

Red Prairie Dawn

Gary Harrison

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1. D7 (E7) G (A) | 2. D7 (E7) G (A) | Em (F#m) G (A)

See notes | Em (F#m) G (A)

1. D7 (E7) G (A) | 2. D7 (E7) G (A) | D7 (E7G (A)

This really interesting tune was written by Illinois fiddler Gary Harrison, who also wrote Boys, Them Buzzards Are Flying. The tune has a wide melodic range in the B part, which moves from the low A on the fiddle's 4th string to the high F# on the 1st string. This forced me to transpose the whole part up an octave on the banjo, in order to get it all in smoothly.

In measure 15, I cross over with my thumb to the 2nd string in order to get the melodic run that was necessary. I tried out a lot of different ways to get this phrase, and this is what worked best, although it takes some practice to get smoothly. Generally, these days, I try to avoid anything too hard, but this is one of those exceptions. The left hand here fingering is critical. I first slide from the 12th

to the 14th fret on the 2nd string with the ring finger. That finger stays put. The pinky takes the 1st string, 14th fret, and the index is already on the 1st string, 12th fret when you lift up the pinky. That leaves the middle finger to do the 3rd string, 14th fret.