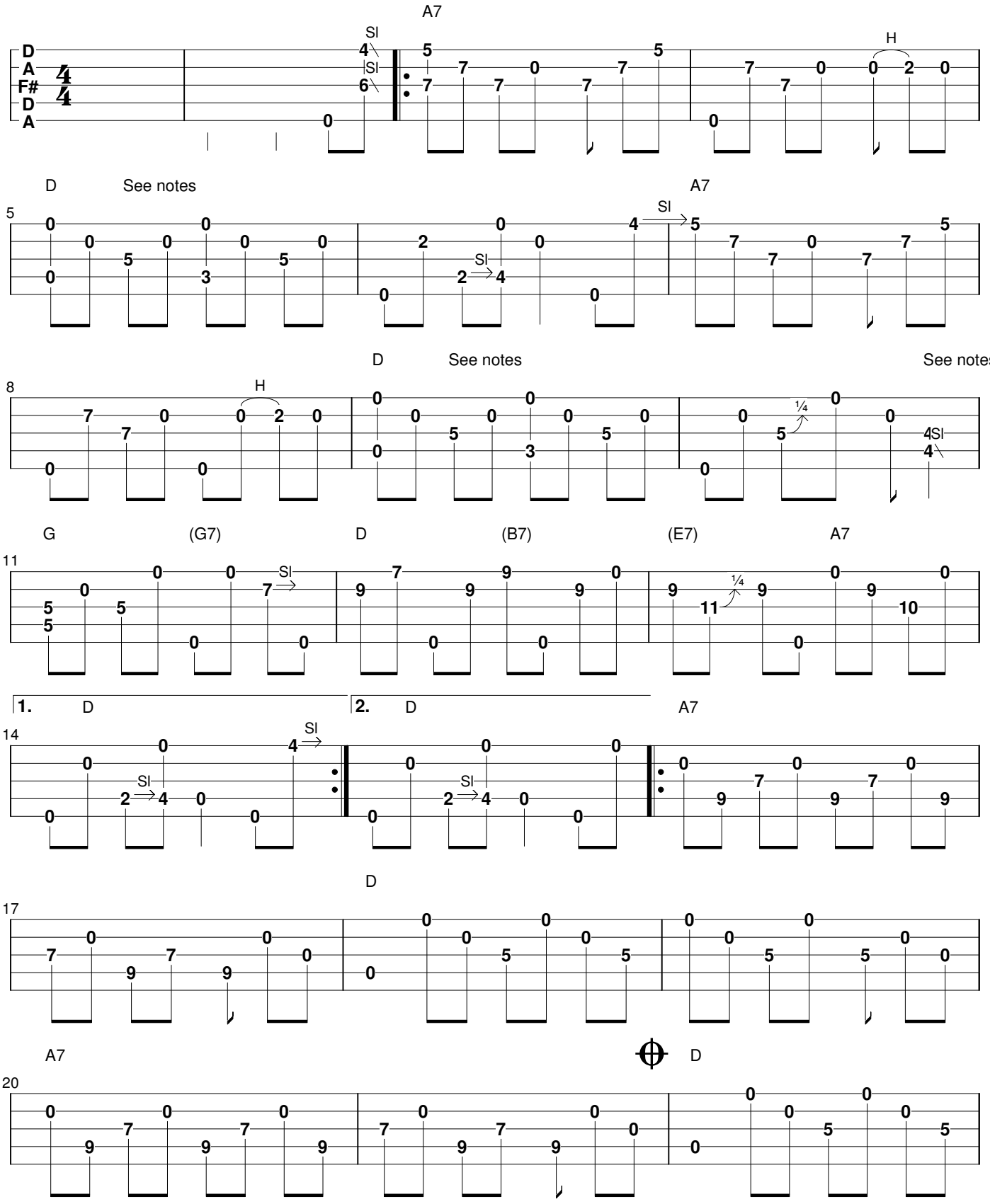
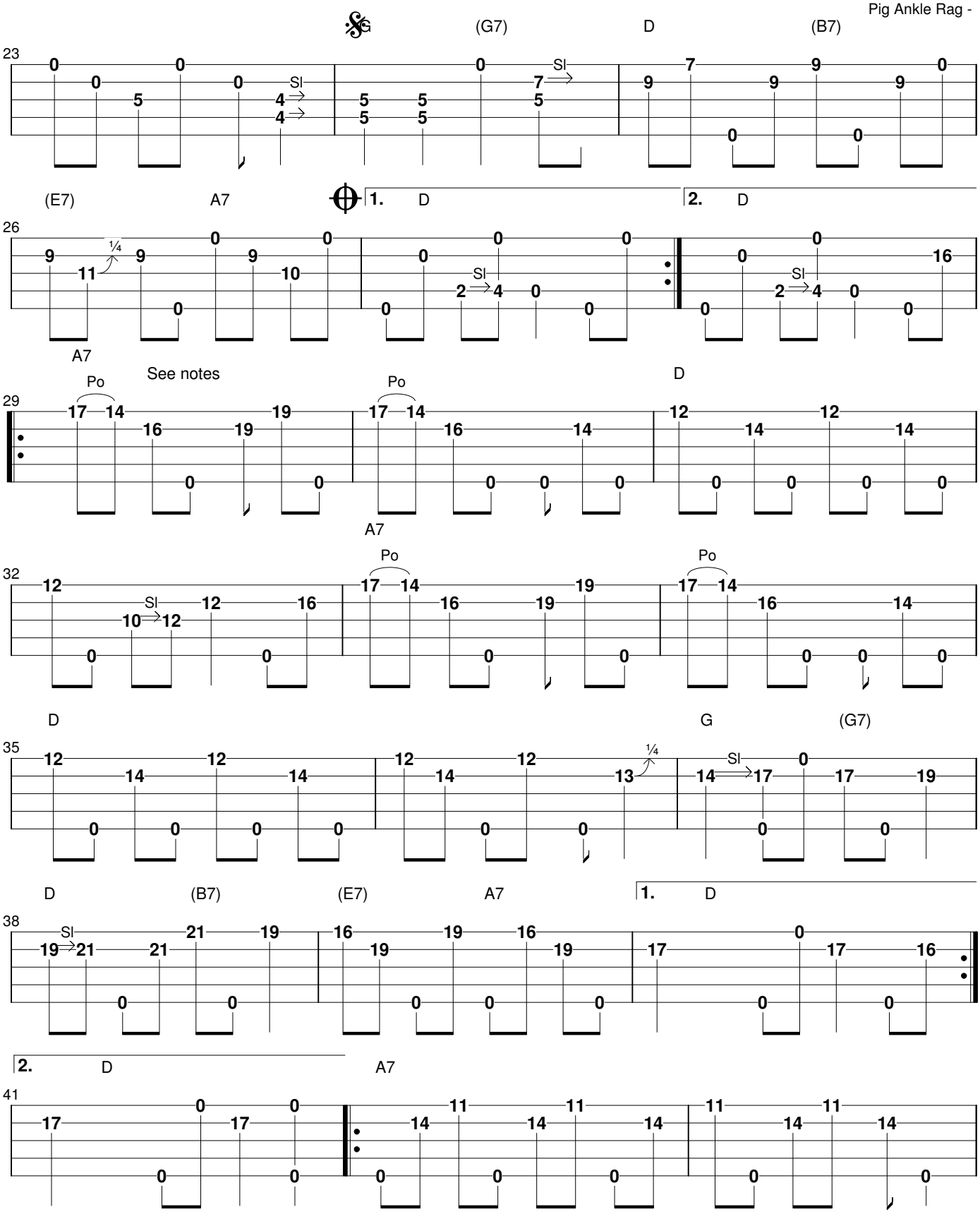
