



SLOWER THAN DIRT TUNEBOOK

This tunebook contains tunes commonly played at the Slower Than Dirt old-time jam in Seattle, where “commonly” means “played more than twice since I’ve been keeping records”. It is almost certainly missing a few commonly-played tunes which haven’t been transcribed yet. For the full logs of what’s been played, see <http://slowerthandirt.org/tune-list/>

I am trying to make fresh transcriptions of all these tunes, but in some cases I have cribbed from a previously-published book. Usually I will have made some minor changes to those tunes to reflect more closely how they’re played at the jam, and I have included attribution notes for tunes I didn’t transcribe by ear. My intent is to eventually replace any transcriptions borrowed from books with transcriptions entirely my own. This is a work in progress.

These transcriptions are mostly stripped-down versions suitable for learning the basic tune, not exact transcriptions of any particular performance. As such, they should definitely not be used as a canonical source of how any tune “should” sound. Add your own variations, search out YouTube videos and recordings, and learn from other players in your area how they play it. The goal of this tunebook is to be descriptive, not prescriptive.

Tools used in the preparation of this tunebook include abcm2ps, EasyABC and L^AT_EX. The idea came from Paul Hardy’s tunebooks at <http://www.pghardy.net/concertina/tunebooks/>. There is a GitHub repository of files which should (with some modification) be sufficient for you to create your own set of tunebooks at <https://github.com/rjl20/abc-tunebook>

The current version of this tunebook as well as other collections I’ve prepared, in both ABC and PDF formats, is available at <http://slowerthandirt.org/tunebooks/> – check the version in the page footers against the version listed on the site before downloading a new copy.



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Commonly-played tunes missing from this tunebook:

- Boatman
- Shady Grove
- Big Scioto

Tunes By Key

Key of A

Grey Eagle 5

Key of A dor

Cluck Old Hen..... 4

Key of A mix

Old Joe Clark 9
 Red Haired Boy 10
 Sandy Boys..... 11

Key of C

I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets..... 6
 * Wildwood Flower..... 6

Key of D

Angeline the Baker 1
 Arkansas Traveler..... 1

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine 3
 * Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss 12
 John Lover's Gone..... 7
 Johnny Don't Get Drunk 7
 Liberty 8
 Needle Case 8
 Over the Waterfall..... 9
 Soldier's Joy 11
 St. Anne's Reel..... 12
 * Suzanna Gal..... 12
 Western Country 12
 Whiskey Before Breakfast..... 13
 Wind That Shakes The Barley, The 13

Key of G

Barlow Knife 2
 Blackberry Blossom..... 2
 Boogerman 3
 Girl I Left Behind Me, The 4
 Ida Red..... 5
 Red Wing 10

Tunes By Title

Angeline the Baker (D)	1	Needle Case (D)	8
Arkansas Traveler (D)	1	Old Joe Clark (A mix)	9
Barlow Knife (G)	2	Over the Waterfall (D)	9
Blackberry Blossom (G)	2	Red Haired Boy (A mix)	10
Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine (D)	3	Red Wing (G)	10
Boogerman (G)	3	Sandy Boys (A mix)	11
Cluck Old Hen (A dor)	4	Soldier's Joy (D)	11
* Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss (D)	12	St. Anne's Reel (D)	12
Girl I Left Behind Me, The (G)	4	* Suzanna Gal (D)	12
Grey Eagle (A)	5	Western Country (D)	12
Ida Red (G)	5	Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)	13
I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets (C)	6	* Wildwood Flower (C)	6
John Lover's Gone (D)	7	Wind That Shakes The Barley, The (D)	13
Johnny Don't Get Drunk (D)	7		
Liberty (D)	8		

Angeline the Baker

D

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.5

More than half the people I encounter play this tune in the reverse order of the two parts shown. The tune derives from Steven Foster's "Angelina Baker." My reading of the original is that this order is closest to the original, for what that's worth. Also, I like the V chord at the end of each part as shown, but this is for you to decide yourself. -- G.S.

