Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss

Traditional

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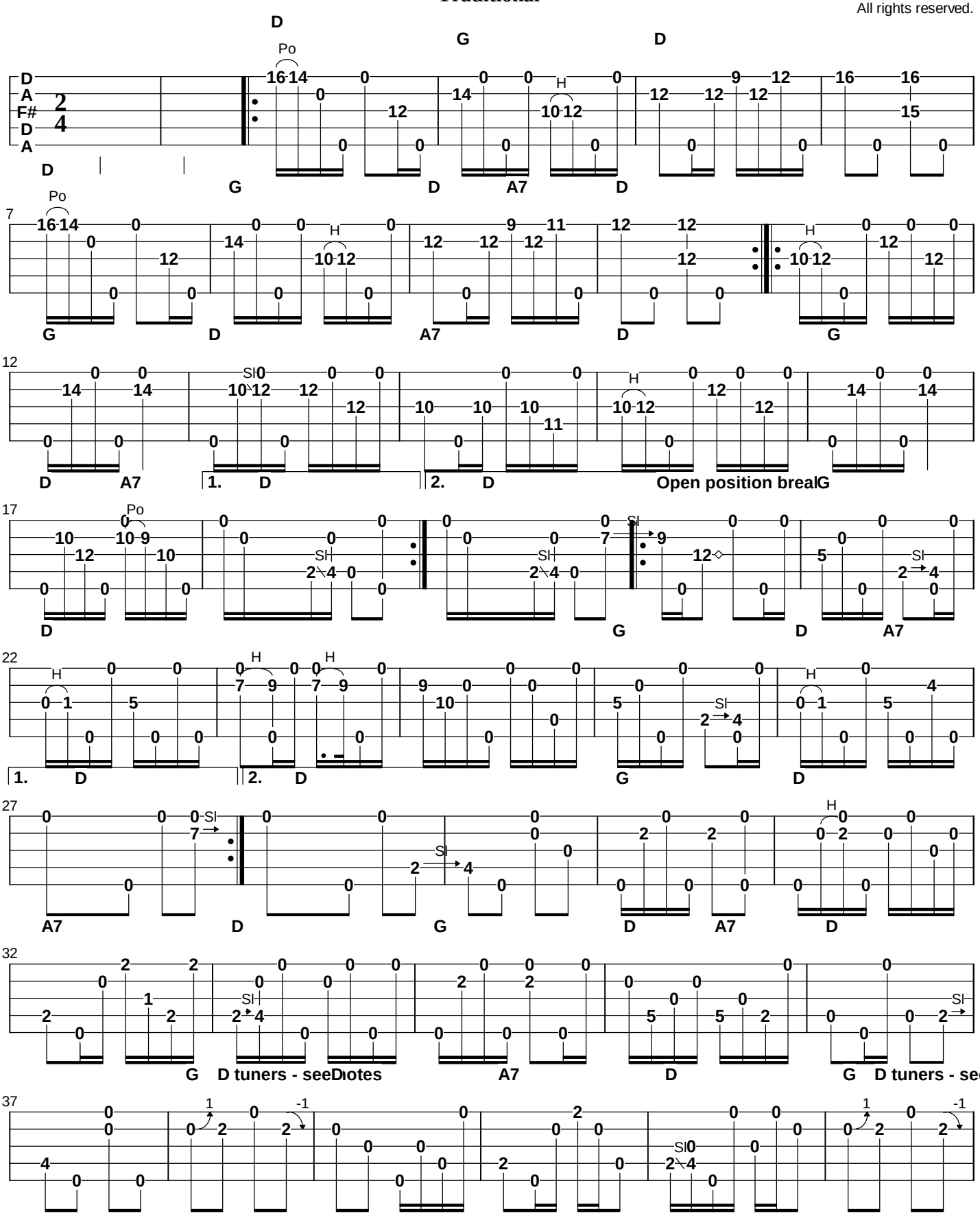

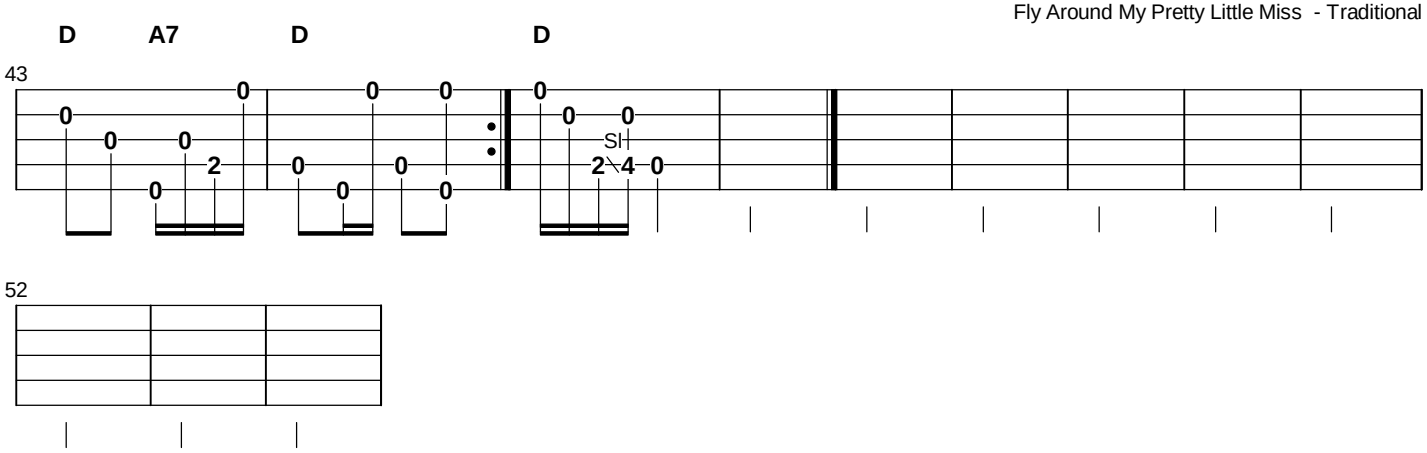

I've also heard this tune called Suzannah Gal, and Fly Around My Prettly Little Pink. It starts with the up the neck version, which in general is not difficult, in terms of the stretches and patterns required of either the left or right hand. What is more difficult are the dynamics, which need to be somewhat delicate for this to sound right. In particular, watch out for the open second string in measure 3 and 7. If played very lightly, it blends nicely with the overall pattern, providing a clawhammer-like rythmic pattern. If played too hard- and the same emphasis as the surrounding notes is too hard- then it will clang.

Another subtle spot is the double hammer in measure 23. I've tinkered with the timing and dynamic controls to try and depict the line accurately; the idea is that the two hammers are not executed at exactly the same speed; the second hammer is a little faster than the first. It's not a sixteenth note, though, but slower than that.

I have an 1964 Ode Style 2, Model 42 banjo that has the original choker style D tuners still installed. I got the idea one day to use the 2nd string tuner in the B part of the open position break, raising the string from A to B, and then lowering it back down again. This move is tabbed in measures 38 and 42. If you like this idea, but don't have tuners, you can get the same effect by using the index finger of your left had to pull the string at the peghead, an inch or so after the string leaves the post of the tuning peg.