Billy in the Lowground

Traditional

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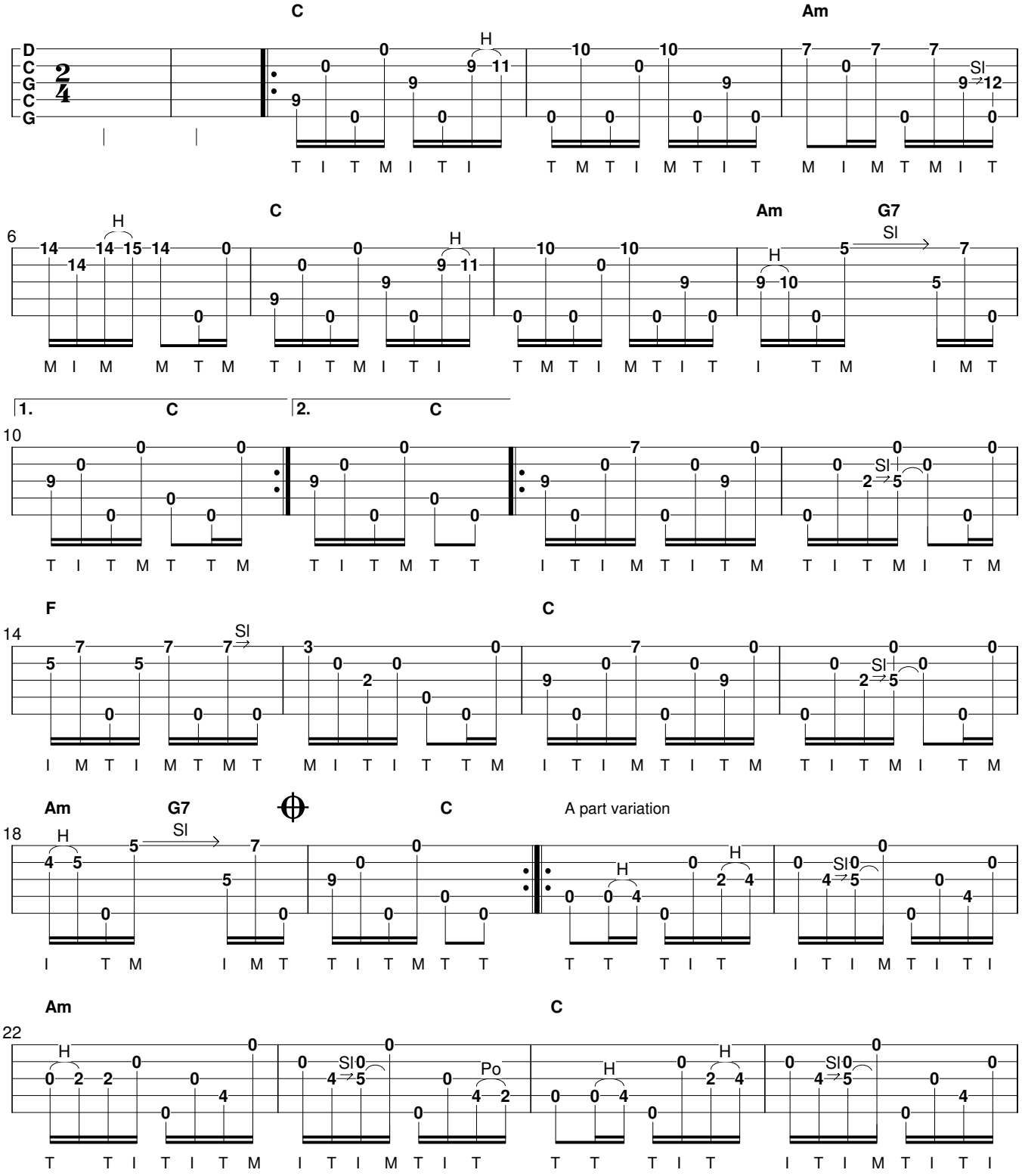

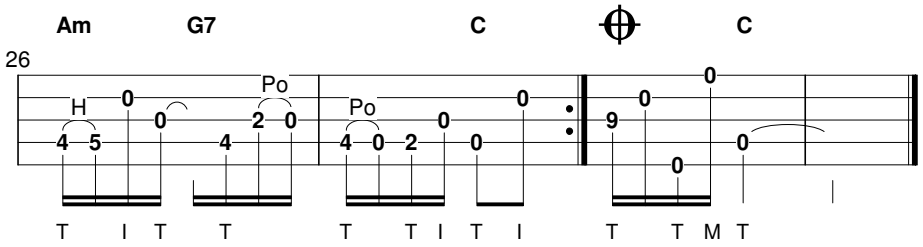

This is one of only two tunes in this collection in double C tuning. Both the second string and the fourth string are tuned to C, the tonic note, though an octave apart. Both strings are used as drones in this arrangement, but particularly the open second string.

There is an interesting picking paradox right in the first measure (actually #3), where the first string is played open as part of a simple TITM right hand pattern. But while it is part of this very elementary pattern, its also an important melody note, which should be emphasized slightly. This also holds for the 7th measure, the measure 10, 11 and 19 endings,and the melody phrase in the B part, in measures 12 and 18.

This is another one of those tunes that most people first heard from the picking of Doc Watson. The arrangement here has a very light, spectral feel due to the liberal use of that second string drone, which continues ringing while other melody notes are moving about.