

Rock Them Buzzards are Flying - Garry Harrison
 F (G) G (A)

27

31

35

bend and hold pick and release bend and hold pick and release

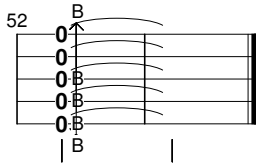
39

43

bend and hold pick and release bend and hold pick and release

47

extra beat



This is a contemporary fiddle tune composed by Illinois fiddler Gary Harrison, who now plays with the group The New Mules. Harrison co-authored a landmark collection called "Dear Old Illinois, Traditional Music of Downstate Illinois."

This setting has some tricky sections. At the end of measure 6, you slide into a partial forward roll in the next section; this is an alternate way of playing the opening notes found in measure 3. The B part of the tune is crooked, with an extra beat that I have placed at the end. The B part starts at measure 11, which is a bridge phrase that pops up in a number of locations. The last four notes of that measure are syncopated. The first note (on the 5th string) and the last note (on the 1st string) should be emphasized, while the middle two notes, especially the open 3rd string drone, should be picked more lightly and remain in the background. The fiddle melody has another syncopated phrase that I have obtained by using a pick bend/pick release sequence. This first shows up in measure 12, where the 2nd string is picked at the 10th fret, then choked up to a pitch 1/2 step above. The ghost note that follows should not be picked; that is just telling the MIDI playback what pitch to bend to. The string is held taut at that higher pitch until it is finally picked again, a little later at second last note in the measure, when it is released back to its resting position. That last note is also not picked again, it just represents the lower pitch of the release of the bend. The whole thing repeats again at the end of the 13th measure. The phrase shows up late in the open position break, but now the choke is on the 3rd string, 2nd fret, where the bend up 1/2 step is more of a workout for the finger. Here the bend and release is imbedded in an alternate thumb pattern. You can only practice this for a limited amount of time, before the middle finger of the left hand starts to get pretty sore. The low break takes great liberties with the melody, given you don't have that low C note.