

# The Old Hen Cackled

Traditional

Arrangement (c) copyright 2011 by Donald J. Borchelt

G (A) \* See notes

D7 (E7) G (A) \* See notes D7 (E7)

1. G (A) 2. G (A) \* See notes

D7 (E7) G (A) \* See notes

D7 (E7) G (A)

D7 (E7) G (A)

⊕ D7 (E7) G (A)

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26

D7 (E7) G (A)

30

D7 (E7) 1. G (A) 2. G (A)

35

D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7)

40

G (A)

44

D7 (E7) G (A) ⊕ D7 (E7) \* Melodic rendition of actual fiddle melody

49

Another great poultry tune, this one from legendary Kentucky fiddler John Salyer. Unlike many of the other chicken themed fiddle tunes, this one doesn't have an overt "clucking" section, although I've slipped a little bit into measure 17, for good humor. The tune follows an AABBC structure, with the third part serving as almost a bridge, between the B and A parts. That bridge-like structure is not uncommon among

Kentucky and west Virginia tunes.

From the opening notes, I have taken some major liberties with the actual fiddle melody in the A part, dropping a few notes, and substituting some rhythmic patterns utilizing the 5th string drone, in order to get a more banjoistic feel. This is true for both the open position and the up the neck break. The actual fiddle melody is laid out in melodic style in measures 47 through 50, for comparison.

In measures 13 and 17, the back could be playing a IV chord, a C chord (actually D, since the banjo should be capoed on 2, to be in the fiddle key of A). However, Salyer's back up guitarist is staying on the tonic, so I do the same here.

There is some tricky fingering in the up the neck break. In measures 30, 35, 39 and 41, I finger the 2nd string, 15th fret with the index finger, the 1st string, 16th fret with the ring finger, and the 3rd string, 16th fret with the middle finger. This position gets held through the entire melodic phrase. This leaves the pinky to do the 2nd string pull-off from the 17th to the 15th fret, and the 3rd string hammer-on from the 16th to the 17th fret. That hammer is hard to execute with much volume, but if it doesn't ring out, it isn't the end of the world.