leave you

Oh, how I hate to leave you

For I never expect to see you anymore

(Chorus)

3. How can I keep from crying

How can I keep from crying

How can I keep from crying

For I never expect to see you anymore

(Chorus)

4. Rock and feed my baby candy

Rock and feed my baby candy

Rock and feed my baby candy

Oh I never expect to see you anymore

(Chorus)

My Little Georgia Rose

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Now come and listen to my story
A story that I know is true
A little rose that bloomed in Georgia
With hair of gold_ and a heart so true
- ch. Way down in the blue ridge mountains
Way down where the tall pines grow
Lives my sweetheart of the mountains
She's my little Georgia rose
2. Her mother left her with another
A carefree life she had planned
The baby now is a lady
The one her mother couldn't stand
(Chorus)
3. We often sing those songs together
I watched her do her little part
She smiled at me when I would tell her
That she was my sweetheart
(Chorus)

My Little Girl in Tennessee

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

4 1
ch. Oh, little girl of mine in Tennessee

1 5
I know she's waiting there for me

1 4 1
Someday I'll settle down in that little country town

1 5 1
With that little girl of mine in Tennessee

(Instrumental breaks over verse chords)

1 4 1
1. Oh, a long long time ago when I left my home to roam

1 5
Down in the hills of Tennessee

1 4 1
Was the sweetest little girl that was ever in this world

1 5 1
Down in the hills of Tennessee

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks over verse chords)

2. Oh, she begged me not to go "You'll be sorry dear I know
For the way that you've been treating me"
So I rambled all around and nothing could be found
To take the place of her in Tennessee

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks over verse chords)

3. Oh, someday I'll wander back to that little cabin shack
Little girl that's waiting there for me
I can see her smiling face waiting for me at the gate
Oh, that little girl of mine in Tennessee

(Chorus)

(composer: Lester Flatt)

(number: 1967)

My Neighbor is Happy Again

Artist: Keller Williams

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Recording is in F)

1. I don't have a lawnmower because I got a goat
And my neighbor got mad when my goat
ate all through his grass
So I had to dig a moat
To keep in my goat
And I had to buy a boat
Because my goat don't float
But my neighbor is happy again
2. I don't have a trash compactor because I got a goat
And my neighbor got mad when my goat
ate all through his trash
So I had to dig a moat
To keep in my goat
And I had to buy a boat
Because my goat don't float
But my neighbor is happy again
3. One day my goat got lonely so I bought him a friend
Now I don't have to drink that moo moo milk
When I wasn't lookin' they went behind the barn
Now I have three goats

(Note the pattern changes to 4 1 5 1)

Outro And that why had to dig a moat
To keep in all my goats
And I why had to buy a boat
Because my goats don't float
But my neighbor is happy again (x3)

Nashville Blues

Artist: Doc Watson; Flatt & Scruggs

Key: B

Book: Bluegrass

- 1**
Ch. I've got the blues those Nashville blues
I've got the blues those Nashville blues
Ain't got no hat ain't got no shoes
- 1**
1. These people here they treat me fine
These people here they treat me fine
They give me beer and they feed me wine
(Chorus)
- 2.** I'm goin' back to Arkansas
I'm goin' back to Arkansas
Gonna stay right there with ma and pa
(Chorus)
- 3.** I've got the blues I've got 'em bad
I've got the blues I've got 'em bad
Somebody stole that girl I had
(Chorus)
- 4.** It's hard to tell what a girl will do
It's hard to tell what a girl will do
They'll win your love and leave you blue
(Chorus)
- 5.** If you find me sad please go away
If you find me sad please go away
Come back again some other day

Nellie Kane

Artist: Hot Rize; Tim O'Brien; Phish

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

(FYI: The Phish version is really good)

1

1. As a young man I went riding out on the western plain

6m

In the state of North Dakota I met my Nellie Kane,

5

1

I met my Nellie Kane

1

2. She was livin' in a lonely cabin with a son by another man

6m

For five years she had waited for him, just as long as a woman can,

5

1

As long as a woman can

4

1

ch. I don't know what changed my mind

5

1

'til then I was the ramblin' kind

4

1

The kind of love I can't explain

5

1

That I have for Nellie Kane

3. She had took me on to work that day and helped me till the land
In the afternoon we planted seeds, in the evenin' we held hands,
In the evenin' we held hands

4. Her blue eyes told me everything a man could want to know
It was then I realized that I would never know
I would never go

(Chorus)

5. Now many years have gone by and our son has grown up tall
I became a father to him and she became my all,
She became my all

(Chorus)

New River Train

Artist: Del & Dawg

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Darlin' you can't love one

5

Darlin' you can't love one

1

4

You can't love one and have any fun

5

1

Oh darlin' you can't love one

1

- Ch. Ridin' that New River train

5

Ridin' that New River train

1

4

The same old train that brought me here

5

1

Is soon gonna carry me a way

2. Oh darlin' you can't love two
oh darlin' you can't love two
You can't love two and your little heart be true
Oh darlin' you can't love two
3. Darlin' you can't love three
Darlin' you can't love three
You can't love three and still be true to me
Oh darlin' you can't love three
4. Oh darlin' you can't love four
darlin' you cant love four
You can't love four and love me anymore
Oh darlin' you cant love four
5. Darlin' you can't love five
Oh darlin' you can't love five
You can't love five you'll be sorry you're alive
Oh darlin' you can't love five

Nine Pound Hammer

Artist: Merle Travis

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. This nine pound hammer...

Is just a little too heavy... for my size...

Buddy for my size

1

- ch. Roll on, Buddy... don't you roll so slow,

How can I rol...l when the wheels won't go?

2. I went upon the mountain

Just to see my baby,
And I ain't coming back
No I ain't coming back

3. It's a long way to Harlan
It's a long way to Hazard
Just to get a little booze,
Lord, just to get a little booze

4. There ain't one hammer
down in this tunnel
That can ring like mine
that can ring like mine

5. Rings like silver
shines like gold
Rings like silver
shines like gold

6. This old hammer
it killed John Henry
Ain't gonna kill me
ain't gonna kill me

7. Buddy when I'm long gone
won't you make my tombstone
Out of number nine coal
out of number nine coal

Ninety-Nine Years (and One Dark Day)

Artist: Hot Rize

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. I've been in this prison twenty years or more,
I shot my woman with a 44.
I'll be right here till my dyin' day
I got ninety-nine years and one dark day.
(Instrumental breaks between verses)
2. Well the food is bad and the beds are hard
I spend all day breakin' rocks in the yard.
Well there ain't no change, gonna stay that way
I got ninety-nine years and one dark day.
3. Ain't no singer that can sing a song,
convince that warden that I ain't wrong.
His minds made up, gonna stay that way
I got ninety-nine years and one dark day.
4. I never learned to read, I never learned to write,
my whole life's been one big fight.
I never heard about the righteous way,
I got ninety-nine years and one dark day.
5. I remember a time, many years ago,
I shot my woman with a 44.
I'll be right here till my dyin' day
I got ninety-nine years and one dark day.
(composer: Jesse Fuller)
(number: 1958)

Old Dan Tucker

Artist: Suzy Bogguss

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Went to town the other night

5

To hear the noise and see the fight

1

Everybody was a-jumpin' around

5

1

Sayin' "Old Dan Tucker is comin' to town"

1

4

- ch. Get out the way old Dan Tucker

5

1

You're too late to get your supper

1

4

Supper's over and dinner's cookin'

5

1

Old Dan Tucker just stands there lookin'

(Break over a verse and chorus then add 2 bars before the next verse)

2. Old Dan Tucker came to town
Swingin' the ladies all around
First to the right and then to the left
Then to the gal that he loved the best
3. Dan began early in his life
To play the banjo and win a wife
But every time he'd company keep
He'd play himself fast asleep
4. Old Dan Tucker came to town
Riding a billy goat, leading a hound
The hound barked, the billy goat jumped
Threwed Dan Tucker upside the stump
5. Old Dan Tucker was a fine old man
Washed his face in a frying pan
Combed his hair with a wagon wheel
Died of a toothache in his heel

(composer: Dan Emmett)

(number: 1843)

(Lyrics based on the Suzy Bogguss recording)

(Some versions end the 2nd verse line with a 1 chord like the 4th line)

Old Home Place

Artist: Dillards; J.D. Crowe & the New South

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. It's been ten long years since I left my home
In the hollow where I was born
Where the cool fall nights make the wood smoke rise
And the fox hunter blows his horn.
2. I fell in love with a girl from the town,
I thought that she would be true.
I ran away to Charlottesville
and worked in a sawmill or two.
- Ch. What have they done to the old home place?
Why did they tear it down?
And why did I leave the plow in the field
And look for a job in the town?
3. Well my girl she ran off with somebody else;
The taverns took all my pay.
And here I stand where the old home stood
Before they took it away.
4. Now the geese they fly south and the cold wind blows
As I stand here and hang my head.
I've lost my love, I've lost my home
And now I wish that I was dead.

