

Bluegrass Jam Songbook

Compiled by Matt C Bruno

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For educational purposes only

Updated November 2023

To the best of my knowledge, all songs in this jam-book are in the public domain and available for use.
If you represent an artist with a claim to a song listed in this jam-book, please reach out to me.

Hello fellow picker!

Before we get to the songs, I figured I'd take a minute to introduce myself, this jam-book, and go over some basics.

I've been playing and teaching mandolin since 2005. I fell in love with bluegrass music at the Greyfox Bluegrass Festival in 2005 and never looked back. After moving to San Diego, I became very involved in the local bluegrass associations serving as a board member for the San Diego Bluegrass Society (SDBS) and hosting workshops for the California Bluegrass Association (CBA). Currently I live and play in Seattle WA and work closely with the Outlanders Progressive Bluegrass Social Club as a founding member. I host a variety of bluegrass jams, workshops, and of course play a few bands. If you're in the area, you can see where I'm playing on my site here <https://mattcbruno.com/upcoming-shows/>.

The Bluegrass Jam Songbook you're reading is a compilation of songs I've enjoyed playing at various bluegrass jams and festivals. The purpose of this book is to help those new to bluegrass jams participate in jams by learning some common songs. Each song includes a Nashville Numbering chart, a basic chord / lyric chart, and sheet music for the main melody in both standard notation and mandolin tab. Some songs have been simplified a bit to provide the most essential qualities of a given tune without getting too difficult. While playing the basic melody is fine, the reader is encouraged to use the notation provided as a springboard for their own variations.

Of course the specific key I used for any particular song may not be right for you. If you have trouble with the given key, use the Nashville Numbering Charts to transpose these tunes to the key that suits you best.

Bluegrass and folk music songs in general rarely have a single way to play a tune. While the version in this book may be different than another book – both may be “correct”. That said, I'm sure there's probably a mistake or two somewhere regardless of my best efforts. If you find something inaccurate or if there's another way to play a piece you think is better suited for this book, please contact me on my site at www.mattcbruno.com/contact.

I chose not to include fiddle tunes in this book it's easier for beginners to learn songs with lyrics as opposed to memorizing the melody from instrumental fiddle tunes. However, some of the tunes in this book are often played as instrumental tunes. I've noted those with an * next to the title. I suggest prioritizing those songs as they give you a bit more bang for your practice time. Aside from those, I strongly encourage you to learn some standard instrumental fiddle tunes not included in this book like Salt Creek, Cherokee Shuffle, Billy in the Lowground, and Cattle in the Cane – and also some not standard tunes like the High Road and Garfield's Blackberry Blossom. I'm positive you'll hear at least one of those at a jam near you!

Happy picking!!

Matt C Bruno

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Intro

Before we get into the chord charts, a quick primer on some common notation used in this book.

Review of Common Notation

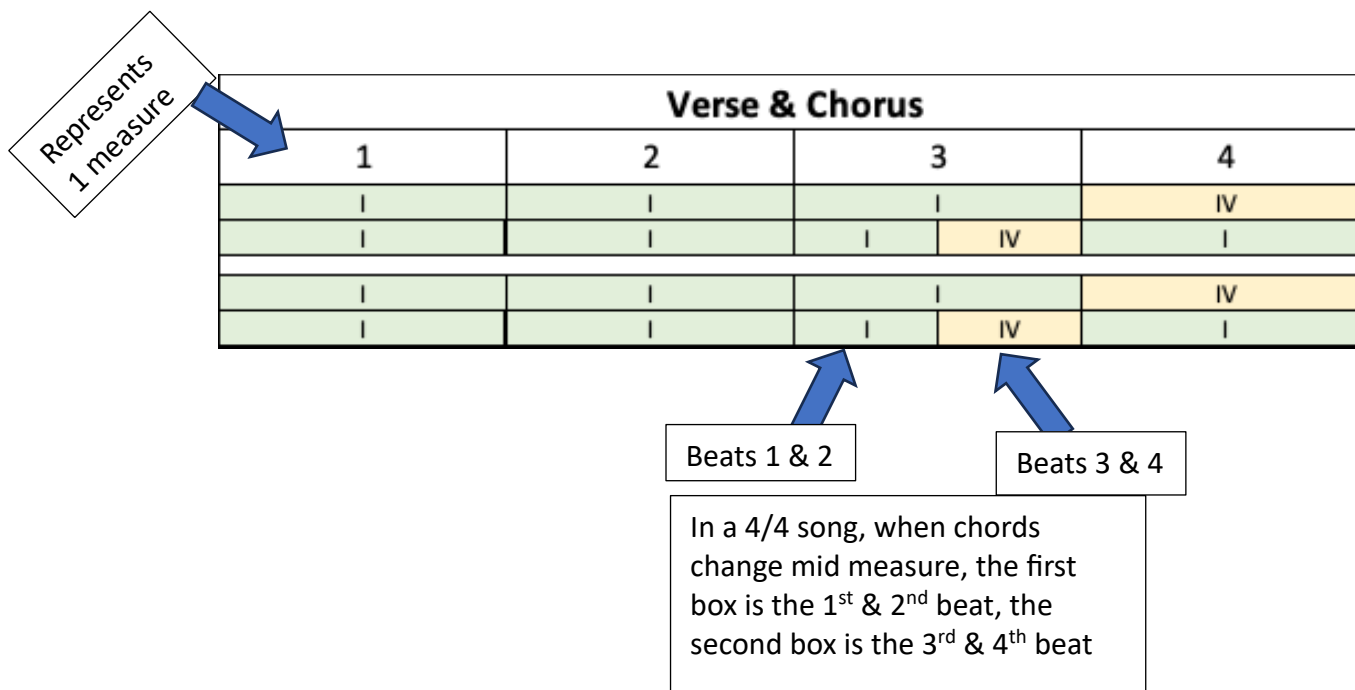
Nashville Numbering primer

Nashville numbering just refers to a simple way to communicate chord changes regardless of the key a song or tune will be played in. Ideally, you should be able to quickly figure out what number represents what tone in any given key. That said many, if not most, bluegrass jam songs are generally in the keys of G, A, C, and D – and most of those use only the 1 4 5 chords of the key. So if you're new to this system, start by just focusing on the 1 4 5 chords in those keys.