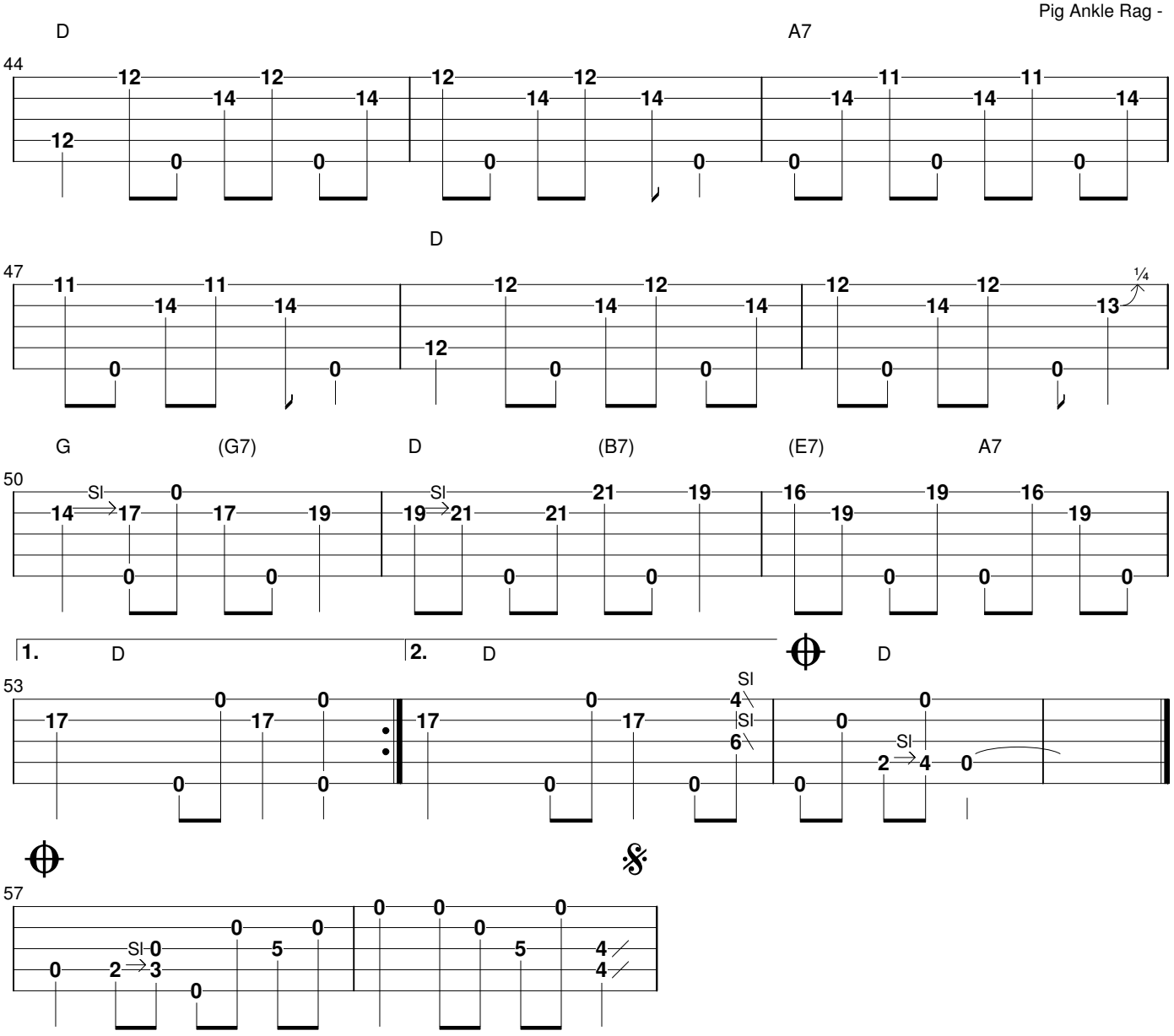
Pig Ankle Rag

