Chicken Reel
Traditional

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Another chicken picking tune, probably the archetype of the genre. I first worked this out years ago in open G tuning, and it was a very big hit with the Banjo Newsletter’s charter subscribers, but the traditional fiddle key has always been D, and so quite awhile ago I moved it over. I have taken a few liberties in the B part, using the sixth note of the scale, where the melody really uses the fifth. The sixth gives it more of a cackling sound, though, and fits well.

There are two variations provided here. One uses the natural seventh, making it sound a little bluesy; the other climbs up the neck and throws in a bit of cackle reminiscent a little of Cacklin’ Hen. On the first variant in measures 19 and 20 there is a half step choke at the 3rd string, 5th fret, which should be picked, choked up a half step and held in place, not to be released until it is picked again in the middle of the measure 20. The number 6 in measure 20 represents the pitch the string is at, you are still fretting at 5. This is the quirky way the program makes the bend and release sound right in the MIDI playback.