Denver Belle

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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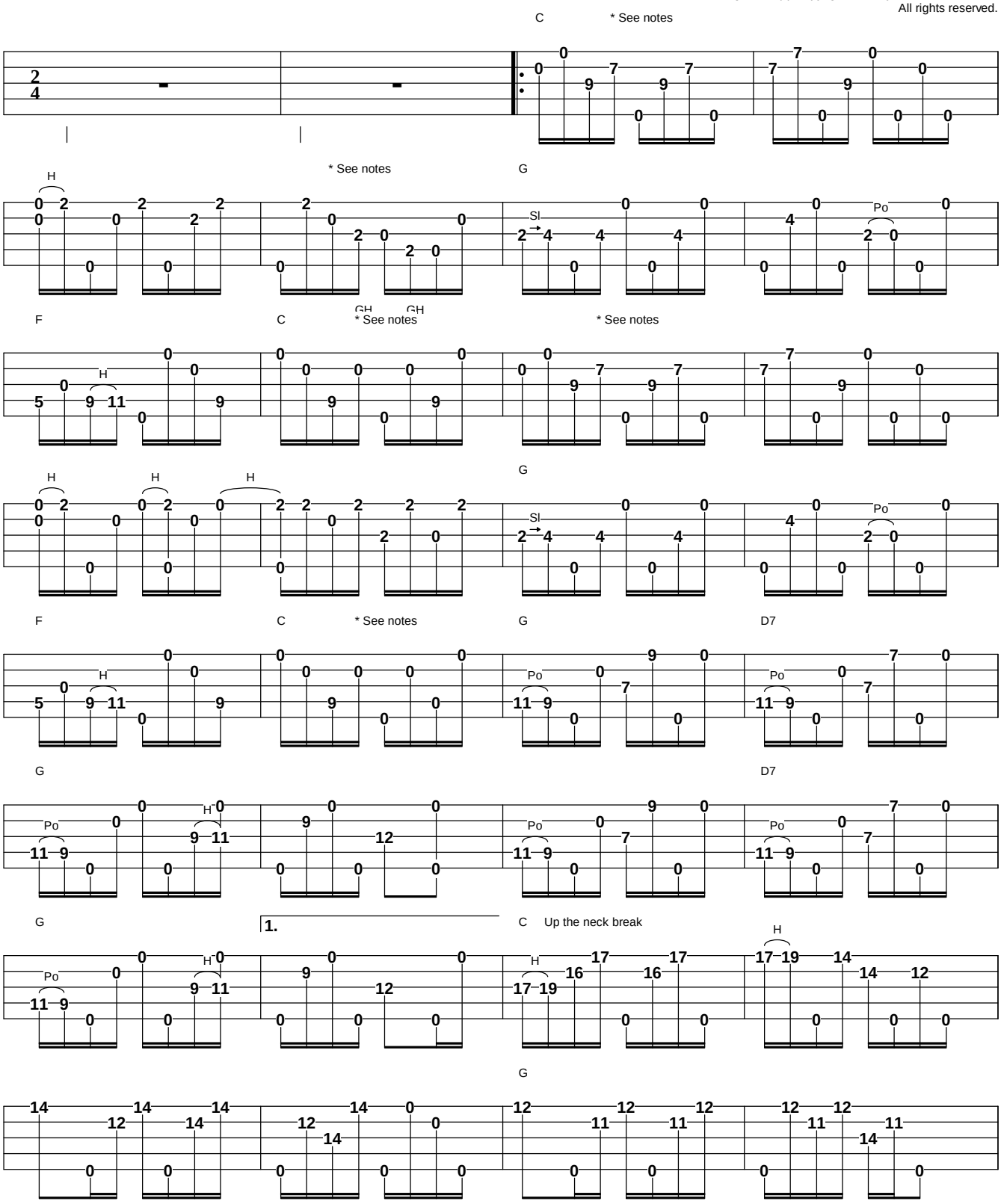