TablEdited by Donald J Borchelt




(G7)
D
(B7)
23
Sl
(E7)
A7
1. D
2. D
26
¼
Sl
A7
See notes
D
29
Po
A7
32
Sl
Po
D
G
(G7)
35
¼
Sl
D
(B7)
(E7)
A7
1. D
38
Sl
2. D
A7
41



Sam McGee recorded this tune on a six string huitar banjo on his landmark Arhoolie record, Grand Dad of the Country Guitar Pickers (Arhoolie LP 5012), still available from the company on compact disk (Arhoolie CD 9009). It entered the old fiddle tune repertoire through the Highwoods String Band, who recorded it on a Rounder LP, Feed Your Babies Onions: Fat City Favorites, still available on CD from Rounder. This arrangement owes more to the fiddle version than the guitar one.

The first thing to notice about this tune is the abundance of ragtime syncopation. In many of the measures, the fourth note of the measure is a heavily emphasized melody note. This emphasis on an off beat is an important innovation of ragtime, which heavily influenced old time country music. In most such cases in the tab, the roll stops, so the syncopation is obvious. However, in a few places, the roll pattern continues, so the syncopation has to rely on your right hand dynamics. You have to pick that off beat note a little harder. This happens in measure 8 and 11, but especially in measure 13 and 26, where the off beat melody note is the 5th string. It happens again up the neck in measures 39 and 52.

The A part of the tune has some melodic double stops that will take some practice. The lead in notes at the end of measure 2 are a double stop, but you slide into the next measure, so it is not too tricky for the right hand. The double stops in measures 5 and 9, however, require you to pick the 1st and 4th strings with a pinch of the thumb and middle finger, and then immediately follow with the index finger picking the 2d string.

At the end of measure 10, you pick teh 2nd string open with the middle finger, then both the 3rd and 4th strings with a pinch of the

index finger and thumb. Both notes are slid up to the 5th fret, contrary to what the tab says, but at the beginning of the next measure, you pick the 3rd string again, just as the slide arrives. This can't really be depicted in this system with complete accuracy.