

1.

31

D A7 D

35

A7 D

40

A7 D

45

A7 D

50

D A7 D7 G

54

D A7 D7 G

58

D A7 D7 G

Black Mountain Rag - Traditional
D

62

D A7

66

Another tune first popularized among bluegrass musicians by Doc Watson. (As a matter of fact, four Watson standards in this collection are all in consecutive alphabetical order, not intentional.) Doc generally picked the tune in C, and I arranged it in D to accommodate a guitar picking friend who loved the Watson version. He would capo the guitar on 2, and we would be in the same key. I also worked up a version in G, which when capoed on 2 came out in A, where a lot of fiddle players do perform it. I published that arrangement in a collection called "Fiddle Tunes for Bluegrass Banjo," back in the seventies. One reviewer said the the arrangements were nice, but not really bluegrass. I'm way too old and tired now to argue about it.

This arrangement owes some of its feel, though not the notes, to Don Reno's superb Green Mountain Hop, which he recorded in the fifties with Red Smiley, and is basically the same tune. It was also in open D tuning. It was on the same LP that had Limehouse Blues, Banjo Signal, Remington Ride, Beer Barrel Polka, and When You and I Were Young, Maggie. Also his version of Home Sweet Home, in D tuning, where he got some of the notes by twisting up the second and third strings, without the benefit of cams. This was all real picking. I have to get my turntable fixed.