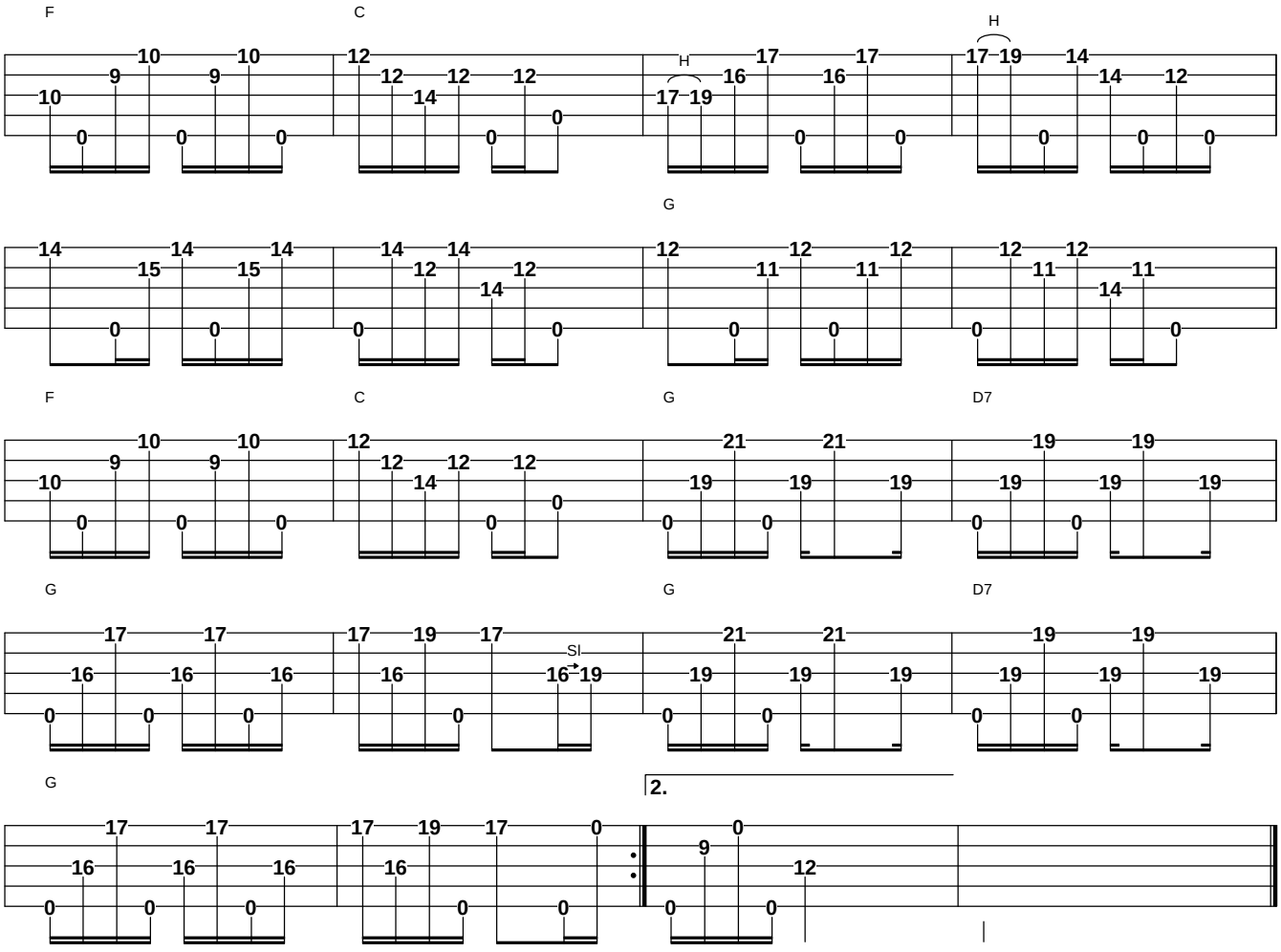

The original source for this tune is the elegant northeastern Kentucky fiddler J.P. Fraley (1923 - 2011). It entered the bluegrass repertiore when Kenny baker recorded the tune in 1971, for his album Baker's Dozen.

In measures 3, 10, 11 and 18,the melody is syncopated- the 4th note in the measure is emphasized, the note just ahead of the second beat, rahter than the 5th note, which is on the beat. Note also the two ghost hammers (GH) in measure 6. A ghost hammer is a hammer onto a string that has not first been picked by the right hand. Since it is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough.

Note that in the up the neck break, I have greatly simplified the B part. The critical syncopated part of the melody is still there, imbedded in a series of roll patterns. Sometimes melody accuracy is less important than rhythm and tone.