(Chorus)

(composer: Mitch Jane; Dean Webb)

(number: 1963)

Ole Slew Foot

Artist: Johnny Horton; Jim and Jesse

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(composer: Howard Hausey)

(number: 1961)

1

1. High on the mountain, tell me what you see

Bear tracks, bear tracks lookin' back at me

Better get your rifle boys, 'fore it's too late

'Cause a bear's got a little pig and headed thru the gate.

- ch. He's big around the middle and he's broad across the rump

Runnin' ninety miles an hour takin' thirty feet a jump

Ain't never been caught, he ain't never been tree'd

Some folks say he looks a lot like me.

2. I saved up my mon' and I bought me some bees
And they started makin' honey way up in the trees
Cut down the tree but my honey's all gone
Ole Slew-Foot's done made himself at home.

(Chorus)

3. Winter's comin' on and it's twenty below
And the river's froze over so where can he go
We'll chase him up the gulley then we'll run him in the well
We'll shoot him in the bottom just to listen to him yell.

(Chorus)

On My Way Back to the Old Home

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Back in the days of my childhood
In the evening when everything was still
I used to sit and listen to the foxhounds
With dad in the old Kentucky hills

- ch. I'm on my way back to the old home
That road winds on up the hill
But there's no light in the window
That shined long ago where I lived
(Instrumental breaks)

2. Soon my childhood days were over
I had to leave my old home
For mom and dad were called to heaven
I was left in this world all alone
(Chorus)

3. High in the hills of old Kentucky
Stands the fondest part of my memory
I'm on my way back to the old home
That light in the window I long to see
(Chorus)

(composer: Bill Monroe)

(number: 1950)

Paradise

Artist: John Prine

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. When I was a child my family would travel,
down to Western Kentucky where my parents were born *
And there's a backwards old town that's often remembered,
so many times that my memories are worn.

ch. And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County,
down by the Green River where Paradise lay *
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking, *
Mr. Peabody's coal train has hauled it away

2. Well, sometimes we'd travel right down the Green River, *
to the abandoned old prison down by Adrie Hill *
Where the air smelled like snakes and we'd shoot with our pistols, *
but empty pop bottles was all we would kill.
(Chorus)

3. Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel,
and they tortured the timber and stripped all the land *
Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken,
then they wrote it all down as the progress of man.
(Chorus)

4. When I die let my ashes float down the Green River,
let my soul roll on up to the Rochester dam *
I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin',
just five miles away from wherever I am.

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Artist: Traditional; Bill Monroe; Johnny Cash

Key: Em

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Also called "I'm a PWS", "The WS" "Wayfaring Pilgrim")

(Song is 200 years old, so verses change over time)

(Modeled after Bill Monroe & Bluegrass Boys, Abm)

- 1m**
1. I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
4m **5⁷**
Traveling through this world below
1m
There's no sickness, toil nor danger
4m **1m**
In that bright land to which I go
- 6b** **3b**
Ch. I'm goin' home to see my mother (father)
6b **5⁷**
I'm goin' home, no more to roam
1m
I'm just a goin' over Jordan
4m **1m**
I'm just goin' over home
2. I know dark clouds will gather around me
I know my way is rough and steep
But golden fields lie out before me
Where weary eyes no more will weep
3. I'll soon be free from every trial
This form shall rest beneath the sod
I'll drop the cross of self-denial
And enter in that home with God

Rank Stranger

Artist: Stanley Brothers

Key: E

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(time: 3/4)

1. I wandered again, to my home in the mountains
where in youth's early dawn I was happy and free
I looked for my friends, but I never could find 'em
I found they were all rank strangers to me
- ch. Everybody I've met, seemed to be a rank stranger
No mother nor dad, not a friend could I see
They knew not my name, and I knew not their faces
I found they were all rank strangers to me
2. They've all moved away, said the voice of a stranger
To a beautiful home on the bright crystal sea
On a beautiful day, I'll meet 'em in heaven
Where no one will be a stranger to me

(Chorus)

(composer: Ralph Stanley)

(number: 1962)

Red Daisy

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: B

Book: Bluegrass

(Solo over Verse)

1

ch. Daisy, red daisy, growin' on a hill

5

1

Sunshine fallin' on her petals so fine

1

6m

1. At first when I found you, all covered in the dew

1

5

1

The stars had all faded, the day was brand new

(Chorus)

2. When the skies are gloomy, and you're covered in the frost
Oh daisy, red daisy, I fear my soul is lost

(Chorus)

3. Queen of the springtime, my body's gettin' old
Winter wind might bite me, but I'll keep you from the cold

(Chorus)

4. One day a passing traveler plucked you from the ground
Oh how I miss you, and your crimson crown

Red River Valley

Artist: Bob Wills & The Texas Playboys

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. From this valley they say you are going,
we will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile
For they say you are taking the sunshine,
that has brightened our path for a while

- Ch. Just consider awhile ere you leave me
Do not hasten to bid me adieu
Just remember the Red River Valley
And the girl that has loved you so true

2. I have waited a long time, my darling
For the words that you never would say
But at last my fond hopes have all vanished
For they tell me you're going away
(Chorus)

3. When you're far from the scenes of the valley
And they tell me your journey is through
Will you think of the Red River Valley?
And the girl that has loved you so true
(Chorus)

Red Wing

Artist: Bob Wills; Asleep At the Wheel

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass

1. There once lived an Indian maid,
A shy little prairie maid,
Who sang all day a love song gay,
As on the plains she'd while away the day.
- She loved a warrior bold,
This shy little maid of old,
But brave and gay he rode one day
To battle far away.
- ch. Now the moon shines tonight on pretty Red Wing,
The breeze is sighing, the night bird's crying,
For afar 'neath his star her brave is sleeping,
While Red Wing's weeping her heart away.
2. She watched for him day and night;
She lit all the campfires bright;
And under the sky each night, she would lie
And dream about his coming by and by,
But when all the braves returned,
The heart of Red Wing yearned,
For far, far away, her warrior gay
Fell bravely in the fray.

(composer: Kerry Mills; Thurland Chattaway)

(number: 1907)

(Common keys: D for singing, G for instrumental.)

Rock Hearts

Artist: Jimmy Martin; Bluegrass Album Band

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

ch. Rock hearts will break (echo)... believe it my dear (echo)...

And yours will break (echo)... in two I fear (echo)...

And when it does dear... don't run to me

For it will be... too late you see

1. Why did you break my heart.... and throw it down

Why did you spread the news.... all over town

Why did you make me... the laughing stock

Because you've got.... a heart of rock

2. You didn't break my heart... by running round

Another new love... you have not found

You only handed me... back a lock

You had around... your heart of rock

Rocky Road Blues

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Tag)

1	1 1⁷
4	1 - -
5⁷	5⁷ 1

1 1⁷
ch. Oh the road is rocky, but it won't be rocky long, Lord, Lord

4 1
Yeah the road is rocky, but it won't be rocky long

5⁷ 1
'Cause another man has got my woman and gone

1
1. I've got those blues, I'm wearing out the soles of my shoes

4 1
I've got those blues, I'm wearing out the soles of my shoes

5⁷ 1
My gal went away and left me she left me with the dog gone blues
(Chorus)

2. You'll never miss your water til the well runs dry
You'll never miss your water til the well runs dry
You'll never miss your woman until she says goodbye
(Chorus)

3. I wish to the Lord you'd bring my woman back home
I wish to the Lord you'd bring my woman back home
I'm not so lonesome, i just don't want to be alone
(Chorus)

(composer: Bill Monroe)

(number: 1946)

Roll in my Sweet Baby's Arms

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Roll in my sweet baby's arms

5

Roll in my sweet baby's arms

1

Lay round the shack

4

Till the mail train comes back

5

1

And roll in my sweet baby's arms

1

1. I ain't gonna work on the railroad

5

Ain't gonna work on the farm

1

Lay around the shack

4

Till the mail train comes back

5

1

And roll in my sweet baby's arms

(Chorus)

2. Now where were you last Friday night

While I was lyin' in jail

Walking the streets with another man

Wouldn't even go my bail

(Chorus)

3. I know your parents don't like me

They turn me away from your door

Had my life to live over

Wouldn't go there any more

(Chorus)

Roll On Buddy

Artist: Bill Monroe; Del McCoury; Sam Bush

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. Roll on, buddy, roll on

4

1

Roll on, buddy, roll on

4

You wouldn't roll so slow

1

If you knew what I know

1

5

1

So roll on, buddy, roll on

1. I'm going to that East Cairo*

I'm going to that East Cairo

I'm going to the east

I going to the west

I'm going to the one that I love best

2. My home is down in Tennessee

My home is down in Tennessee

In sunny Tennessee

That's where I want to be

Way down in sunny Tennessee

3. I've got a good woman just the same

I've got a good woman just the same

Got a woman just the same, and I'm gonna change her name

I've got a good woman just the same

(composer: Charlie Bowman)

(number: 1928)

(*Usually sung "east pay road" until Bowman's original manuscript was found.)

Salty Dog

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Osborne Brothers

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

6

1. Standin' on the corner with the lowdown blues

2'

A great big hole in the bottom of my shoes.

5

1

Honey let me be your salty dog.

1

6

- ch. Let me be your salty dog

2'

Or I won't be your man at all.

5

1

Honey let me be your salty dog.

