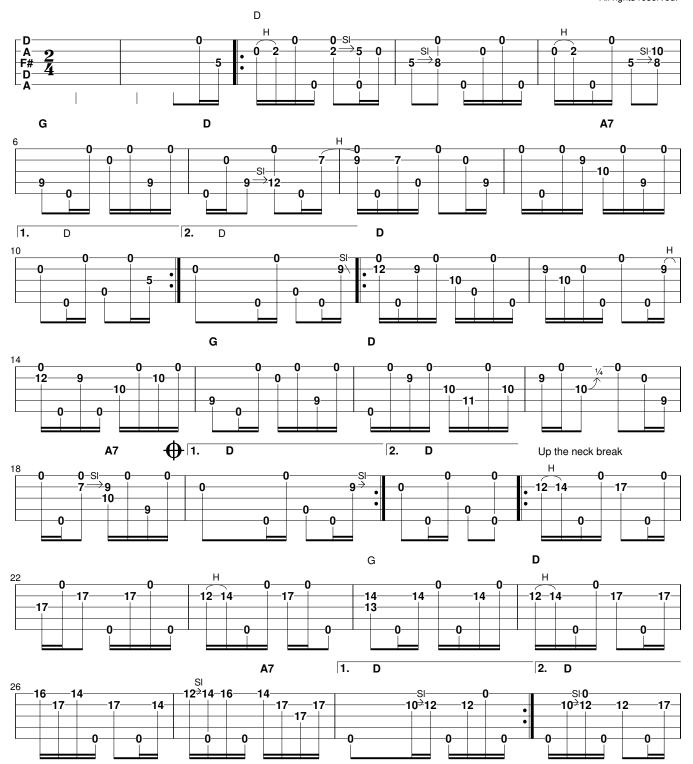
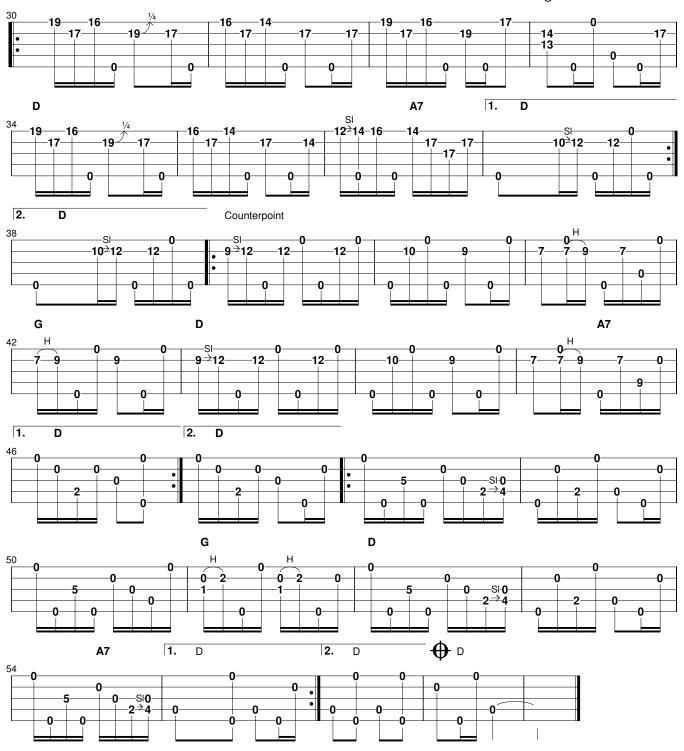
## **Angeline the Baker**

Traditional (S. Foster)

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This is one of two tunes in this collection originally credited to Stephen Foster, the other being Hard Times. There are some wonderful folk lyrics sung to this tune which basically echo, but deviate from the original Foster composition. One of my favorite verses, which I learned from the late Boston area picker Gene Kettelhohn, goes like this:

I bought Angeline a brand new dress,

Was neither blue nor brown, It was the color of the cloudy skies, Before the rain comes down.

This arrangement has a harmony part, which plays against the melody laid down by a clawhammer arrangement, which is tabbed in the fourth track. This is intentionally a relaxed, very loose harmony/counterpoint. It feels improvisational, which it essentially is, and I do vary it substantially every time I play it. Basically, you're just noodling around the melody. Now, this is a dangerous thing to recommend to a banjo picker. It only works if you play behind the lead instrument, in the background, complementing the melody of the lead instrument. If it's played too loud, a very common sin among bluegrass pickers, it will distract substantially from the lead player. This can cause serious conflict, musically and otherwise. Until you can play it gently and subtly, stick to vamping.