	Function	1 Major	2 Minor	3 Minor	4 Major	5 Dom7	6 Minor	7 Diminished
KEY	C	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
	G	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#
	D	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#
	A	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
	E	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
	B	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
	Gb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Cb	Db	Eb	F
	Db	Db	Eb	F	Gb	Ab	Bb	C
	Ab	Ab	Bb	C	Db	Eb	F	G
	Eb	Eb	F	G	Ab	Bb	C	D
	Bb	Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G	A
	F	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E

	Function	1 Major	4 Major	5 Dom7
KEY	C	C	F	G
	G	G	C	D
	D	D	G	A
	A	A	D	E
	E	E	A	B
	B	B	E	F#
	Gb	Gb	Cb	Db
	Db	Db	Gb	Ab
	Ab	Ab	Db	Eb
	Eb	Eb	Ab	Bb
	Bb	Bb	Eb	F
	F	F	Bb	C

In this book, you'll see **Nashville Numbering Charts** like the below. The numbers on top (1 2 3 4) represent a full measure. In a 4/4 song, one measure is equal to 4 beats. When song in 4/4 has a measure with 2 chords in it, the first chord would get the first two beats (1 & 2) while the second gets the other two (3 & 4). In a 3/4 waltz, one measure is equal to 3 beats. In this book, there are no songs that subdivide measures in 3/4 time – so they'll always represent a full measure.



1. Angel Band

This is a great sing along gospel song that's great for jams. The song is in a 3/4 waltz time, so remember to hit the "Boom, chuck, chuck" style of rhythm.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse			
1	2	3	4
I	I	IV	I
I	V	I	I
I	I	IV	I
I	V	I	I

Chorus			
1	2	3	4
V	V	I	I
V	V	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
I	V	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
I	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

Time: 3/4

G | G | C | G
My latest sun is sinking fast
G | D | G | G
My race is nearly run
G | G | C | G
My strongest trials now are past
G | D | G | G
My triumph has be-gun

D | D | G | G
Oh come angel band
D | D | G | G
Come and around me stand
C | C | G | G
Oh bear me away on your snowy wings
G | D | G | G
To my immortal home
C | C | G | G
Oh bear me away on your snowy wings
G | D | G | G
To my immortal home

Oh bear my longing heart to him
Who bled and died for me
Whose blood now cleanses from all sin
And gives me victory

Chorus

Angel Band

Arranged by Matt Bruno

Intro

A

B1

2

D D G G

23

oh come an - gel band

0 0 2 0 5 5

D D D D

27

come and a - around me stand oh

0 0 0 2 0 5 5

B2

C C G G

31

bear me a way on your snow white wings to

2 5 5 0 5 2 0 5 2 5

G D G G7

35

my im - mor - tal home oh

5 0 2 0 5 2 0 5 5

C C G G

39

bear me a - way on your snow white wings to

2 5 5 0 5 2 0 5 5 0

G D G G

43

my im - mor - tal home

5 0 2 0 5 0

2. Angeline the Baker *

Is it a fiddle tune or a song? It's both!! Do yourself a favor and listen to the Crooked Still version of this tune – it's a little different than standard but so good!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	I	I	IV
I	I	I	IV
I	I	I	IV
I	I	I	IV

Basic Chord Chart

D |D |D |G
 Angeline the baker, lives on the village green
 D |D |D G |D
 The way I always loved her, beats all you've ever seen
 D |D G
 Angeline the baker, Angeline I know
 D |D G |D
 Should have married Angeline, twenty years ago.

***Angeline the baker, age of 43
 Fed her sugar candy, but she still won't marry me
 Angeline the baker, Angeline I know
 Should have married Angeline, just twenty years ago***

Her father was a baker, his name was Uncle Sam
 I never can forget her, no matter where I am
 She said couldn't do hard work, because she is not stout
 Baked the biscuits every day and poured the coffee out

Chorus

I bought Angeline a brand new dress, neither black nor brown
 It was the color of a stormy skies, before the rain came down
 Sixteen horses in my team, the leader he was blind
 I dreamed that I was dying, I saw my Angeline

Chorus

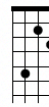
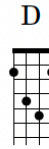
Angeline the Baker Basic Melody

Arranged By: Matt Bruno
G

A

Basic
Melody

♩ = 140



Ang el ine the bak er liv-es on the vill-age green

TAB: 5-2 | 0-2-5-0 | 2-5-5-2 | 0-2-5-2-0 | 2-5-2

D

D

D

G

D

D

5

The way that I love Ang-el - line beats all I've ever seen

TAB: 0-2-5-0 | 2-0-5-0 | 2-0-5-2 | 0-2-0-5-2 | 0-2-0-0-2-3

1. 2. 3

D

D

D

G

B

10

Ang - el - ine the bak - er Ang - el - ine I know

TAB: 5-2-0-5-0 | 2-0-5-0-2-3 | 5-2-0-5 | 2-2-2-0-2-3

3 3

D

D

D

G

D

D

14

Should have mar - ried. Ang-le-line just. twen-ty years a - go

TAB: 5-2-0-5-0 | 2-0-5-5-0 | 2-0-5-2 | 0-2-0-0-2-3 | 0-2-0-5-2

1. 2. 3

Big Sciota

Written by: Burl Hammons
 Arrangement by: Matt Bruno

Basic Melody
 Full Chords

A1

Chords: G, D, G, G, D, G

Tablature: 0-2-4 | .5-5 2-0 0-3 | 2-0 2-0 5-2-0 | 5-5 2-0 0-3 | 2 5-5 0-2-4

A2

Chords: G, C, D, G, G

Tablature: 5-5 0-2-3-5 | 5-7-7-7-7-7 2 3-2-0 | 5-2-0 5-2 | 5-5-5-5 0-2-4 | 5-5-5-5 0-2