2. Look it here Sal, I know you
Run down stocking and a wore out shoe.
Honey let me be your salty dog.
3. Down in the wildwood sitting on a log
Finger on the trigger and an eye on the hog..
Honey let me be your salty dog
4. Pulled the trigger and the gun set go
The shot fell over in Mexico.
Honey let me be your salty dog.

Shady Grove - Major

Artist: Bill Monroe

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Every time I go that road... it looks so dark and cloudy

5

1

Every time I see that gal I always tell her howdy

1

- ch. Shady Grove pretty little miss Shady Grove my darling

5

1

Shady Grove pretty little miss I'm going back to Harlan

2. How old are you my pretty little miss... how old are you my honey
How old are you my pretty little miss... I'll be sixteen next Sunday
3. First time I saw Shady Grove she was standing in the door
Shoes and stocking in her hand and her little bare feet on the floor
4. I wish I had a big fine horse... And corn to feed him on
And Shady Grove to stay at home.. And feed him when I'm gone
5. Wish I had a needle and thread as fine as I could sew
I'd sew that pretty girl to my side and down the road I go.
6. A kiss from pretty little Shady Grove is sweet as brandy wine
And there ain't no girl in the whole wide world thats prettier than mine.

Shady Grove - Minor

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: Dm

Book: Bluegrass

1m **7b**

1. Peaches in the summertime

1m

Apples in the fall

3b **7b**

If I can't get the girl I love

5m **1m**

I don't want none at all

1m **7b**

- ch. Shady Grove, my little love

1m

Shady Grove, I know

3b **7b**

Shady Grove, my little love

5m **1m**

I'm bound for Shady Grove

2. Wish I had a banjo string

Made of golden twine

Every tune I'd play on it

I'd wish that girl was mine

(Chorus)

3. I wish I had a needle and thread

Fine as I could sew

Sew that pretty girl to my side

And down the road I'd go

(Chorus)

4. Some come here to fiddle and dance

Some come here to tarry

Some here to fiddle and dance

I come here to marry

(Chorus)

5. A kiss from pretty little Shady Grove

Is sweet as brandy wine

And there ain't no girl in this old world

That's prettier than mine

- ch. Shady Grove, my little love

Shady Grove, I know

Shady Grove, my little love

I'm goin' back to town

- ch. Shady Grove, my little love

Shady Grove, I know

Shady Grove, my little love

I'm bound for Shady Grove

She Left Me Standing on the Mountain

Artist: Jim and Jesse

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. Darling will you marry me I asked a maiden fair
I turned my back upon her when I looked she wasn't there

4

1

- ch. She left me standing (standing) on the mountain

4

5⁷

1

She left me standing way up there

(Breaks over verse and chorus chords)

2. Where the honeybees are buzzing round the flowers there
That is where she vanished somewhere in that mountain air

(Chorus, breaks over verse and chorus chords)

3. I just saw the whippoorwill a-talking to a bear
They were both a-laughing 'bout her giving me the air

(Chorus, breaks over verse and chorus chords)

4. I would give most anything if once more she'd appear
And tell me that she cared a little for this mountaineer

(Chorus)

(composer: Alton Delmore)

(number: 1946)

She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes.

5

She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes.

1

She'll be coming round the mountain

4

She'll be coming round the mountain

1

5

1

She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes.

1. She'll be driving six white horses when she comes...
2. Oh we'll all go out to meet her when she comes....
3. She'll be wearing red pajamas when she comes...
4. She will have to sleep with Grandma when she comes...
5. We will all have chicken and dumplings when she comes....

She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

Ch. She'll be coming 'round the mountain, When she comes?

5⁷

She'll be coming 'round the mountain When she comes.

1

She'll be coming 'round the mountain,

4

She'll be coming 'round the mountain,

1

5⁷

1

She'll be coming 'round the mountain, When she comes.

1. She'll be driving six white horses, When she comes
2. Oh, we'll all come out to meet her, When she comes
3. She'll be wearing red pajamas, When she comes
4. She will have to sleep with grandma, When she comes
5. We will kill the old red rooster, When she comes
6. We'll all have chicken n' dumplin's, When she comes

Sitting On Top Of The World

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. 'Twas in the spring one sunny day
My sweetheart left me, Lord, she went away.
- ch. And now she's gone and I don't worry
Lord, I'm sitting on top of the world
2. She called me up from down in El Paso
She said "Come back, daddy hooh, I need you so"
3. If you don't like my peaches don't you shake my tree
Get out of my orchard let my peaches be
4. And don't you come here runnin' holding out your hand
I'm gonna get me a woman like you got your man
5. 'Twas in the spring one sunny day
My sweetheart left me, Lord, she went away

Smoke Along The Tracks

Artist: Joe Mullins

Key: G

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Joe Mullins version, the chorus is slightly different each time, FYI)

1. One day the train was passing, I caught it comin' by
To look this old world over, under God's blue sky
My darlin' stood there weepin' as I was lookin' back
I kissed my baby cryin' in the smoke along the track
- ch. Goodbye, so long, until I come back home you'll be my dream
Goodbye, so long, there's lots of places that I've never seen
I've always been a drifter, but I'll be drifting back
Where I left you cryin', In the smoke along the track

(Solo over Verse Chords)

2. I like to keep on goin', it helps me when I'm blue
I get the urge to travel, that's all I want to do
I know I just can't settle down because I like to roam
And when I hear that whistle blow I've got to move along

(Chorus)

3. I know my baby loves me, I love my baby too
But she don't understand me when I'm feelin' so blue
And when I hear that whistle blow I hurry home to pack
And kiss my baby cryin' in the smoke along the track

(Chorus)

Some Old Day

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; J.D. Crowe & the New South

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1

1. I've been working out in the rain

4 1
Tied to a dirty old ball and chain

2' 5'
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

1
Some sweet day will turn me loose

4 1
From this dirty old calaboose

2' 5' 1
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

- 4 1
ch. Some old day you'll wait for me and pray

2' 5'
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

1
Some sweet day will turn me loose

4 1
From this dirty old calaboose

2' 5' 1
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

2. Oh dear mother I've hurt you so
I've been cruel to you I know
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day
Tell my brother my sister and dad
They're the best friends that I've had
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

(Chorus)

Somehow Tonight

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs, Bluegrass Album Band

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- Ch.** Somehow tonight I feel lonely my darling
Somehow tonight I feel blue
Somehow tonight these tears of mine keep falling
Come back sweetheart and be true
- 1.** I thought you're love was something I could treasure
To brighten my pathway through the years
Now all I can see is darkness in the future
That's why I long to have you near
(Chorus)
- 2.** I never knew what loneliness meant darling
Until I watched you walk away
I long to hear you whisper that you love me
I can't forget our happy days
(Chorus)

Stay All Night (Stay a Little Longer)

Artist: Bob Wills; Willie Nelson

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1

1. You ought to see my blue eyed Sally

5

She lives way down on Shinbone Alley

1

The number on the gate and the number on the door

5

And the next house over is a grocery store

1

- ch. Stay all night stay a little longer

5

Dance all night dance a little longer

1

Pull off your coat throw it in a corner

5

Don't see why you don't stay a little longer

2. Sitting in the window singing to my love
Slop bucket fell from the window up above
Mule and the grasshopper eatin' ice cream
The mule got sick so they laid him on a beam

(Chorus)

3. Can't go home if you're going by the mill
Cause the bridge is washed out at the bottom of the hill
Big Creek's up Little Creek's level
Plow my corn with a double shovel

(Chorus)

Steam Powered Aereo Plane

Artist: John Hartford

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(In the Chorus, The Bm7 can be replaced with G)

1. Well I dreamt I went away on a steam powered aeroplane.
I went and stayed and I damn near didn't come back again.
Didn't go very fast on a steam powered aeroplane,
Oh the wheels went around, up and down, and inside and then back again.
- 2m 3m7
Ch. Sittin' in a 747 just watching them clouds roll by,
Can't tell if it sunshine or it's rain.
2m 3m7
Rather be sittin' in a deck chair high up over Kansas City,
2m 5
On a genuine old-fashioned authentic steam powered aero plane.
2. Well I'd like to be a pilot on a steam powered aeroplane.
Well I'd pull that pilot wheel around and then back again.
Well, I'd wear a blue hat, yeah, that says Steam Powered Aeroplane
With letters that go all around the rim and then back again.

