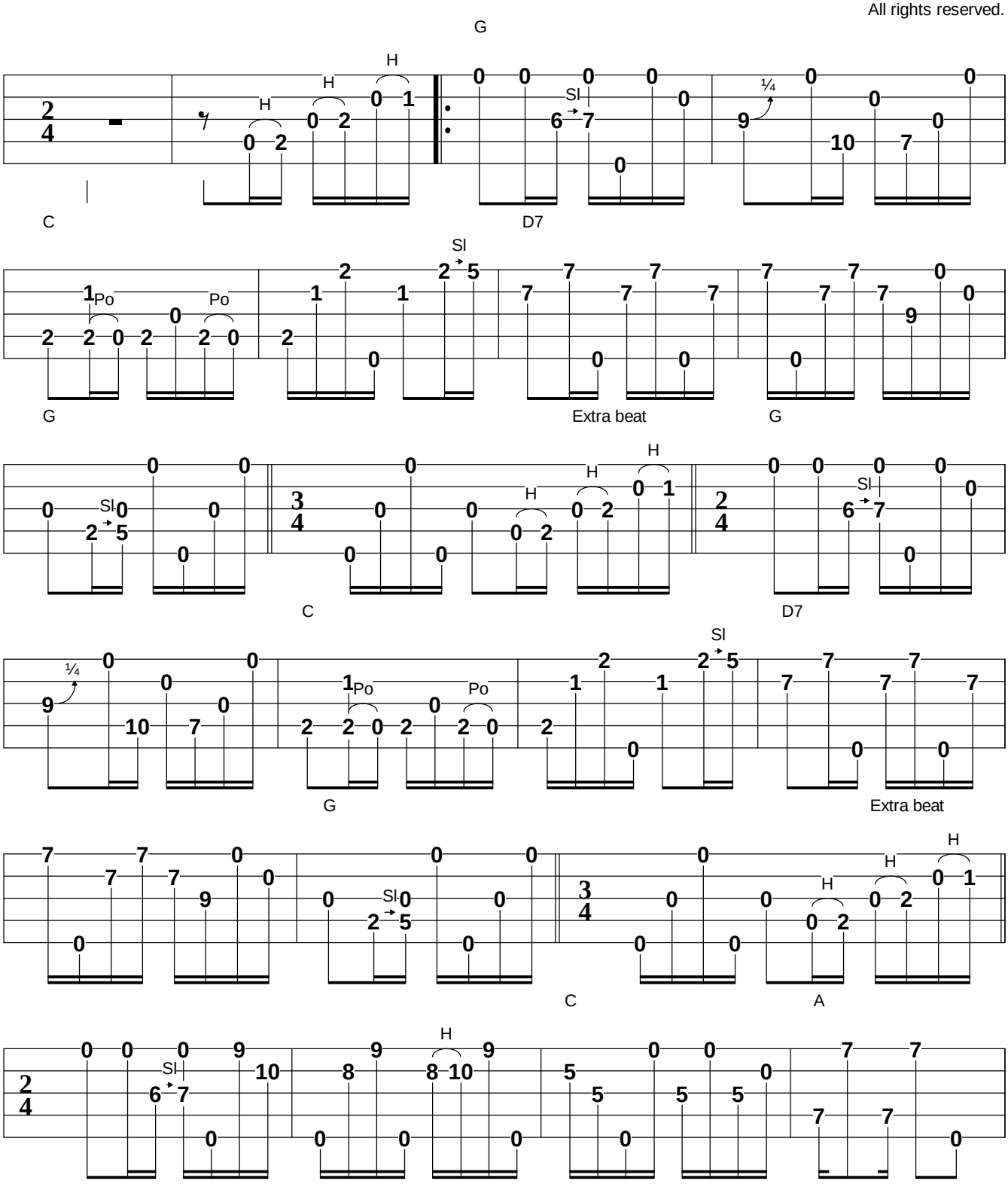
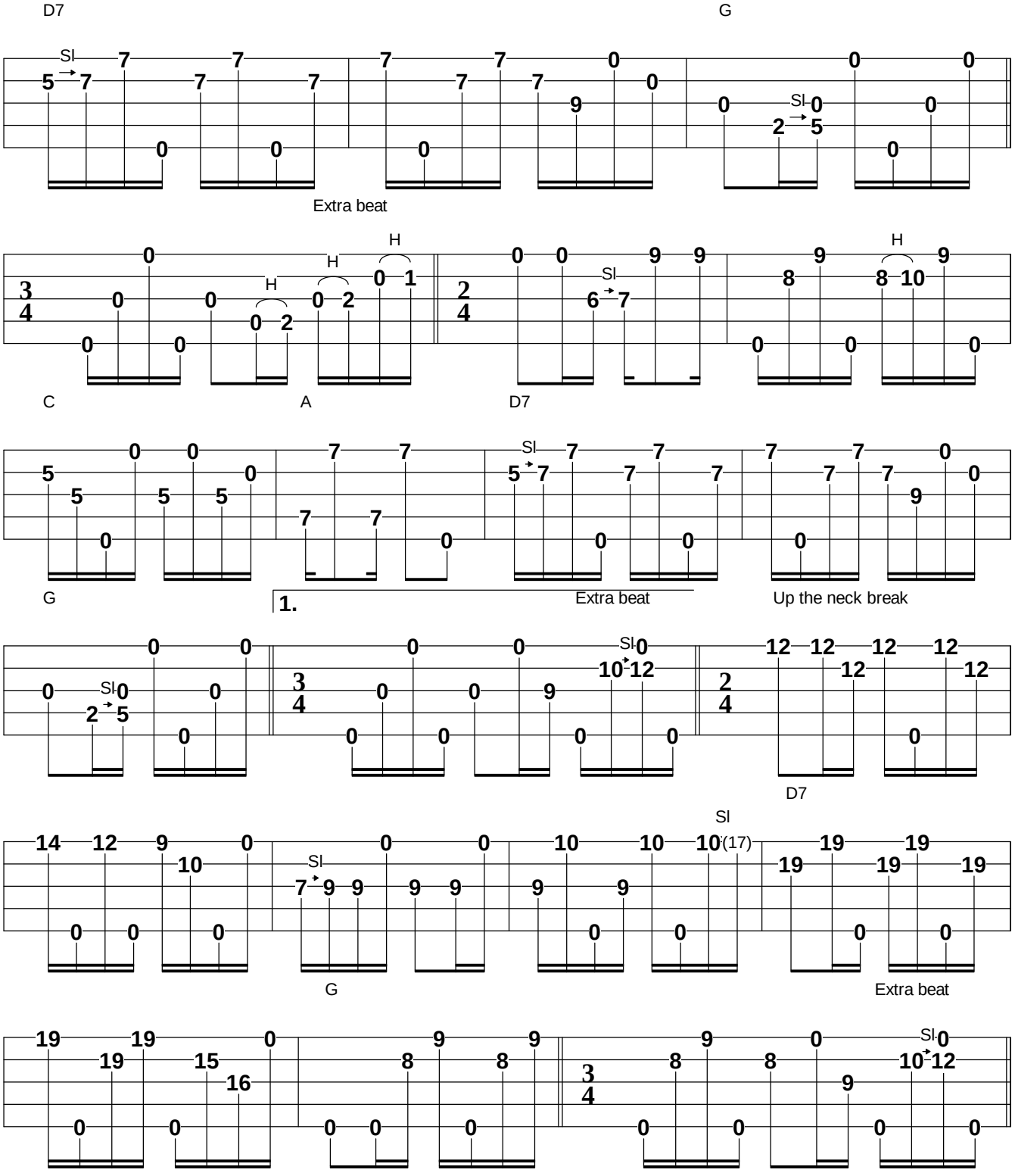
Liberty Off the Corn Licker Still