B1

Chords: G, D, D, C

Tablature: 3-3-5-7-5-3 | 5-5-5-5 | 5-7-5-3-2-0 5 | 5-7-7-7 0-2

B2

Chords: C, Em, G, D, G, G

Tablature: 3-2-0 5 | 5-7-7-7 0-2 | 3-2-0 5-2-0 | 5-2 5-5-5-5 | 5-5-5-5 0-2-4

4. Big Spike Hammer

Great song for a jam. At the end of the verse, you'll see there's 5 measures in the last line of the verse. At the end of the verse, there's an extra measure of D before going to the chorus. Also, at the end, you may repeat the "big spike hammer" part a few times – just make sure everyone in the jam knows!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse					Chorus				
1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
I	I	I	vi			I	I	I	I
IV	IV	vi	vi			I	V	I	I
I	I	I	vi			I	I	I	I
IV	IV	vi	vi		V	I	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

|G |G |G |Em
 Can't you hear the ripple of my big spike hammer
 C |C |Em |Em
 Lord it's busting my side
 G |G |G |Em
 I've done all I can do to keep that woman
 C |C |Em |Em |D7
 Still she's never satisfied

|G |G |G |G
Hey hey Della Mae
 G |D |G |G
Why do you treat me this way
 |G |G |G |G
Hey hey Della Mae
 G |D |G |G
I'll get even some day

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

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 gonna be the death of me

Chorus

Ending
 Em |Em :||D |G
 Big spike hammer, Big spike hammer

Big Spike Hammer

Arranged by Matt Bruno

♩ = 150

A

G G G Em

Can't you hear the rip - ple of my big spike ham - er?

C C Em Em

6 Lord it's bust - in' my side I've done

A

G G G Em

10 all I can do to keep that wo - man


C C Em Em D

14 Still she's not sat - is - fied

Big Spike Hammer

B

D G G G

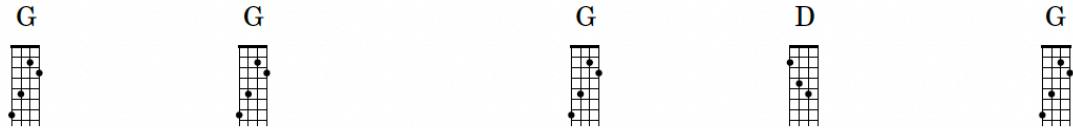


19

Hey, hey Del - la Mae,

TAB 2 2 2 0 5

G G G D G

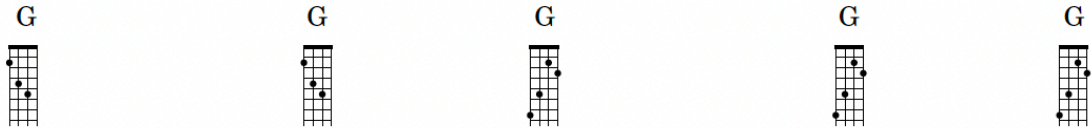


23

why do you treat me this a way

TAB 2 2 2 2 0 5 2 0 5 5

G G G G G

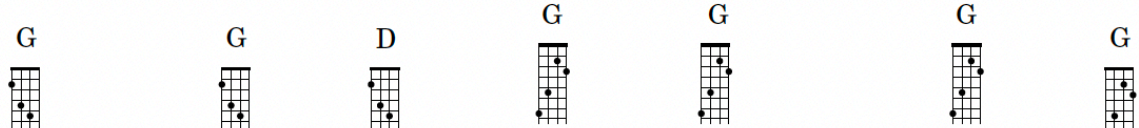


27

Hey, hey Del - la Mae,

TAB 2 2 2 0 5

G G D G G G



32

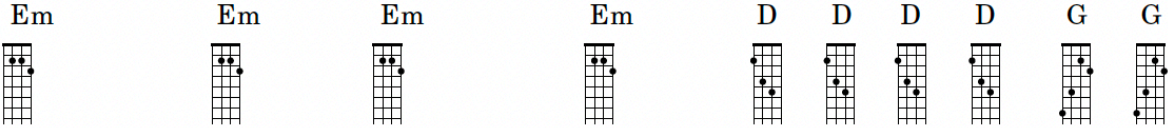
I'll get e - van some day

1. 2.

TAB 2 2 2 0 5 2 0 5 2 2 2

Ending

Em Em Em Em D D D D G G



38

Big spike ham-mer Big spike Ham-mer

TAB 2 2 5 2 2 2 5 2 0

5. Dark Hollow

This song straddles genres a bit. While it's a bluegrass song for sure, the Grateful Dead and other similar jam bands have covered it – so it's got a little broader audience appeal. Songs with a wider appeal like this can help the Grinner's at the jam get more involved. Remember, the Grinner's (those just listening to your jam) are just as important to a success jam as the jammers are (especially when the jam is at a bar or similar).