(Chorus)

(composer: John Hartford)

(number: 1971)

Streamline Cannonball

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass

1. It's a long steel rail and a short cross tie
I'm on my way back home
I'm on that train, the king of them all
That streamlined cannonball
- Ch. She moves along like a cannonball
Like a star in its heavenly flight
The lonesome sound of the whistle you love
As she travels through the night
2. I can see a smile on the engineer's face
And although he's old and gray
A contented heart, he waits for his call
On the streamline cannonball
(Chorus)
3. The headlight beams out in the night
And the firebox flash you can see
I ride them blinds, it's the life that I love
Lord, it's home sweet home to me
(Chorus)

Sunny Side of the Mountain

Artist: Hawkshaw Hawkins; Jimmy Martin; Osborne Brothers; Dan Tyminski

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(Here are the measure counts, or just remember: 4,2,3,2:)

1. Don't forget me little darling while I'm growing old and gray
Just a little thought before I'm going far away
I'll be waiting on the hillside where the wild red roses grow
On the sunny side of the mountain where the rippling waters flow
2. Don't forget about those days we courted many years ago
Don't forget those promises you gave me and so
It's been so long dear since I've seen you but my love still lingers on
Don't forget me little darling though our love affair seems gone
3. Tell me darling, in your letter, do you ever think of me?
I wonder, little darling, wonder where you can be
I'll be waiting on the hillside wondering when the day you'll call
On the sunny side of the mountain where the rippling waters fall

(composer: Harry McAuliffe; Bobby Gregory)

(number: 1951)

Take This Hammer

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- 1** **5**
Ch. Take this hammer... carry it to the captain
Take this hammer.... Carry it to the captain **1**
Take this hammer... Carry it to the captain **4**
Tell him I'm gone.... ... tell him I'm gone **1 5 1**
1. If he asks you... was I running... (3x)
Tell him I was flying... tell him I was flying....
 2. If he asks you... was I laughing (3x)
Tell him I was crying... tell him I was crying.
 3. I don't want your... cold iron shackles (3x)
They hurt my legs... they hurt my legs
 4. I don't want your... greenback dollar (3x)
Hurts my pride... hurts my pride

Taking Water

Artist: Billy Strings

Key: C

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(Key is C, Mode is D Dorian)

(Tag)

| 5 | 2m | 6m | 5 | x2

1. Cold cold ashes on the ground
Nothing lost and nothing found
Friends and loved ones falling down
Can't you hear that mournful sound?

2. Nothing left but memories
Things I still can't stand to see
There's an empty spot in me
Where my hometown used to be

- ch. This old boat is taking water
It won't be long 'til it goes down
Had enough to push us over
Time to turn the wheel around

(Tag)

3. Neighborhoods left to decay
People died or walked away
There's nowhere left for them to stay
And we just look the other way

- ch. This old boat is taking water
It won't be long 'til it goes down
Had enough to push us over
Time to turn the wheel around

(Solo (Verse + Chorus):)

| 5 _ | 2m | 6m | 5 _ | x2
| 2m | 1 _ | 1 _ | 5 _ |
| 2m | 4 _ | 1 _ | 2m |

4. Waves keep pounding through the night
Lost without a ray of light
Going down without a fight
Is there still time to make it right?

- ch. This old boat is taking water
It won't be long 'til it goes down
Had enough to push us over
Time to turn the wheel around

- Outro This old boat is taking water
Won't be long 'til it goes down
Had enough to push us over
Time to turn the wheel around

Tennessee Stud

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1

1. Along about eighteen twenty-five

7b

I left Tennessee very much alive

1

I never would've made it through the Arkansas mud

5m7

1

If I hadn't been riding on the Tennessee Stud

1

2. Had some trouble with my sweetheart's Pa

7b

One of her brothers was a bad outlaw

1

I wrote her a letter by my Uncle Fudd

5m7

1

And I rode away on the Tennessee Stud

1

7b

1

- ch. The Tennessee Stud was long and lean

4

3b

5

The color of the sun and his eyes were green

1

He had the nerve and he had the blood

5m7

1

There never was a horse like Tennessee Stud

3. We drifted on down into no man's land
We crossed that river called the Rio Grande
I raced my horse with the Spaniard's foal
Til I got me a skin full of silver and gold

4. Me and a gambler, we couldn't agree
We got in a fight over Tennessee
We jerked our guns and he fell with a thud
And I got away on the Tennessee Stud

(Chorus)

5. I got just as lonesome as a man can be
Dreamin of my girl in Tennessee
The Tennessee Stud's green eyes turned blue
cause he was a dreamin of a sweetheart too
6. I rode right back across Arkansas
I whipped her brother and I whipped her Pa
I found that girl with the golden hair
And she was riding on a Tennessee Mare

(Chorus)

7. Stirrup to stirrup and side by side,
We crossed the mountains and the valleys wide.
We came to Big Muddy, then we forded the flood
On the Tennessee Mare and the Tennessee Stud.

Pretty little baby on the cabin floor
Little horse colt playing round the door
I loved that girl with the golden hair
And the Tennessee Stud loves the Tennessee Mare

(Chorus)

That Memphis Train

Artist: Grandpa Jones

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. Did you ever go to Memphis on that lonesome Southern line?
If you ain't got the blues when you board that train, you're gonna get 'em every time.
You'll wish you'd never left your gal who gave her heart away.
You'll wish you'd stayed plumb off that train before the break of day.

(Chorus)

- ch. That Memphis train's done left me standing here alone.

Don't you grieve my darlin' after I am gone.
I'm on that train to Memphis, rollin' down the line.
Don't you grieve my darlin' when I leave you behind.

(Instrumental breaks on verse chords)

2. I'm a-goin' down to the levee where the folks are singin' low.
My gal's done gone and left me, and I don't know where to go.
I'm gonna get to the railroad, gonna try to ride the blind.
For the cannonball from Memphis leaves town at half past nine.

(Chorus, then instrumental breaks on verse chords)

3. I hear that banjo ringin', it makes me feel so fine.
Everything would be so good if I had that gal of mine.
It's fare-you-well to Memphis, a mighty good old town.
I think I'll come back here again when I settle down.

(Chorus)

(composer: Alton Delmore; Grandpa Jones)

(number: 1951)

This Land Is Your Land

Artist: Woody Guthrie

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

- 1** **4** **1**
Ch. This land is your land, and this land is my land
- 5** **1**
From Cali- fornia to the New York island
- 4** **1**
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
- 5** **1**
This land was made for you and me
- 1.** As I went walking.... that ribbon of highway
And I saw above me.... that endless skyway
I saw below me.... that golden valley
This land was made for you and me
- 2.** I roamed and rambled,.... and I've followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands ofher diamond deserts
All around me,.... a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me
- 3.** When the sun come shining, then I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving,.... and the dust clouds rolling
as the fog was lifting.... The voice was chanting
This land was made for you and me

This Train (Is Bound For Glory)

Artist: Traditional; Woody Guthrie

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1

1. This train is bound for glory, this train.

5

5⁷

This train is bound for glory, this train.

1

This train is bound for glory,

4

4⁷

Don't carry nothing but the righteous and the holy.

1

5

1

This train is bound for glory, this train.

2. This train don't carry no gamblers, this train;
This train don't carry no gamblers, this train;
This train don't carry no gamblers,
Liars, thieves, nor big shot rambles,
This train is bound for glory, this train.
3. This train don't carry no smokers, this train;
This train don't carry no smokers, this train
This train don't carry no smokers,
Two bit liars, small time jokers,
This train don't carry no smokers, this train.
4. This train don't carry no con men, this train;
This train don't carry no con men, this train;
This train don't carry no con men,
No wheeler dealers, here and gone men,
This train don't carry no con men, this train.
5. This train don't carry no rustlers, this train;
This train don't carry no rustlers, this train;
This train don't carry no rustlers,
Sidestreet walkers, two bit hustlers,
This train is bound for glory, this train.

Till the End of the World Rolls 'Round

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Old & In the Way

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass

(Breaks are played over the chorus)

1. I tried to sail the sea of life I rowed my boat alone
Your love meant nothing to me dear my heart was made of stone
To a harbor filled with loneliness my little boat was moored
And on the day I first met you I fell right overboard
- ch. Til the end of the world rolls 'round I'll keep on loving you
As long as the sun goes up and comes down
And the big blue sky goes down to the ground
As long as the world goes round and round
I'll keep on loving you.
2. Whenever you're around me dear my heart just won't stand still
And when it comes to kissing you I'll never get my fill
They said I'd never settle down that I would always roam
That I could never be the type for a loving wife and home
(Chorus)
3. So now I know the way I felt was only selfish pride
I thought my heart was fireproof but you burned your way inside
So tell me what I've got to do and tell me how it stands
The cards are on the table dear my life is in your hands
(Chorus)

Tom Dooley (Simplified)

Artist: Traditional

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Suggested Order: Start with Chorus Verse Chorus)
(then move to Verse, Verse, Chorus)

At this time to-morrow
Where do you reckon I'll be?
Away down yonder in the holler
Hangin' on a white oak tree.

- 1**
Ch. Hang your head, Tom Dooley,
Hang your head and cry;
You killed poor Laurie Foster,
And you know you're bound to die.
- 5**
1
1. You left her by the roadside
Where you begged to be excused;
You left her by the roadside
Then you hid her clothes and shoes.
 2. You took her on the hillside
For to make her your wife;
You took her on the hillside,
And there you took her life.
 3. You dug the grave four feet long
And you dug it three feet deep;
You rolled the cold clay over her
And tromped it with your feet.
 4. Trouble, oh it's trouble
A-rollin' through my breast;
As long as I'm a-livin', boys,
They ain't a-gonna let me rest.
 5. I know they're gonna hang me,
Tomorrow I'll be dead,
Though I never even harmed a hair
On poor little Laurie's head.
 6. In this world and one more
Then reckon where I'll be;
If it wasn't for Sheriff Grayson,
I'd be in Tennessee.
 7. You can take down my old violin
And play it all you please.
For at this time tomorrow, boys,
It'll be of no use to me.