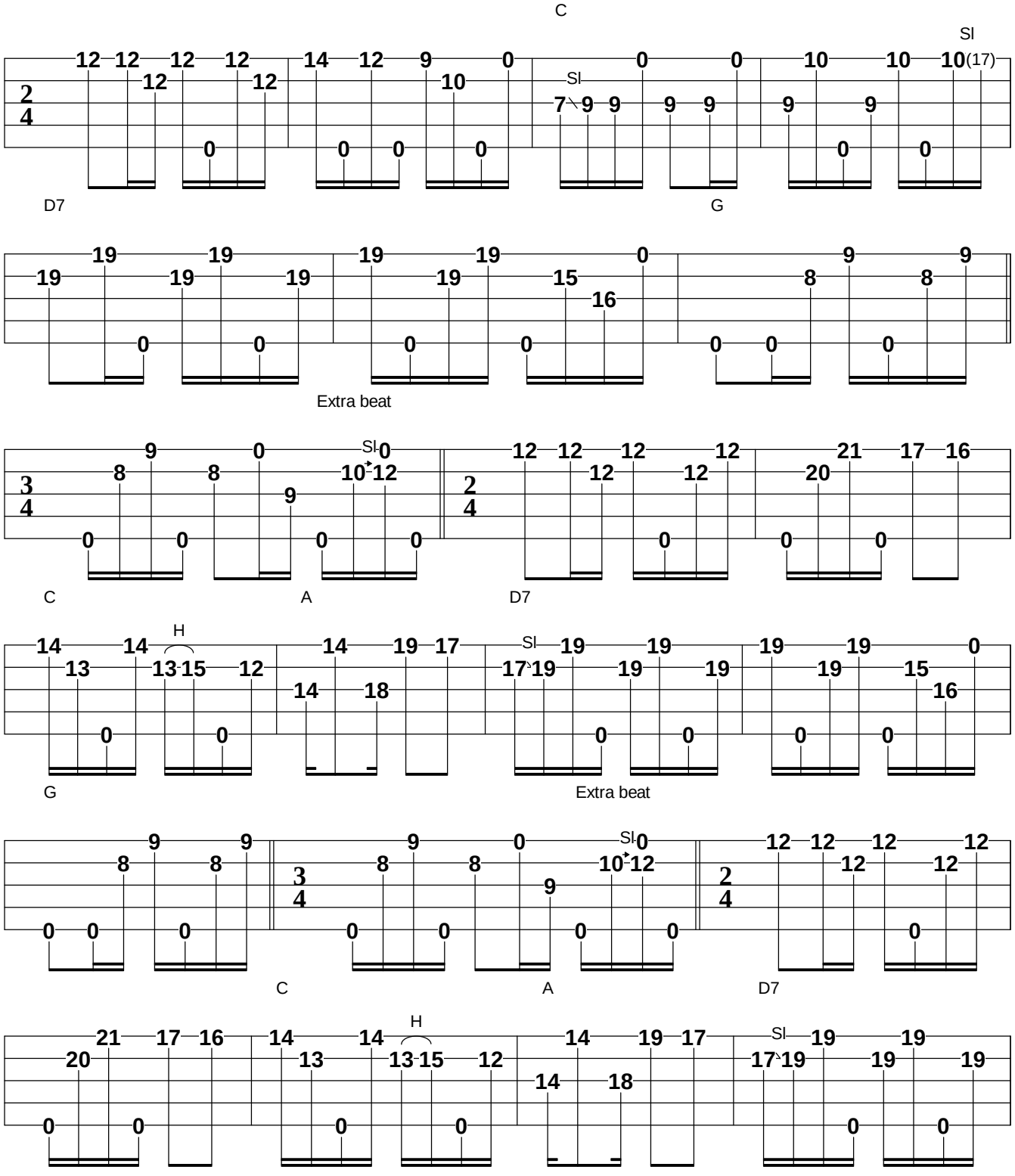
Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gDGBD