Arkansas Traveler

D

5

8

13

Aural Source: Sarah Comer

Barlow Knife

G

9

17

Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.25
Chords from Complete Tractor

Blackberry Blossom

G

5

9

13

Written Source: The Fiddler's Fakebook, p.47

March
D

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine

Musical score for 'Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine' in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, D, A, D, G, A, D, A, D, G, A, D, A. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

Boogerman

Musical score for 'Boogerman' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, Em. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.30

Cluck Old Hen

A dor

5

Written Source: Fiddler's Fakebook, p.70

The Girl I Left Behind Me

G

5

8

13

I like the Em, but that's probably more of a contra-ish thing than old-time.

Grey Eagle

A

4

7

9

12

15

1 E A

2 E A

D.C.

Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.73
Chords from Brody -- find better fit?

Ida Red

G

5

1 D G

2 D G

Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.16

I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets

Wildwood Flower

Music by J.P. Webster

Words by Maud Irving

C

C G C

I'll twine 'mid the ring - lets of my ra - - ven black hair

4 C G

The li - - lies so pale and the ro - ses so fair

8 C F C

The myr - - tle so bright with an em - - er - ald hue

12 C G C

And the pale ar - on - - a - - tus with eyes of bright blue.

16 C F C

The myr - - tle so bright with an em - - er - ald hue

20 C G C

And the pale ar - on - - a - - tus with eyes of bright blue.

I'll sing and I'll dance, my laugh shall be gay
 I'll cease this wild weeping, drive sorrow away.
 Tho' my heart is now breaking, he never shall know
 That his name made me tremble and my pale cheeks to glow.

I'll think of him never, I'll be wildly gay
 I'll charm ev'ry heart, and the crowd I will sway.
 I'll live yet to see him regret the dark hour
 When he won, then neglected, the frail wildwood flower.

He told me he loved me, and promised to love
 Through ill and misfortune, all others above
 Another has won him, ah! mis'ry to tell
 He left me in silence, no word of farewell.

He taught me to love him, he call'd me his flower
 That blossom'd for him all the brighter each hour
 But I woke from my dreaming, my idol was clay
 My visions of love have all faded away.

Written Source: (Music) Joseph Webster manuscript circa 1863, University of Wisconsin Digital Collections
 (Lyrics) Wikipedia

I'm including this version because it's demonstrably in the public domain,
 unlike the Carter Family's "Wildwood Flower".

John Lover's Gone

D

Musical score for 'John Lover's Gone' in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a repeat sign followed by a melody. Above the staff, a 'D' chord is indicated. The melody is divided into two parts, labeled '1' and '2'. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues the melody, with 'A' and 'D' chords indicated above. The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues the melody, also with 'A' and 'D' chords indicated above.

Aural Source: Mainly from Levenson's Festival Tunes, p.116

Johnny Don't Get Drunk

D

Musical score for 'Johnny Don't Get Drunk' in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a melody with 'D', 'G', and 'A' chords indicated above. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues the melody, with 'D', 'G', and a first ending labeled '1 A D' and a second ending labeled '2 A D' indicated above. The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues the melody, with 'D', 'G', and 'A' chords indicated above. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and continues the melody, with 'D', 'G', 'D', 'G', 'A', and 'D' chords indicated above.

Aural Source: Youtube, maybe? Or Portland Collection?

Liberty

D

5

9

13

Aural Source: Fiddler's Companion/Complete Tractor/Dusty Strings Jam?

Needle Case

D

Arr. Scott Marckx/Jeannie Murphy

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.132

Old Joe Clark

A mix

5

9

13

Aural Source: Sarah Comer

Over the Waterfall

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.142

Red Haired Boy

A mix

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.156

Red Wing

G

By Kerry Mills, 1907; arr. Gene Silberberg

9

17

25

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.157

Sandy Boys

A mix

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.172
Chords from Sarah Comer

Soldier's Joy

D

5

8

13

Aural Source: Sarah Comer

St. Anne's Reel

D

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.184

Western Country

Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss
Suzanna Gal

D

5

9

13

Written Source: Levenson's Festival Tunes, p.80

Whiskey Before Breakfast

D

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.210

The bluegrassers all play that E minor chord in measure 11, but most old time backup players just play A.

The Wind That Shakes The Barley

D

5

9

13

Aural Source: As played at Slower Than Dirt