Tom Dooley

Artist: Doc Watson

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Suggested Order: Start with Chorus Verse Chorus)
(then move to Verse, Verse, Chorus)

At this time to-morrow
Where do you reckon I'll be?
Away down yonder in the holler
Hangin' on a white oak tree.

- 1 4
Ch. Hang your head, Tom Dooley,
4 1
Hang your head and cry;
5 1
You killed poor Laurie Foster,
4 1
And you know you're bound to die.
1. You left her by the roadside
Where you begged to be excused;
You left her by the roadside
Then you hid her clothes and shoes.
 2. You took her on the hillside
For to make her your wife;
You took her on the hillside,
And there you took her life.
 3. You dug the grave four feet long
And you dug it three feet deep;
You rolled the cold clay over her
And tromped it with your feet.
 4. Trouble, oh it's trouble
A-rollin' through my breast;
As long as I'm a-livin', boys,
They ain't a-gonna let me rest.
 5. I know they're gonna hang me,
Tomorrow I'll be dead,
Though I never even harmed a hair
On poor little Laurie's head.
 6. In this world and one more
Then reckon where I'll be;
If it wasn't for Sheriff Grayson,
I'd be in Tennessee.
 7. You can take down my old violin
And play it all you please.
For at this time tomorrow, boys,
It'll be of no use to me.

Train 45

Artist: G.B. Grayson and Henry Whitter; Mac Wiseman

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

(Key of G for sung version, key of B for fiddle tune version.)

(Grayson/Whitter call this out during the intro:)

("Train Forty-Five leaving Terminal Station, Atlanta, Georgia, All aboard!")

1. Oh, you ought to be in town to see that train come down
And hear the whistle blow a hundred times.
 2. I'm going up the track bring my little woman back
I'm tired of living this away.
 3. If this train runs right, see my woman Saturday night
Lord, I'm nine hundred miles away from home.
 4. If my woman says so, I'll railroad no more
I'll sidetrack this train and go home.
 5. You can count the days I'm gone and the trains that I am on
You can hear the whistle blow nine hundred miles.
 6. I'm going down the ties with tears in my eyes
Tryin' to read a letter from my home.
 7. If I die a railroad man, you can bury me in the sand
So I can hear that whistle blow nine hundred miles.
 8. If this train runs right, see my woman Saturday night
Lord, I'm nine hundred miles away from home.
- (number: 1927)

Uncle Pen

Artist: Bill Monroe;

Key: A

Book: Bluegrass

1. Oh the ¹people would come from far away
They'd ¹dance all night till the ⁵break of ¹day
When the caller ¹hollered "do-se-do"
You ¹knew Uncle Pen was ⁵ready to ¹go ^{1'}
- ch. Late in the evening about sundown ⁴
High on the hill and above the town ¹
Uncle Pen* ¹played the fiddle lord how it would ring
You could ¹hear it talk, you could ⁵hear it ¹sing
(Instrumental breaks over verse and chorus)
2. He played an old piece he called "Soldier's Joy"
And the one called "The Boston Boy"
The greatest of all was "Jenny Lynn"
To me that's where the fiddle begins
(Chorus, then breaks over verse and chorus)
3. I'll never forget that mournful day
When Uncle Pen was called away
They hung up his fiddle, they hung up his bow
They knew it was time for him to go
(Chorus, then breaks over verse and chorus, then last chorus)
(composer: Bill Monroe)
(number: 1950)
*(*Stop playing in sung chorus after downbeat on "Pen" until the guitar fill at the end.)*
(Play background as usual during instrumental breaks on verse and chorus.)

Up on the Divide

Artist: Martha Scanlan; Mighty Poplar

Key: E

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

(time: 3/4)

1. Go cinch up the saddle, ol' Dunny and me,
We'll drive up the cattle where the snows used to be.
I ain't much for nothin', but still I can ride__
- ch. And the springtime's a-comin up on the divide,
Springtime's a-comin up on the divide.
2. Ol' Charlie, he sold out, he lost everything,
A '52 Chevy and a Navajo ring.
Busted, flat broken and split open wide__
(Instrumental breaks)
3. Well, my granddaddy died here in nineteen and three,
He left his old shotgun my daddy gave me.
I hope there's someplace we can all rope and ride__
4. Well, that grave on the hillside is long overgrown,
Been twenty-two years since I gathered stones.
And twenty-two more since I made her my bride__
(Instrumental breaks)
5. Now the coal company man wants to eat up your coal,
First he'll swallow your cattle and then he'll swallow your soul.
He'll dig you a grave 'bout ten acres wide__
(composer: Martha Scanlan)
(number: 2007)

Victory

Artist: *Trampled By Turtles*

Key: *G*

Book: *Bluegrass, Americana*

(Recording in A - Capo 2 G Shapes.)

1. All of us lonely, it ain't a sin
to want somethin' better, than the shape you're in
The rain came at the break of day
Your light in the windowpane said come on in
2. It's a broken heart babe, I know the sound
Feels like your hands, are nailed to the ground
It'll pass just like everything else
You won't let it get to me, the next time around
- Ch. It's a hard-earned victory _
The life that come from you to me can never be wrong

(Solo over Verse Chords)

3. Grown from a moment and a million miles
Here lies the stardust and it slowly dies
Borrowed from nothing, come back half alive
And the stars that whisper blessings be as you walk by

(Solo over Verse Chords)

Wabash Cannonball

Artist: Traditional; Johnny Cash

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

1. From the great Atlantic Ocean to the wide Pacific shore
She climbs the flowery mountains over the hills and by the shores
She's mighty tall and handsome she's known quite well by all
She's a regular combination on the Wabash Cannon- ball
- ch. Listen to the jingle the rumble and the roar
As she glides along the woodlands over the hills and by the shores
The mighty rush of the engine hears those lonesome hobos call
You're Travelin through the jungle on the Wabash Cannon- ball
2. Now she came down from Birmingham one cold September day
As she pulled into the station you could hear all the people say
She's from Tennessee she's long and she's tall
She came down from Birmingham on the Wabash Cannonball
3. Heres to Daddy Claxton may his name forever stand
And always be remembered in the courts throughout the land
His earthly race is over and the curtains round him fall
They'll carry him home to Dixie on the Wabash Cannonball

Way Downtown

Artist: Doc Watson; Tony Rice

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

4 1
Ch. Way downtown just fooling around,

5⁷ 1
They took me to the jail.

4 1
Oh me and it's oh my,

5⁷ 1
No one to go my bail.

4 1
1. It was late last night when Willie came home,

5⁷ 1
I heard him a-rapping on the door.

4 1
He's a slipping and a sliding with them new shoes on,

5⁷ 1
Momma said "Willie don't you rap no more."

(Chorus, then instrumental break)

2. I wish I was over at my sweet Sally's house
Sitting in that big armed chair
One arm around this old guitar
And the other one around my dear.

(Chorus, then instrumental break)

3. Now, one old shirt is about all that I got,
And a dollar is all that I crave.
I brought nothing with me into this old world,
Ain't gonna take nothing to my grave.

(Chorus)

Where Did You Sleep Last Night

Artist: Lead Belly; Nirvana

Key: E

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. My girl, my girl, don't lie to me
Tell me where did you sleep last night
- ch. In the pines, in the pines Where the sun don't ever shine
I would shiver the whole night through
2. My girl, my girl, where will you go
I'm going where the cold winds blow
(Chorus)
3. Her husband, was a hard working man
Just about a mile from here
4. His head was found in a driving wheel
But his body never was found
(Lead Belly played the song in F)
(Nirvana played in Eb)

White Freightliner Blues

Artist: New Grass Revival; JD Crowe & the New South

Key: B

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(composer: Townes Van Zandt)

1. I'm goin' out on the highway
listen to them big trucks whine
I'm goin' out on the highway
listen to them big trucks whine
Oh white freightliner
won't you steal away my mind
2. New Mexico ain't bad, boys
the people there they'll treat you kind
New Mexico ain't bad, boys
and the people there they'll treat you kind
White freight liner
won't you steal away my mind
3. Well, it's bad news from Houston
half my friends are dying
It's bad news from Houston
half my friends are dying
Oh white freight liner
won't you steal away my mind
4. Oh, Lord, I'm gonna ramble
'til I get back to where I came
Oh, Lord, I'm gonna ramble
'til I get back to where I came
Oh white freight liner
gonna haul away my brain

