



## 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 `LATEX`. 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

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

5

9

13

D G D A

D G A 1 D 2 D

D G G D A

D G A 1 D 2 D

## Boogerman

G

5

9

13

Em

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

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "I'll twine 'mid the ring - lets of my ra - - ven black hair", "The li - - lies so pale and the ro - ses so fair", "The myr - - tle so bright with an em - - er - ald hue", "And the pale ar - on - - a - - tus with eyes of bright blue.", "The myr - - tle so bright with an em - - er - ald hue", and "And the pale ar - on - - a - - tus with eyes of bright blue." The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, time signatures, and notes with stems. Chord symbols (C, G, F) are placed above the staves at specific intervals. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

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

## Johnny Don't Get Drunk

D

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