And the Cat Came Back

Traditional

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This is an old Doc Roberts tune that I learned from Boston area fiddler and banjo picker John Reddick. The B part is played on the fiddle with a long bow, whining like a old cat. It has that loose feeling like the high part of the old time tune Cacklin’ Hen. Note In measures 6 and 10, I use a “ghost hammer,” in this instance, I hammer onto the 3th string, 11th fret without first plucking the string open. The ghost note shown in the tablature, the note in parantheses just before the hammer, is only inserted so that the hammer will sound in the MIDI playback, it should not actually be played.

In measures 12-13 and 20-21, I use a choke and release string bend. String bends are handled a little strangely in the Tabledit program, and so the tablature display needs some explanation. When picking the first note of the measure, the 2nd string is fretted at the 11th fret, and choked upwards an entire half step, so that it reaches the pitch of the next fret. It is held in that choked position, and played again as the
4th and 7th note in the measure and again as the 2nd and 5th note of the next measure, before it is released back to the original pitch. The tab shows the string being fretted at the 12th fret, but that is only to ensure that the MIDI playback is at the correct pitch. The note is still actually fretted at 11, but is still being held in the choked position. When the bent string is the final time halfway through the next measure, the choked or bent string is released, so that the pitch is lowered back to the normal pitch of the string at the 11th fret.