Who's That Knocking At My Door

Artist: Dreadful Snakes

Key: C

Book: Americana, Bluegrass

1

Ch. Who's that knocking at my door have I heard that knock before

5⁷

1

Is it evil trying to get into my room

Who's that tapping at my window who's calling me to go

5⁷

1

To a place that's filled with dark and gloom

1. Oh this life that I'm living it seems so unforgiving

5⁷

1

I find trouble everywhere that I go

I always seek it first just to quench my burning thirst

5⁷

1

In waters that are cool as fallen snow

1

2. But the waters are oh so deep what you sew you must reap

5⁷

1

Now I hear a knocking at my door

It's evil standing outside there's no place to run and hide

5⁷

1

It plucks my soul and presses me to the floor

1

3. Oh I've been down that pathway it always leads the wrong way

5⁷

1

But this time I don't think I'll be back

Feels like a freight train pulling me there's a dark tunnel ahead I see

5⁷

1

This train's going down a one-way track

Why You Been Gone So Long

Artist: Jessi Colter; Tony Rice

Key: D

Book: Bluegrass

1. Every time it rains Lord I run to my window
All I do is just wring my hands and moan
And listen to that thunder, Lord can't you hear the lonesome wind moan?
Tell me baby now why you been gone so long?
- ch. Tell me baby why you been gone so long? you've been gone so long now
Tell me baby why you been gone so long?
A wolf is scratching at my door, Lord, Lord And I can hear that lonesome wind moan
Tell me baby now why you've been gone so long?
2. Somebody said they thought they saw you roarin' down in Reno
With a big ol' man from San Antone
They tell me I'm a fool, to pine for you but what do they know?
Tell me baby now why you been gone so long?
(Chorus)
3. Ain't nothin' I wanna do Lord, so I guess I could get stoned
And let the past paint pictures in my head
And kill a fifth of a thunderbird Lord and try to write a sad, sad song
Tell me baby now why you been gone so long?
(Chorus)

Wildwood Flower

Artist: The Carter Family

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. I will twine and will mingle my raven black hair
With the roses so red and the lilies so fair
And the myrtle so green of an emerald hue
And the pale emanita and islip so blue
2. Oh he promised to love me, he promised to love
And cherish me always all others above
I woke from my dream and my idol was clay
My passion for loving had vanished away
3. Oh he taught me to love him, he called me his flower
A blossom to cheer him through life's weary hour
But now he has gone and left me alone
The wild flowers to weep and the wild birds to moan
4. I'll dance and I'll sing and my life will be gay
I'll banish this weeping, drive troubles away
I'll live yet to see him regret this dark hour
When he won and neglected this frail wildwood flower.

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Artist: Carter Family; Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

(composer: Ada R. Habershon and Charles H. Gabriel; AP Carter)

(number: 1907)

1

Ch. Will the circle be unbroken

4

1

By and by Lord, by and by,

6m

There's a better world home a-waiting

1

5

1

In the sky Lord, in the sky.

1

1. I was standing by my window

4

1

On a cold and cloudy day

6m

When I saw that hearse come rolling

1

5

1

For to carry my mother away.

(Chorus)

2. Lord, I told that undertaker,
Undertaker please drive slow
For this body that you are hauling
Lord, I hate to see her go.

(Chorus)

3. I will follow close behind her
Tried to hold up and be brave
But I could not hide my sorrow
When they laid her in the grave.

(Chorus)

4. I went back home, my home was lonesome
Now my mother she was gone
All my brothers, sisters crying
What a home so sad and alone

(Chorus)

Worried Man Blues

Artist: Carter Family; Stanley Brothers

Key: G

Book: Bluegrass

- 1**
Ch. It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
I'm worried now, but I won't be worried long.
- 1**
1. I went across the river, and I laid down to sleep,
I went across the river, and I laid down to sleep,
I went across the river, and I laid down to sleep,
When I woke up, were the shackles on my feet.
(Chorus)
- 2.** Twenty-nine links of chain around my leg, (3x)
And on each link, the initial of my name.
(Chorus)
- 3.** I asked the judge what might be my fine, (3x)
Twenty-one years on the Rocky Mountain Line.
(Chorus)
- 4.** The train that I ride is sixteen coaches long, (3x)
The girl I love is on that train and gone.
(Chorus)
- 5.** If anyone asks you who composed this song, (3x)
Tell 'em was I, and I sing it all day long.
(Chorus)

Wreck of the Old 97

Artist: Woody Guthrie; Johnny Cash

Key: C

Book: Bluegrass, Americana

1. Well, they gave him his orders at Monroe, Virginia
Sayin' Steve you're way behind time
This is not Thirty Eight, this is Old Ninety-Seven
You must put her into Spencer on time
2. Then he turned around and said to his black greasy fireman
Shovel on a little more coal
And when we cross that wide oak mountain
Watch Old Ninety-Seven roll
3. But it's a mighty rough road from Lynchburg to Danville
On a line with a three mile grade
It was on that grade that he lost his air brakes
See what a jump he made
4. He was goin' down the grade makin' ninety miles an hour
His whistle broke into a scream
He was found in the wreck with his hand on the throttle
a-scalded to death by the steam
5. Then a telegram come to Washington station
And this is how it read
Well that brave engineer that run Old Ninety-Seven
He's a-lyin' in ol' Danville dead
6. So now, all you ladies you better take a warnin'
From this time on and learn
Never speak harsh words to your true lovin' husband
He may leave you and never return

Your Love Is Like a Flower

Artist: Flatt & Scruggs; Bluegrass Album Band

Key: B

Book: Bluegrass

1. It was long, long ago in the moonlight
We were sitting on the banks of the stream
When you whispered so sweetly "I love you"
As the waters murmured a tune
- ch. Oh they tell me your love's like a flower
In the spring time it blossoms so fair
In the fall when it withers away dear
And they tell me that's the way of your love
2. I remember the night, little darling
We were talking of days gone by
When you told me you always would love me
And for me your love would never die
(Chorus)
3. It was spring when you whispered these words, dear
The flowers were all blooming so fair
But today as the snow falls around us
I can see that your love is not there
(Chorus)

Tom's Guitar Cheat Sheet

(www.halfhill.com)

Major
Key

1/2 Step

Relative
Minor

1/2 Step

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Tablature Scales
A 	Bm 	C#m 	D 	E 	F#m 	G#m7b5 	A 	
B 	C#m 	D#m 	E 	F# 	G#m 	A#m7b5 	B 	
C 	Dm 	Em 	F 	G 	Am 	Bm7b5 	C 	
D 	Em 	F#m 	G 	A 	Bm 	C#m7b5 	D 	
E 	F#m 	G#m 	A 	B 	C#m 	D#m7b5 	E 	
F 	Gm 	Am 	Bb 	C 	Dm 	Em7b5 	F 	
G 	Am 	Bm 	C 	D 	Em 	F#m7b5 	G 	
Major	Minor	Minor	Major	Major	Minor	Minor7b5	Major	

E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F
B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C
G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab
D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb
A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb
E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	

Capo Reference Chart

Option 1: Cross reference the chord and capo position to see the actual chord

Example: The "D" chord played with your capo on the "3rd fret" is an "F"

Capo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F
C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab
D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb
E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb

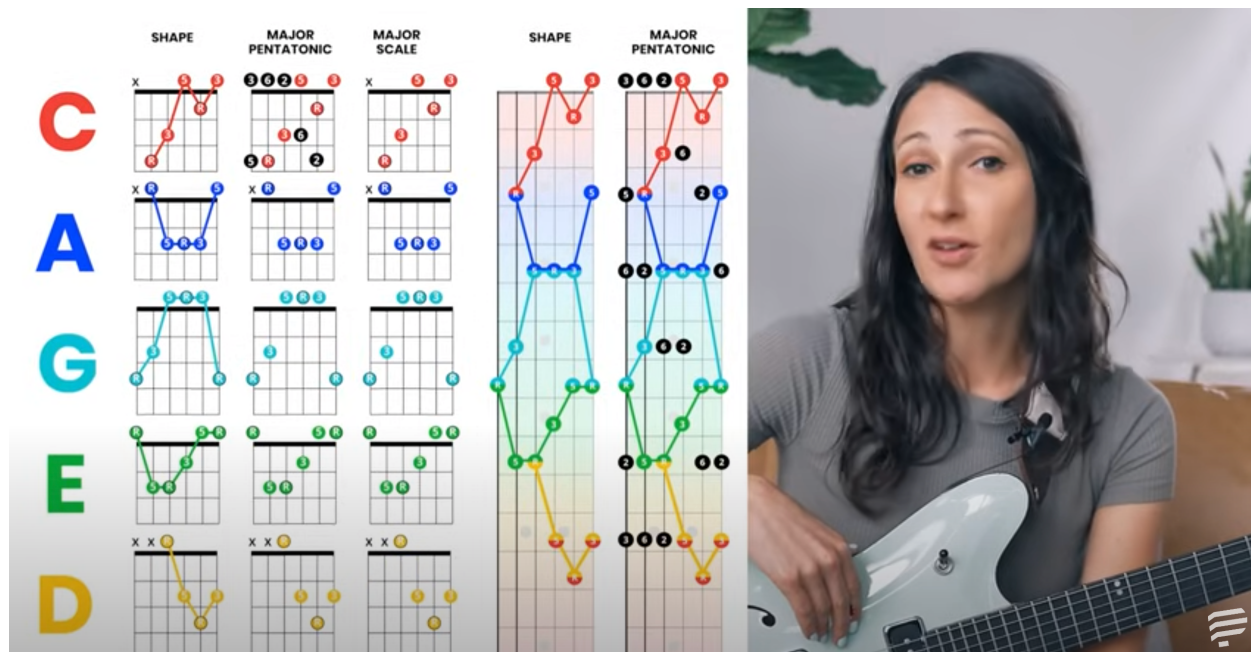
Option 2: Locate the actual chord to find alternative chord shapes in various capo position

Example: For the key of Bb, you can play in "G" on the "3rd fret".

