

# Billy in the Lowground

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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C

2  
4

G7 C

SI 10  
9 7→9 9 SI  
SI 12→14-17 SI  
9 9→12 14 16→14-12 0 0 9 9

G7 1. C

10 10 10 9 9  
0 0 0 9 7→9 9 SI  
SI 10 10 9 0 0 9

2. C

10 9 9 0 0 2  
SI  
5 7 4 0 4 9 0 0 0

F C

9 9 9 9 9  
0 0 0 9 9 9 0 0 0  
SI 7 7 4 0  
8→9 0 0 5

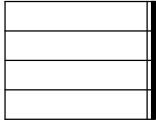
1. G7 C

4 9 9 0 0 3→4 0 0 H 2 4 0 H 0 2 0 Po 4 2 0  
SI  
2  
SI

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2. G7 C ⊕ G7 C

The tablature consists of two systems of five lines each, representing the strings of a five-string banjo. The first system is divided into four measures. The first measure has a G7 chord and contains the notes 15, 14, 12, 12, 0. The second measure has a C chord and contains the notes 12, 9, 11, 9, 0. The third measure has a C chord and contains the notes 10, 9, 9, 0, 9. The fourth measure has a C chord and contains the notes 15, 14, 12, 12, 0. The second system is also divided into four measures. The first measure has a G7 chord and contains the notes 15, 14, 12, 12, 0. The second measure has a C chord and contains the notes 12, 9, 11, 9, 0. The third measure has a C chord and contains the notes 10, 9, 9, 0, 9. The fourth measure has a C chord and contains the notes 15, 14, 12, 12, 0. Above the first and second measures of both systems are the chord changes G7 and C. Above the third and fourth measures of both systems are the chord changes ⊕, G7, and C. The ⊕ symbol is a circle with a cross inside, indicating a capo position.



This version of Billy in the Lowground is one of 14 sides recorded for Columbia Records in 1926-27 by the Kentucky old time duo Burnett and Rutherford. Dick Burnett (1883-1977) played the five string banjo, and his partner Leonard Rutherford (1900-1954) played the fiddle. Their rendition of this popular fiddle tune is just slightly different than the standard version popularized by Doc Watson, often heard at bluegrass sessions.