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2017 by Donald J. Borchelt.
All rights reserved.

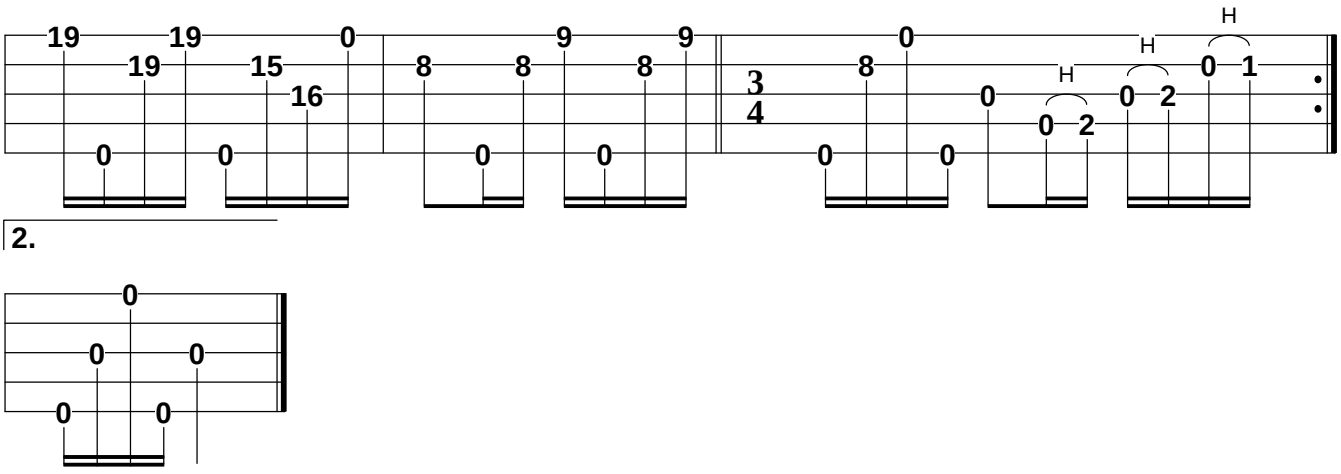



D7
G
Sl
Extra beat
H
C
A
D7
1.
Extra beat
Up the neck break
D7
(17)
G
Extra beat


C
Sl
(17)
D7
G
Extra beat
C
A
D7
H
Sl
G
Extra beat
C
A
D7
H
Sl

G

Extra beat



This is another tune from the great pioneering old time country band from Atlanta, Gid Tanner and the Skillet Lickers. They first recorded a quick rendition of the tune as part of a series of musical comedy skits put out on 78rpm records, called A Corn Licker Still in Georgia, recorded between November 1927 and October, 1929. On the recording, they refer to the tune as Liberty, but it is a completely different tune than the more commonly known Texas/Missouri tune in D that goes by the same name. The Skillet Lickers tune in G must have proved popular, because in October of 1928, they recorded a longer version for separate release by Columbia. In the introduction to that 78, fiddler Clayton McMichen introduces it by saying, "We're gonna play you the tune that you've been calling for, Liberty Off a the Corn Licker Still, and Lord, help us to get right." It has gone by that name ever since. A very influential version was recorded by the Highwood String Band for their 1972 Rounder Rounder album called Fire on the Mountain. There is a little syncopated jump in the B part in measure 27 that I have included as a variation that comes from Boston area fiddler Alan Kaufman.

Note that there is an extra beat at the end of each part.