Capo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ab	G1			E4		D6		C8
A		G2			E5		D7	
Bb	A1		G3			E6		D8
B		A2		G4			E7	
C			A3		G5			E8
Db	C1			A4		G6		
D		C2			A5		G7	
Eb	D1		C3			A6		G8
E		D2		C4			A7	
F	E1		D3		C5			A8
Gb		E2		D4		C6		
G			E3		D5		C7	

Do you want to learn about the CAGED system?

Every hear a wonderful solo and thought it was magic? Well, it isn't, but it is patterns and practice (lots of practice!)



Dr. Molly Miller, Professor of Studio Guitar at USC, released a wonderful Masterclass style YouTube video via Pickup Music.






The video is 1.5 hours. It is a video that you watch a small section, then practice that section... a lot. Then watch a little bit more and practice.... a lot more!

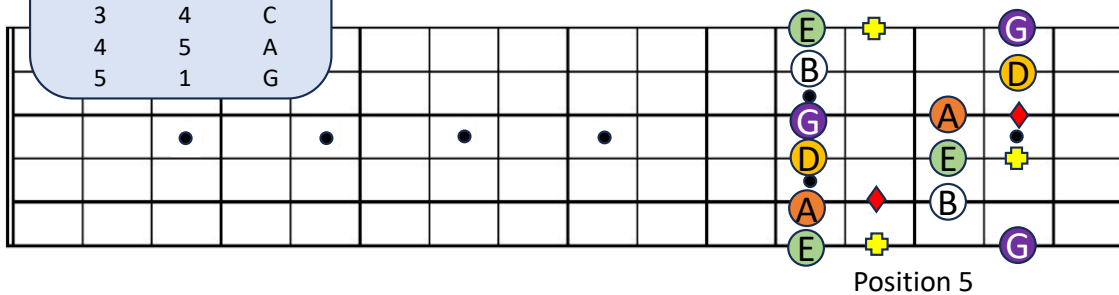
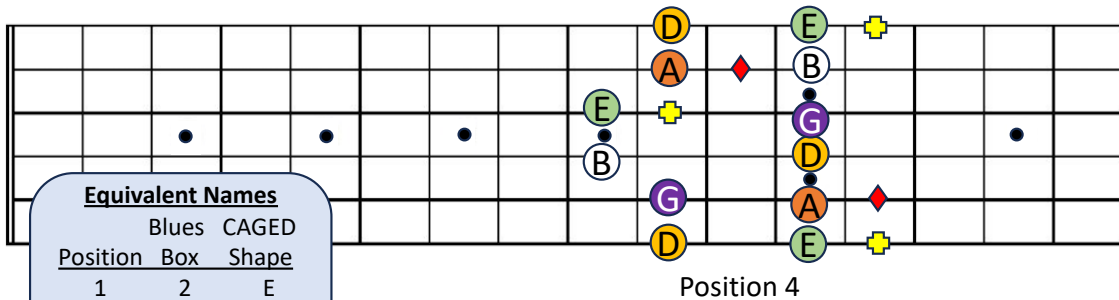
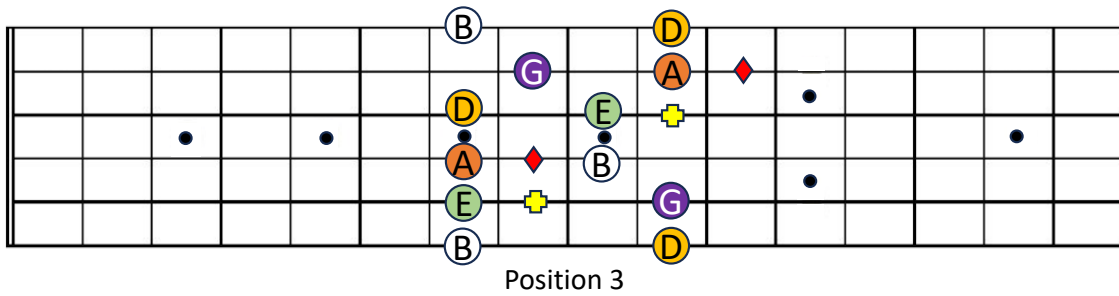
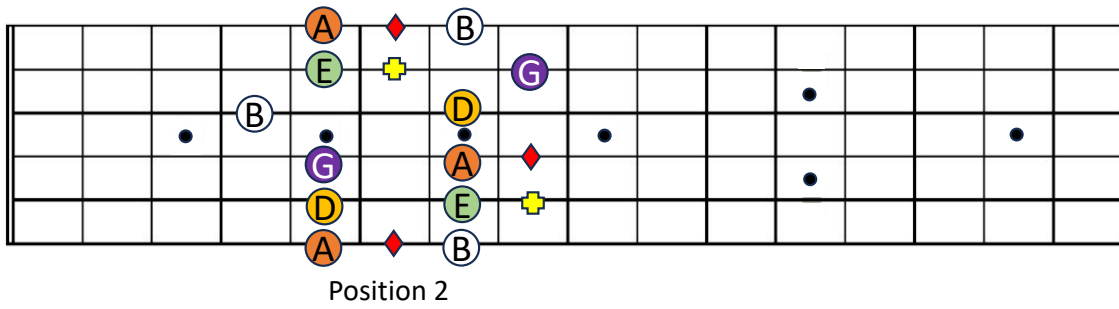
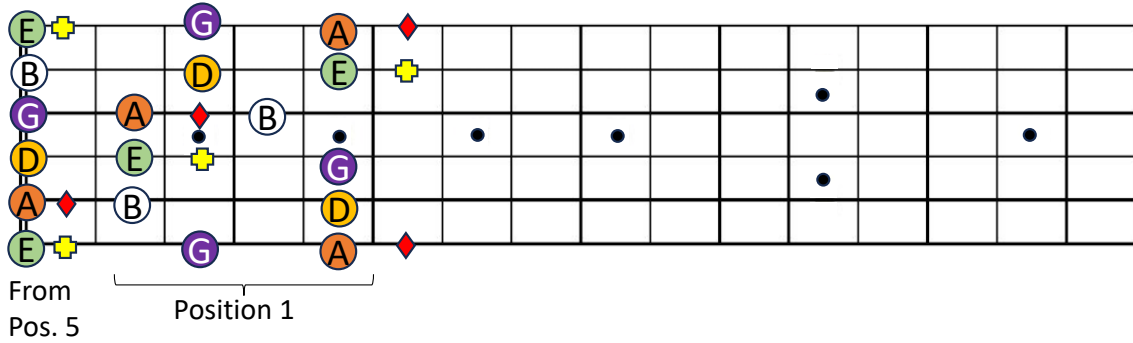
The CAGED system for guitar explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nphFK6HFjY>

For info about Dr. Molly Miller see her website at: <https://www.mollymillermusic.com>