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	V	I	I
I	V	I	I
I	I7	IV	IV7
I	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

 C |G |C |C
I'd rather be in some dark hollow
 C |F |C |C
Where the sun don't ever shine
 C |C7 |F |F7
Than to be home alone and knowing that you're gone
 C |G |C |C
Would cause me to lose my mind

***So blow your whistle freight train
Take me far on down the track
I'm goin' away I'm leavin' today
I'm goin', but I ain't comin' back***

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 your love on my mind

Chorus x2

Dark Hollow

Arranged by Matt Bruno

♩ = 120

C G C C

I'd rat-her be in some dark hol-low where the

TAB: 2 2 3 | 5 5 | 5 5 | 0 5 | 3 5

6 C F C C

sun don't nev-er shine than to

TAB: 0 5 | 3 0 | 5 | 3 5

10 C C7 F F7

be here a-lone just know-ing that you're gone it would

TAB: 0 0 3 | 5 0 | 3 3 3 0 | 3 3 3

14 C G C C

cause me to lose my mind

TAB: 3 5 2 | 2 0 | 5 | 2 2 3

Foggy Mountain Top

Arranged by Matt Bruno

B

G G7 C G G D

Well if I was on some fog-gy moun-tain top I'd sail a-way to the west I'd

G G7 C G G D G

6

sail a-round this whole wide world to the girl I love the best If

A

G G7 C G G D

10

I had lis-tened to what mam-a said I would not be here to day Just

G G7 C G G G

14

ly-ing round this old jail-house and wast-ing my sweet life a-way

The Gift I Left Behind Me

Arranged by Matt C Bruno

A $\text{♩} = 120$

G G G D

Last. Night I slept in a syc-a-more tree with the wind and the rain all around me to-

6

G C D G

night I'll sleep in a warm fea-her bed with the girl I left be-hind me— oh

B 10

G G G D

the girl I left the girl I left the girl I left behind me If e-

14

G C D G

ver I cross that bridge a— gain I'll pick her up be-hind me—

8. How Mountain Girls Can Love

Generally, this song starts with an instrumental kick on the verse then moves right into the chorus with vocals followed by another verse / chorus before the solo breaks. If you you'd prefer to just start with the chorus, make sure you do the pantoates intro over the I (G) chord before starting on the IV (C) for the chorus.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse				Chorus			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	I	V	I	IV	I	V	I
I	I	V	I	IV	I	V	I

Basic Chord Chart

C | *G*
Get down boys, go back home
D | *G*
back to the girl you love.
C | *G*
Treat her right, never wrong
D | *G*
How mountain girls can love.

G | *G*
Riding in the night in the high cold wind
| *D* | *G*
on the trail of that old lonesome pine.
G | *G*
Thinking of you and feeling so blue
| *D* | *G*
Wondering why I left you behind.

Chorus

Remember the night when we strolled down the lane
Our hearts were gay and happy then.
You whispered to me as I held you close
I hope this night will never end.

Chorus

How Mountain Girls Can Love

Arranged by Matt Bruno

A

G G D G

Rid-ing the night in the high cold wind on the trail of that old lone-some pine

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 2 2 2 | 0 0 2 0 5 2 | 5

G G D G

Think ing of you and feel - ing so blue wondering why I left you be hind

TAB: 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 2 | 0 0 2 0 5 2 | 5

B

C G D G

Get down boys_ go back home back to the girl you love

TAB: 3 3 3 0 | 5 5 2 | 0 0 0 2 0 | 5

C G D G

treat her ri-ght nev-er wrong how moun-tain girls can love

TAB: 3 3 5 0 | 5 5 2 | 0 0 0 2 0 | 5

9. I Saw the Light

Such a classic jam song that should be in everyone's songbook! This is a great sing along too so make a point to memorize the lyrics (or at least the chorus)!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	I	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
I	I	I	I
I	I	V	I

Basic Chord Chart

G |G |G |G
I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
C |C |G |G
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
G |G |G |G
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
G |G |D |G
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

G |G |G |G
I saw the light I saw the light
C |C |G |C
No more in darkness no more night
G |G |G |G
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
G |G |D |G
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

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.

Chorus

I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

Chorus

I Saw the Light

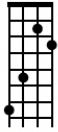
Traditional Arranged by Matt Bruno

Chorus

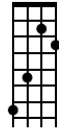
A

Basic Melody

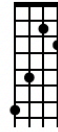
G



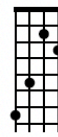
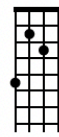
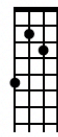
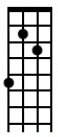
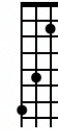
G



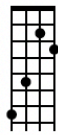
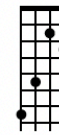
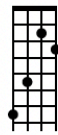
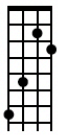
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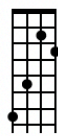
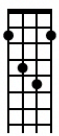
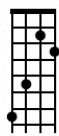
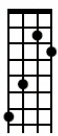
G



5



9



13

I Saw The Light

B
Verse
Basic Melody

G G G G

17

C C C G

21

G G G G

25

G G D G

29

10. Little Liza Jane *

This tune is incredibly fun to play fast. A great part about this tune is you can essentially make up your own lyrics if you need to stretch it out a bit. The version below is what I usually sing – which include a few made up lyrics I decided to keep.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
		v	

Basic Chord Chart

A |A |A |A
I gotta girl and you got none, Little Liza Jane
A |A |E |A
My little gal she call me hun, Little Liza Jane
My little girl she's sweet as pie, Little Liza Jane
She's the apple of my eye, Little Liza Jane

Oh sweet Liza, Little Liza Jane
Oh sweet Liza, Little Liza Jane

My little girl lives in Baltimore, Little Liza Jane
Dog and children run round that door, Little Liza Jane
The stars are grey when she's away, Little Liza Jane
And the sun never sets when she stays, Little Liza Jane

Chorus

My little girl's from New Orleans, Little Liza Jane
She's the prettiest thing I've ever seen, Little Liza Jane
She drinks her liquor and has a ball, Little Liza Jane
And when we're alone she gives me all, Little Liza Jane

