



## 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. 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

## Tunes By Key

### Key of A

Grey Eagle ..... 5

### Key of A dor

Cluck Old Hen ..... 4

### Key of A mix

Old Joe Clark ..... 10

Red Haired Boy ..... 11

Sandy Boys ..... 12

### Key of C

I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets ..... 7

\* Wildwood Flower ..... 7

### Key of D

Angeline the Baker ..... 1

Arkansas Traveler ..... 1

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine ..... 3

\* Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss ..... 13

John Lover's Gone ..... 8

Johnny Don't Get Drunk ..... 8

Liberty ..... 9

Needle Case ..... 9

Over the Waterfall ..... 10

Soldier's Joy ..... 12

St. Anne's Reel ..... 13

\* Suzanna Gal ..... 13

Western Country ..... 13

Whiskey Before Breakfast ..... 14

Wind That Shakes The Barley, The ..... 14

### Key of G

Barlow Knife ..... 2

Big Sciota ..... 2

Blackberry Blossom ..... 3

Boogerman ..... 4

Girl I Left Behind Me, The ..... 5

Ida Red ..... 6

Red Wing ..... 11

## Tunes By Title

Angeline the Baker (D) .....	1	Liberty (D) .....	9
Arkansas Traveler (D) .....	1	Needle Case (D) .....	9
Barlow Knife (G) .....	2	Old Joe Clark (A mix) .....	10
Big Sciota (G) .....	2	Over the Waterfall (D) .....	10
Blackberry Blossom (G) .....	3	Red Haired Boy (A mix) .....	11
Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine (D) .....	3	Red Wing (G) .....	11
Boogerman (G) .....	4	Sandy Boys (A mix) .....	12
Cluck Old Hen (A dor) .....	4	Soldier's Joy (D) .....	12
* Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss (D) .....	13	St. Anne's Reel (D) .....	13
Girl I Left Behind Me, The (G) .....	5	* Suzanna Gal (D) .....	13
Grey Eagle (A) .....	5	Western Country (D) .....	13
Ida Red (G) .....	6	Whiskey Before Breakfast (D) .....	14
I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets (C) .....	7	* Wildwood Flower (C) .....	7
John Lover's Gone (D) .....	8	Wind That Shakes The Barley, The (D) .....	14
Johnny Don't Get Drunk (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

## Big Sciota

G

5

8

13

Written Source: <http://archive.mandolinsessions.com/feb06/tune.pdf>  
Named after the Scioto River in Ohio. Also spelled Sciota, Sciote, Scioty.  
The article contains Wendy Anthony's simplified version plus variations.

## Blackberry Blossom

G

Measures 1-14: G, D, C, G, C, G, A, D, G, D, C, G, C, G, 1 D G, 2 D G, Em, D, Em, G, D, Em, D, Em, 1 D G, 2 D G.

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

## Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine

March  
D

Measures 1-14: D, G, D, A, D, G, A, 1 D, 2 D, D, G, A, D, G, D, A, D, G, A, 1 D, 2 D.

## Boogerman

G



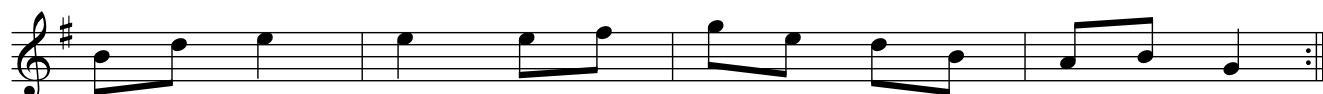
5



9



13



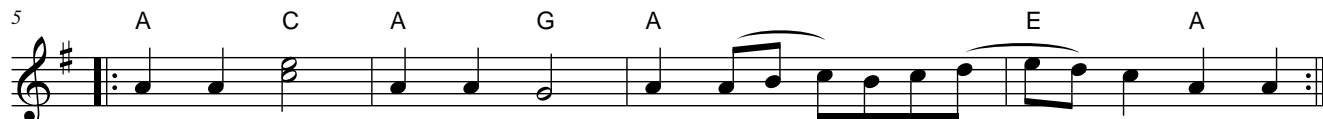
Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.30

## 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

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

## G

5

6

# I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets

Wildwood Flower

Music by J.P. Webster

Words by Maud Irving

C

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 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

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

## Johnny Don't Get Drunk

D

Aural Source: A combination of YouTube and someone who brought it to Slower Than Dirt.

## Liberty

D

5

9

13

Aural Source: Dusty Strings jam?

## Needle Case

Arr. Scott Marckx/Jeannie Murphy

D

5

9

13

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.132

# Old Joe Clark

A mix

5

9

13

Aural Source: Sarah Comer

# Over the Waterfall

D

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

By Kerry Mills, 1907; arr. Gene Silberberg

9

17

25

Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.157

## Sandy Boys

A mix

Musical score for "Sandy Boys" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of four staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: A (measures 1-4), G (measure 5), A (measures 6-7), E7 (measure 8), A (measures 9-10), A (measures 11-12), D (measures 13-14), A (measures 15-16), D (measures 17-18), A (measures 19-20), E7 (measures 21-22), and A (measures 23-24). The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

## Soldier's Joy

D

Musical score for "Soldier's Joy" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of four staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes: D (measures 1-4), A (measures 5-6), D (measures 7-8), (G) (measure 9), D (measures 10-11), A (measures 12-13), D (measures 14-15), D (measures 16-17), G (measures 18-19), D (measures 20-21), A (measures 22-23), and D (measures 24-25). The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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