G Major Pentatonic Scale

With Flat 3  and Flat 7 






I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
						

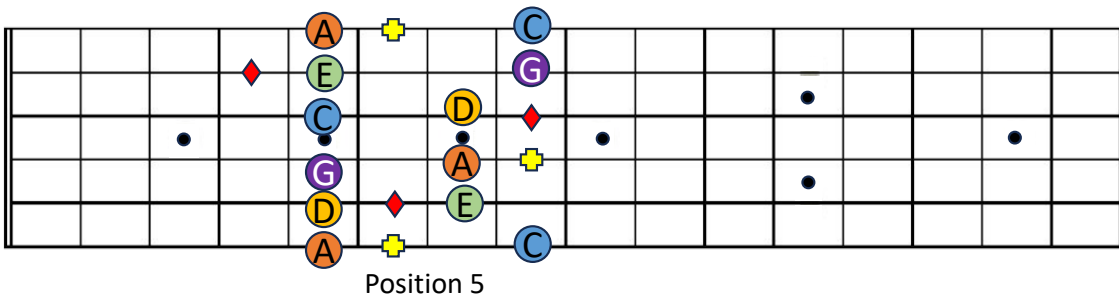
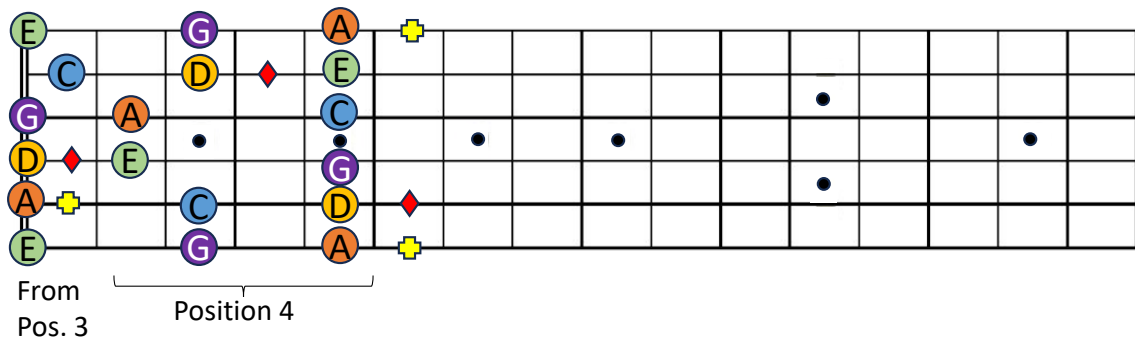
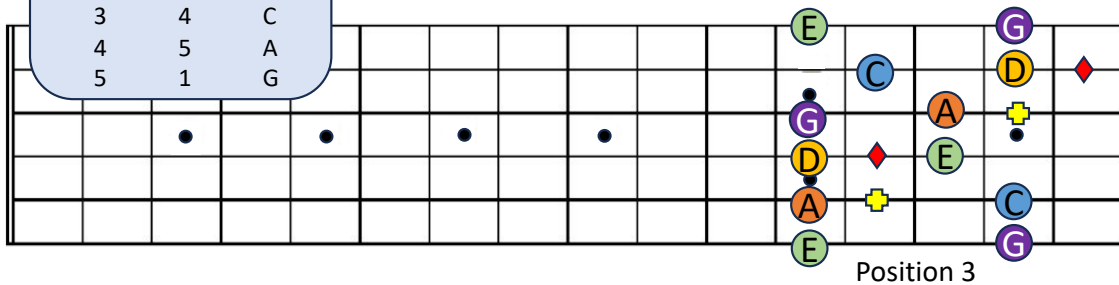
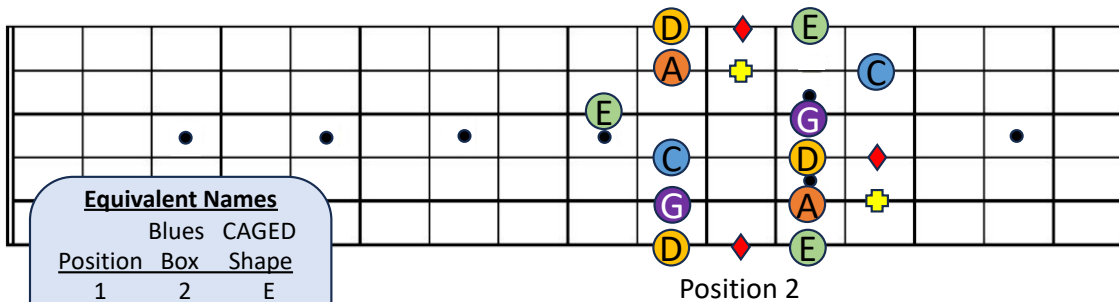
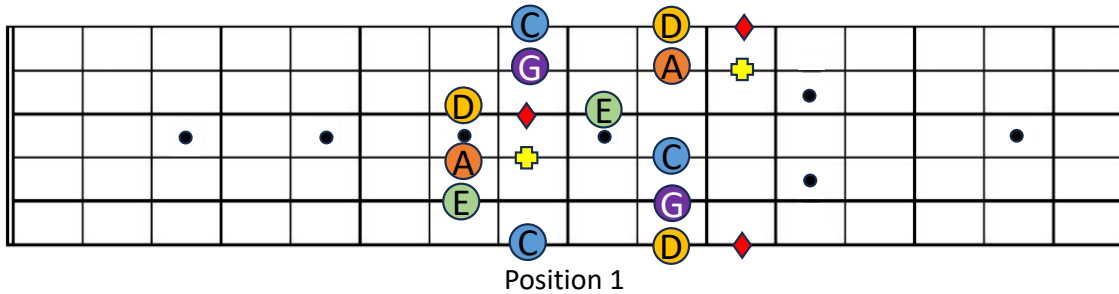


Equivalent Names		
	Blues	CAGED
Position	Box	Shape
1	2	E
2	3	D
3	4	C
4	5	A
5	1	G

C Major Pentatonic Scale






With Flat 3  and Flat 7 

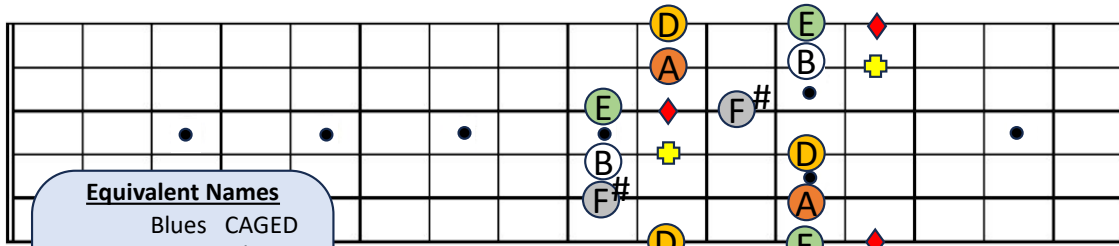
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
						



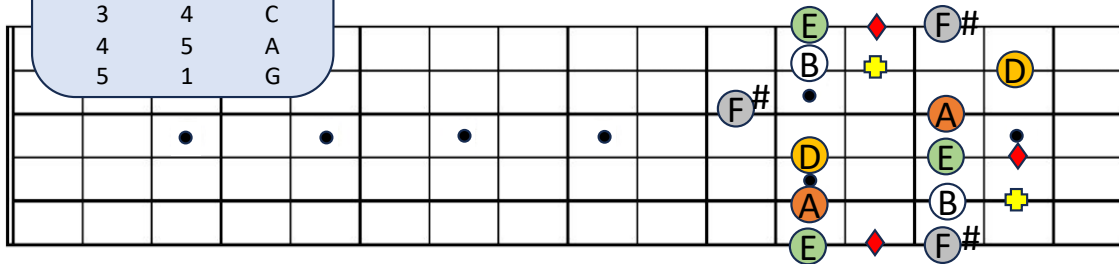
D Major Pentatonic Scale

With Flat 3  and Flat 7 

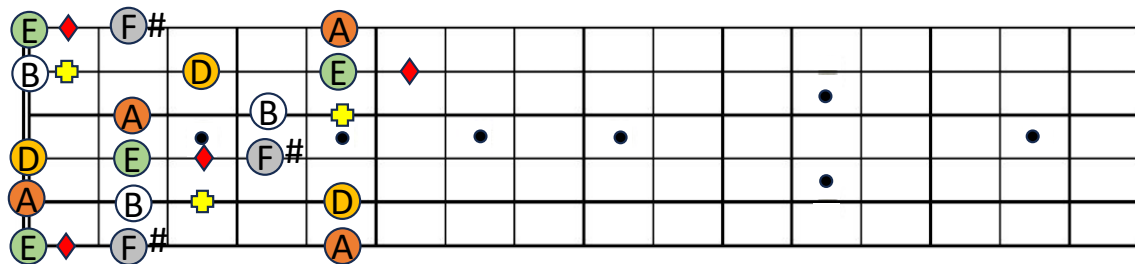
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
						



Position 1

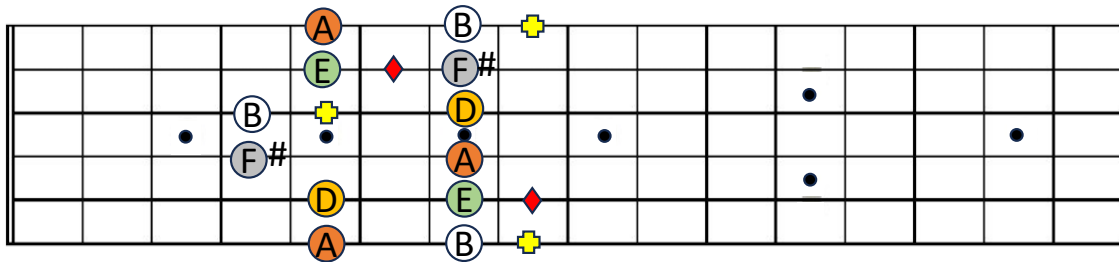


Position 2

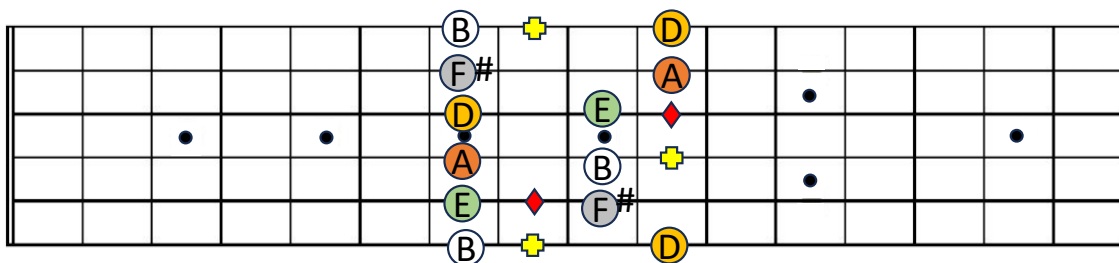


From
Pos. 2

Position 3



Position 4



Position 5

Equivalent Names		
	Blues	CAGED
Position	Box	Shape
1	2	E
2	3	D
3	4	C
4	5	A
5	1	G