Chorus

Of all the girls there's one I love, Little Liza Jane
When she's at home there's singing doves, Little Liza Jane
When the sun goes down & the moon comes out, Little Liza Jane
That's when I begin to shout, Little Liza Jane

Chorus

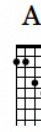
All her love she gives to me, Little Liza Jane
And all of mine she has from me, Little Liza Jane
Wedding bells they gonna ring, Little Liza Jane
Just the thought of her makes me sing, Little Liza Jane

Little Liza Jane

Arranged By Matt Bruno

♩ = 220

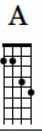
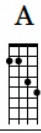
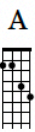
A



I gotta gal and you got none little Liz - a Jane

TAB: 0-2 | 4-0-2-0 | 4-0-2-0 | 4-0-2 | 0-0-2

6

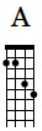
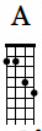


I gotta gal she call me hun_ little Liz - a Jane Jane

TAB: 4-0-2-0 | 4-0-2-0 | 4-4-2 | 0-0-2 | 0-0

1. 2.

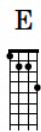
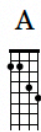
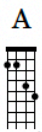
B



Oh sweet Liz - a little Liz - a Jane

TAB: 5-0 | 2-0 | 4-0-2 | 0-0

15



Oh sweet Liz - a little Liz - a Jane Jane

TAB: 5-0 | 2-0 | 4-4-2 | 0-0 | 0-0-2

1. 2.

Mountain Dew

Arranged By Matt Bruno

A

Down the road from me there's an old hol - low tree where you lay a dol-lar down

B

Go a-round the bend and then come back a-gain there's a jug full of that old moun-tain dew They call it that good ol moun-tain dew and the men that re-fuse it are few I'll hush up my mug if you fill up my cup with that good ol moun - tain dew

12. Nine Pound Hammer

One of my favorite jam tunes, especially when played a bit too fast! This song always reminds me of the Tuesday Hoedown on the Hill Jam in San Diego and especially of Tyler Tenbrock's singing. The verse / chorus are the same making it easy for beginners.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	I	IV	IV
I	V	I	I
I	I	IV	IV
I	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

Well this nine pound hammer Is a little too heavy
for my size Buddy for my size

*Roll on, Buddy don't you roll so slow,
How can I roll when the wheels won't go?*

It's a long way to Harlan, and a long way to Hazard
Just to get a little booze, just to get a little booze

Chorus

There ain't one hammer, That's in this tunnel
That can ring like mine, that can ring like mine

Chorus

I'm going to the mountain, just to see my baby
And I ain't coming back, no I ain't coming back

Chorus

Well the nine pound hammer Is a little too heavy
for my size Buddy for my size

Chorus

Nine Pound Hammer

Basic Melody

Arranged By: Matt Bruno
C

A

$\text{♩} = 120$

G G G C

This nine pound ham - mer is a lit - tle too heav - y

0 0 2 5 5 2 2 2 2 0 5 2

C G D G

5 bud - dy for my size bud - dy for my size

5 5 0 5 2 0 0 0 2 5 5

B

G G G C

9 So roll on bud - dy don't you roll so slow

5 5 0 5 2 2 2 0 5 2

C G D G

13 How can I Roll when the wheels won't go?

1 5 5 2 0 0 0 2 5 5

13. Old Home Place

While this song has a few “odd” chords for bluegrass, like the III7 or II chord, it’s still a common song and a great one to make sure you have down. For a more “chop” sound, try just playing double stops instead of full chords

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse				Chorus			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	III7	IV	I	V	V	I	I
I	I	V	V	II	II	V	V
I	III7	IV	I	I	III7	IV	I
I	V	I	V	I	V	I	V

Basic Chord Chart

A | C#7 | D | A
 It's been ten long years since I left my home
 A | A | E | E
 In the holler where I was born
 A | C#7 | D | A
 Where the cool fall nights make the wood smoke rise
 | A | E | A | A
 And the fox hunter blows his horn

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

E | E | A | A
What have they done to the old home place?
B | B | E | E
Why did they tear it down?
A | C#7 | D | A
And why did I leave my plow in the field?
A | E | A | A
And look for a job in the town?

Well, the girl ran off with somebody else
 The tariffs took all my pay
 And here I stand where the old home stood
 Before they took it away

Now the geese 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 (tag out or solos and repeat chorus)

Old Home Place

Written By: Dean Webb & Mitch Jayne

Arranged By: Matt Bruno

Basic Melody

A1

Chords: A, C#7, D, A

It's been ten girl long ran years off since with i left my home in the
 else and the

Tab: 0-2 | 4-4 | 2-2 | 0-0-4 | 2-2-4

Chords: A, A, E, E

6
 hol - lar where i was born where the
 tar - rifs took all my pay and

Tab: 0-0 | 4-2-0 | 2- | 0-2

A2

Chords: A, C#7, D, A

10
 cool here fall i nights stand make the wood smoke rise and the
 here i stand where the old home stood be - fore

Tab: 4-4 | 2-2-2 | 0-4 | 2-2-4

Chords: A, E, A, A

14
 fox hunt-er blows his horn Well the
 they took it away away his horn

Tab: 0-0-0 | 4-2-0 | 0-0-0 | 0-0-2

Old Home Place

Basic Melody

B

E E A A

19

what have they done with the old home place

TAB 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 0 0 0

B B E E

23

and why did they tear it down Tell me

TAB 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2 2 0 0 2

A3 A C#7 D A

27

why did I leave my plow in the field and

TAB 4 4 2 2 2 0 0 4 2 2 4

A E A A

31

look for a job in the town

TAB 0 0 0 4 2 0 0 0 0 2

14. Old Slew Foot

One of the first bluegrass songs I ever learned. In my opinion, this is an under called song at most jams but it's such great, easy song that should be revived! Please play this song more!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus					Chorus				
1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
I	I	I	IV	I	V	I	V	I	I
I	I	I	IV	I	I	I	I	IV	I

Basic Chord Chart

A | A
 High on a mountain top what do I see?
 A | D A
 Bear tracks, bear tracks lookin' back at me
 A | A
 Better get your rifles, boy, before it's too late
 A | D A
 The bear's got a little pig, and he's headed through the gate

E | A
Well, he's big around the middle and he's broad across the rump
E | A
He's going ninety miles an hour, takin' thirty feet a jump
A | A
He ain't never been caught, he ain't never been treed
A | D A
Some folks say he's a lot like me

I saved up my money and bought me some bees
 And they started making honey way up in the trees
 Cut down my tree and my honey's all gone
 Ol' Slewfoots done made himself at home

Chorus

Winter's coming on and it's twenty below
 And the rivers froze over, so where can he go?
 We'll chase him up the gully and run him in a well,
 And shoot him in the bottom just to listen to him yell

Chorus

Old Slew Foot

Arranged By Matt Bruno

A

A A A D A

High on a moun-tain top what do I see? bear tracks bear tracks look-in back at me

TAB: 0-0-0-2-0-4 | 4-2-0-4 | 4-4-2-0 | 4-0-0-2-0

5

A A A D A

bet-ter get your rif-les boy before it's to late Bear's got a lit-tle pig head-ed for the gate well he's

TAB: 0-0-0-0-2-0-4 | 4-2-0-4 | 4-4-4-2-0-4 | 4-0-0-2-0-0-0

B

E A

big a-round the mid-dle and he's broad a-round the rump go-ing

TAB: 2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2 | 4-4-2-2-0-0-0

11

E A

nin-ty miles an hour and tak-in thir-ty feet a jump he ain't

TAB: 2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2 | 4-4-2-2-0-0-0

13

A A A D A

nev er be en caught ain't nev-er been treed some folks say he looks a lot like me

TAB: 0-0-0-0-2-0 | 4-2-0-4 | 4-4-2-0-4-4 | 0-2-0

15. Rabbit in a Log

While this is a traditional song, the chorus isn't a "traditional chorus". The trickiest part of this song is remembering the lyrics for the chorus as they vary. The Thile / Daves version on Sleep With One Eye Open is a great take on this song.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse				Chorus			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	I	I	V	IV	I	I	V
I	I	I	V	I	I	I	V

Basic Chord Chart

G |G
There's a rabbit in the log and I ain't got my dog
G |D7
How will I get him I know
G |G
I'll get me a briar and twist it in his hair
G D |G
That way I'll get him I know

C |G
I know (yes I know) I know (I surely know)
G |D
That's how I'll get him I know
G |G
I'll get me a briar and twist it in his hair
G D |G
That way I'll get him I know

I'll build me a fire and I'll cook that old hare
Roll him in the flames and make him brown
Have a feast here tonight while the moon is shining bright
And find me a place to lie down

To lie down (to lie down) to lie down (to lie down)
Find me a place to lie down
Have a feast here tonight while the moon is shining bright
And find me a place to lie down

I'm going down that track with my coat and my bag
Soles on my shoes are nearly gone
A little ways ahead there's a farmer's shed
That's where I'll rest my weary bones

Weary bones (weary bones) weary bones (your lazy bones)
That's where I'll rest my weary bones
A little way's ahead there's a farmer's shed
That's where I'll rest my weary bones

Rabbit In A Log

Arranged By Matt Bruno

A

G G G D

There's a rab-it in a log and I ain't got my dog how will I get him I know I'll I'll

TAB 5 2 | 5-5-5-2-5-5-5 | 0 5-2 5 | 2-5-5 0 5-2 | 0 5 2

G G G D G

get me a briar and twist it in his hair that way I'll get him I know

TAB 5 5 2 5 5 5 | 0 5 2 5 | 2 5 5 2 2 0 | 5 2

B

C G G D

I kn-ow I kno-w that way I'll get him I know I'll I'll

TAB 3 3 3 3 0 | 5 5 5 5 | 2 5 5 0 5 2 | 0 5 2

G G G D G

get me a briar and twist it in his hair that way I'll get him I know

TAB 5 5 2 5 5 5 | 0 5 2 5 | 2 5 5 2 2 0 | 5 5 2

16. Rocky Top

This is a great jam song but watch out for the extra measures in the Chorus when repeating "rocky top Tennessee". Also, the ending is great! For solos, I like having one person play over the A part and another play over the B part.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse						Chorus			
1	2		3		4	1	2	3	4
I	IV	I	iv	V	I	vi	V	bVII	I
I	IV	I	iv	V	I	IV	I	I	bVII
I	IV	I	iv	V	I	I	bVII	I	

Basic Chord Chart

G | C G | Em D | G
 Wish that I was on old Rocky Top down in the Tennessee hills
 G | C G | Em D | G
 Ain't no smoggy smoke on Rocky Top ain't no telephone bills

G | C G | Em D | G
 Once I had a girl on Rocky Top half bear the other half cat
 G | C G | Em D | G
 Wild as a mink but sweet as soda pop I still dream about that

Em | *D* | *F* | *C*
Rocky Top you'll always be home sweet home to me
C | *G* | *G* | *F* | *G* | *G* | *F* | *G*
Good ole Rocky Top Rocky Top Tennessee Rocky Top Tennessee

Once two strangers climbed old Rocky Top looking for a moonshine still
 Strangers ain't come down from Rocky Top I reckon they never will

Corn won't grow at all on Rocky Top the dirt's too rocky by far
 That's why all the folks on Rocky Top get their corn from a jar

Chorus

I've had years of cramped up city life trapped like a duck in a pen
 All I know is it's a pity life can't be simple again

Chorus

Outro

F | *G* | *F* | *C* | *G*
Tennesseeeee---eeeeee---eee

Rocky Top

Traditional
Arranged by Matt Bruno

♩ = 120

Simple Melody & Chords

A

Wish that I was on ol' Rock-y Top Down in the Ten-ness-ee hills
Once I had a girl on Rock-y Top Half bear the other half cat

Ain't no smog-gy smoke on Rock-y top ain't no tel-e-phone bills
Wild as a mink sweet as so da pop I still dream a-bout that

B

Rock-y Top you'll al-ways be home sweet ho-me to me

Good ol' Rock-y Top Rock-y Top Ten-ness-ee Rock-y Top Ten-ness-ee

Rocky Top

Outro

20

Chord diagrams for G, G, F, F.

ee ee ee ee

TAB 5 3

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 20 through 23. At the top, four chord diagrams are shown for G, G, F, and F. Below them is a four-measure staff. The first two measures are G chords, and the last two are F chords. The melody in the treble clef consists of a half-note G in the first measure, a half-note G in the second, a half-note F in the third, and a half-note F in the fourth. A slur connects the notes in pairs (G-G and F-F). The bass line is shown in a TAB format with fret numbers 5 and 3. The word 'Outro' is written to the left of the staff, and the measure number '20' is at the beginning.

24

Chord diagrams for C, C, G, G, G.

ee ee ee ee

TAB 2 0

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 24 through 27. At the top, five chord diagrams are shown for C, C, G, G, and G. Below them is a four-measure staff. The first two measures are C chords, and the last two are G chords. The melody in the treble clef consists of a half-note G in the first measure, a half-note G in the second, a half-note G in the third, and a half-note G in the fourth. A slur connects the notes in pairs (G-G and G-G). The bass line is shown in a TAB format with fret numbers 2 and 0. The measure number '24' is at the beginning.

17. Roll In My Sweet Baby's Arms

This song is a great staple song to have down. The progression is a super common one, so you'll see it in many other songs.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	I	I	I
I	I	V	V
I	I7	IV	IV7
V	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

G | G | G | G
I ain't gonna work on the rail-road
G | G | D | D
Ain't gonna work on the farm
G | G7 | C | C7
Lay around the shack, Till the mail train comes back
 | D | D | G | G
And roll in my sweet baby's arms

Roll in my sweet baby's arms

Roll in my sweet baby's arms

Lay round the shack, Till the mail train comes back

And roll in my sweet baby's arms

Now where were you last
Friday night While I was lying in jail
Walking the streets with another man
Wouldn't even go my bail

CHORUS

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

Roll In My Sweet Baby's Arms

Arranged by Matt Bruno

Verse

Chorus

Verse

Verse

I ain't gon na work on the rail road ain't gon na work on the farm Gon na

Chorus

Lay a round the tracks till the mail train gets back and I'm roll in my sweet ba bys arms

Chorus

Roll in my sweet ba by's arms roll in my sweet ba by's arms Gon na

Verse

lay a round the tracks til the mail train comes back and i'm roll in my sweet bab by's arms

Chords: G, G7, C, C7, D

Tablature: 5, 2-2-2-2-0-5, 2-5, 2-2-2-2-0-5, 0-2-0, 5-5-5-0-2-2-2, 3-3-5-2-2-2, 0-0-4-2-2-0, 5, 2-2-2-2-0-5, 5, 2-2-2-2-0-5, 0-2-0, 5-5-5-0-2-2-2, 3-3-5-2-2-2, 0-0-4-2-2-0, 5

18. Salty Dog Blues

One of my favorite songs to call – partly because the song is a VI II V I which is rare in bluegrass, but mostly because of the nearly infinite variations on the lyrics. I've kept the lyrics in this guide clean, but there's plenty of "off color" lyrics to choose from (contact me for the "dirty" version!). Plus, this song doubles as the Oscar Meyer Weiner theme song – double win!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	VI	II	II
V	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

G | E
Standing on the corner with the low-down blues
A | A
Great big hole in the bottom of my shoes
D | D | G | G
Honey let me be your Salty Dog

***Let me be your Salty Dog
Or I won't be your man at all
Honey let me be your Salty Dog***

Listen here Sal well I know you
Run down stocking and a worn out shoe
Honey let me be your Salty Dog

Chorus

Down in the wildwood sitting on a log
Finger on the trigger and eye on the hog
Honey let me be your Salty Dog

Chorus

Pulled the trigger and they said go
Shot fell over in Mexico
Honey let me be your Salty Dog

Chorus

Salty Dog Blues

Arranged By Matt Bruno

A

G E A A

Stand-in on the cor-ner with the low down blues a great big hole in the bot-tom of my shoes

5

D D G G

Hon-ey let me be your salt - y dog

B

G E A A

Let me be__ your salt - y dog__ or I won't be your man at all__

D D G G

Hon-ey let me be your salt - y dog

19. There's More Pretty Girls Than One

A great simple tune. I like playing this song on the slower side most often, but it sounds good sped up too!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	V	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
IV	IV	I	vi
I	V	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

C | *G* | *C* | *C*
There's more pretty girls than one
F | *F* | *C* | *C*
More pretty girls than one
F | *F* | *C* | *Am*
Any old town that I ramble around in
C | *G* | *C* | *C*
And there's more pretty girls than one

Mama talked to me last night
She gave me some good advice
She said "Son, you'd better quit this old ramblin' all around
And marry you a sweet lovin' wife"

Chorus

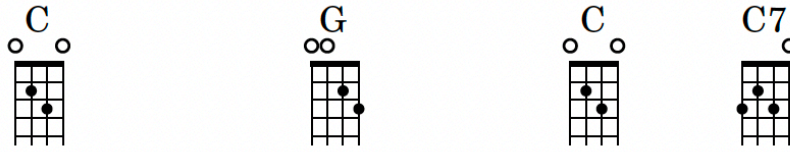
Honey, look down that old lonesome road
Hang down your pretty head and cry
'cause I'm thinking all about them pretty little gals
And a-hopin' that I'll never die

Chorus

There's More Pretty Girls Than One Melody

Arranged by Matt Bruno

Standard



3

There's more pret - ty girls than one

5 2 5 0 5 2 0 5

6

More pret - ty girls than one

3 3 3 3 0 5

10

An - y old town that I ram - ble a - round in There's

0 3 5 3 0 0 5 5 0 5 5 5

14

more pret - ty girls th - an one

2 5 0 5 2 0 5 5

20. White Freight Liner

A great Townes Van Zandt song. This song starts on the IV (F) chord, but remember your potatoes intro should start on the I (C) before going to the IV to start the song. There's no real "chorus" in this song aside from the repeating "white freight liner won't you steal away my mind" part.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
IV	IV	I	I
IV	IV	I	I
V	IV	I	I

Basic Chord Chart

```
F                               |F                               |C           |C
I'm going out on the highway, listen to them big trucks whine
F                               |F                               |C           |C
I'm going out on the highway, listen to them big trucks whine
  G                               |F                               |C           |C
  Ah, white freight liner, won't you steal away my mind
```

```
Well, New Mexico ain't bad, Lord, the people here they treat you kind
Ah, New Mexico ain't bad, Lord, the people here they treat you kind
  Ah, white freight liner won't you steal away my mind
```

```
Well, it's bad news from Houston half my friends are dying
Well, it's bad news from Houston half my friends are dying
  White freight liner won't you steal away my mind
```

```
Lordy Lord, I'm gonna ramble till I get back to where I came
Oh, Lord, I'm gonna ramble till I get back to where I came
  That white freight liner's gonna haul away my brain
```

White Freightliner Blues

Arranged By Matt Bruno

F
F
C
C

5 0 2
3 3 3 3 0
3 3 3 3 0
5
5 0 2

I'm go-ing out on the high wat listen to them big tucks whine I'm go-ing

F
F
C
C

3 3 3 3 0
3 3 3 3 0
7
5

out on the high - way listen to them big trucks whine

G
F
C
C

5 5 0 5 5 5
3 3 5 3
3
5

White frieght - lin - er won't you steal a - way my mind New Mex - ico

21. Will the Circle Be Unbroken

A classic song that everyone should be able to play. The vi (Em) in this tune is usually played – but I know some beginner books don't include it. If you'd rather not include the vi, you can just play the I (G) instead.

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus				
1	2	3	4	
I	I7	IV	I	
I	vi	I	V	I

Basic Chord Chart

G | G7
I was standing by my window
C | G
On a cold and cloudy day
G | Em
When I saw the hearse come rolling
G | D7 G
For to carry my mother away.

***Will the circle be unbroken?
By and by Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky.***

Well, I went back home, home was lonely
For my mother she was gone
And all my family there was cryin'
For our home felt sad and alone.

Chorus

Undertaker, undertaker
Won't you please drive slow
For that lady you are haulin'
Lord, I hate to see her go.

Chorus

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Arranged By Matt Bruno

Chords: G, G7, C, G

I was stand-ing at my win-dow on a cold and cloud-y da-y When I

Chords: G, Em, G, D, G

saw that herse come roll-ing for to car-ry my moth-er a way Will the

Chords: G, G7, C, G, G

cir-cle be un bro-ken by and ny lord by and by-e There's a bet-ter home a-

Chords: Em, G, D, G

wait-ing in the sky lord in the sky I was

22. Worried Man Blues

Great call and response song. The verse and chorus are the same progression which makes this pretty easy. The verses are essentially repeating the same line 3x (it takes a worried man to sing a worried song x3 etc), so if you need to add verses, it's pretty easy!

Nashville Numbering Chart

Verse & Chorus			
1	2	3	4
I	I	IV	I
I	I	V	I

Basic Chords

G | *G*
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
C | *G*
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
G | *G*
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,
D7 | *G*
I'm worried now, but I won't be worried long.

I went across the river, I laid down to sleep,
I went across the river, I laid down to sleep,
I went across the river, I laid down to sleep,
When I woke up, with shackles on my feet.

Chorus

Twenty-nine links of chain around my leg, x3
And on each link, the initial of my name.

Chorus

I asked the judge what might be my fine, x3
Twenty-one years on the Rocky Mountain Line.

Chorus

The train that I ride is sixteen coaches long, x3
The girl I love is on that train and gone.

Chorus

If anyone asks you who composed this song, x3
Tell it was I and I sing it all day long.

Chorus

Worried Man's Blues

Arranged By Matt Bruno

B

G G C G

Well it takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song it takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song well it

0-2 | 5-5-5-5-5-0 | 2-2-2-0-5-5 | 2-2-2-5-5-5 | 2-5-5-2-0-0-2

G G D G

6 takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song I wor-ry now but I won't be wor-ried long I

5-5-5-5-5-0 | 2-2-2-0-5-5-4-5 | 0-0-0-2-0-5-2 | 5-0-2

A

G G C G

10 went a-cross the river and I laid me down to sleep I went a-cross the river and I laid me down to sleep I

5-5-5-5-5-5 | 2-2-2-0-5-5 | 2-2-2-5-5-5-5 | 2-5-5-2-0-0-2

G G D G

14 went a-cross the river and I laid me down to sleep when I woke up with the shack les on my feet

5-5-5-5-5-0 | 2-2-2-0-5-5-4-5 | 0-0-0-2-0-5-2 | 5-0-2

Happy Picking
That's all for now.

Contact me on my site www.mattcbruno.com if you have questions or comments about this jam-book.