Ed Haley's Lost Indian

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gDGBD, Capoed on 2

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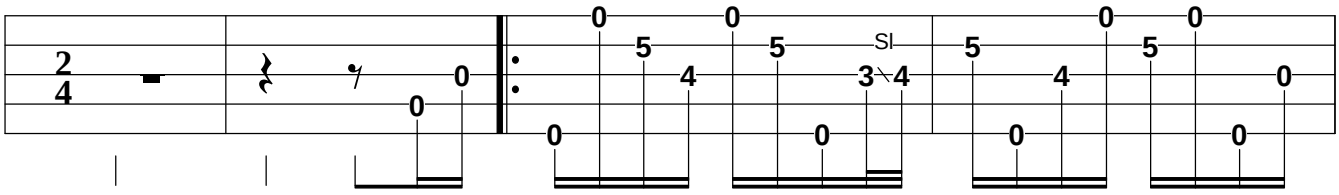
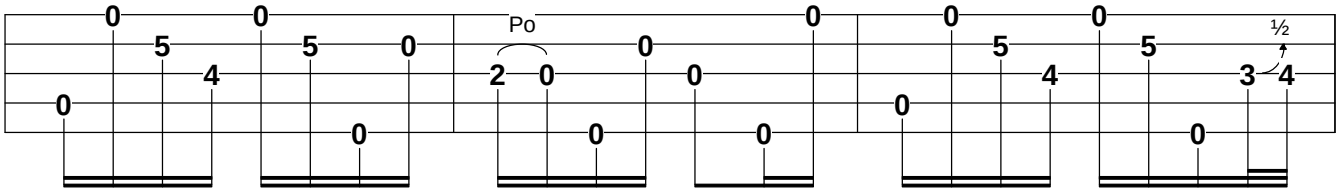
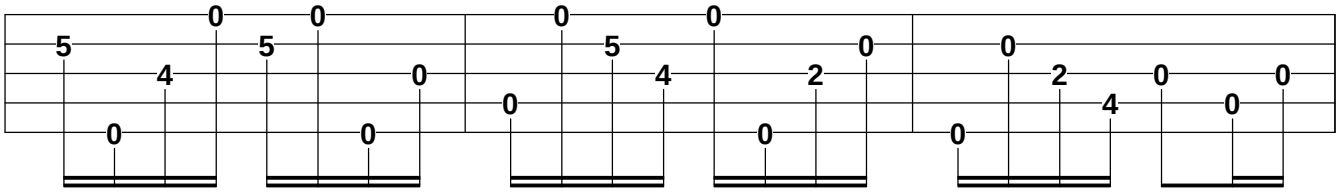
G (A)

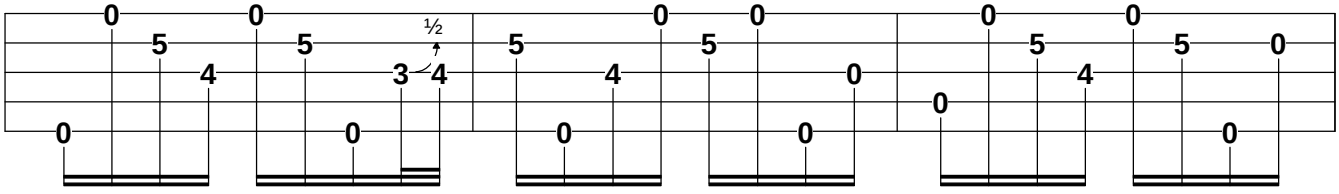


D7 (E7) G (A)

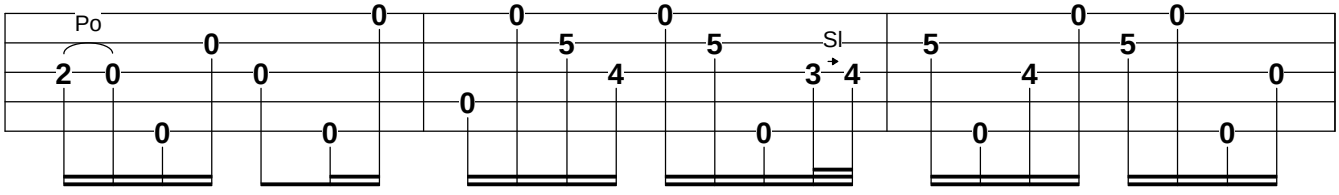


D7 (E7) G (A)

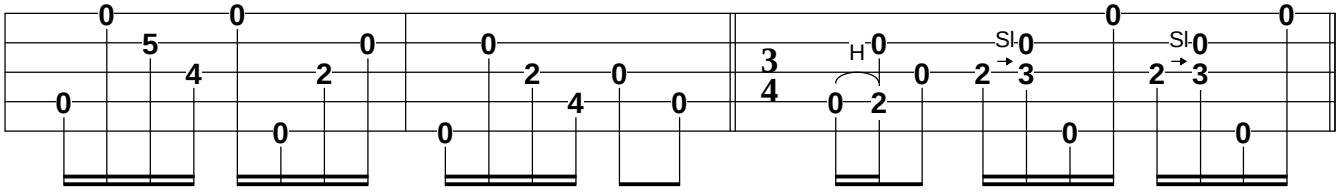




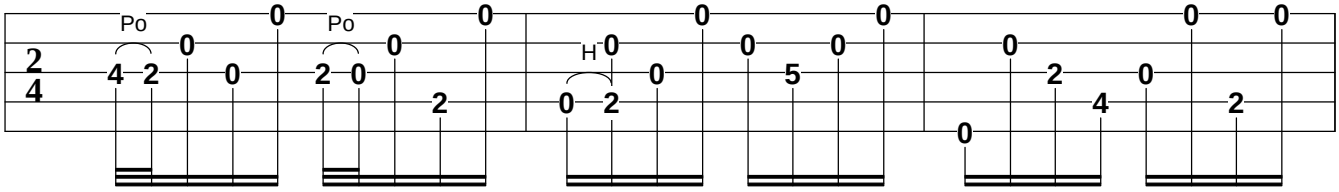
D7 (E7) G (A)



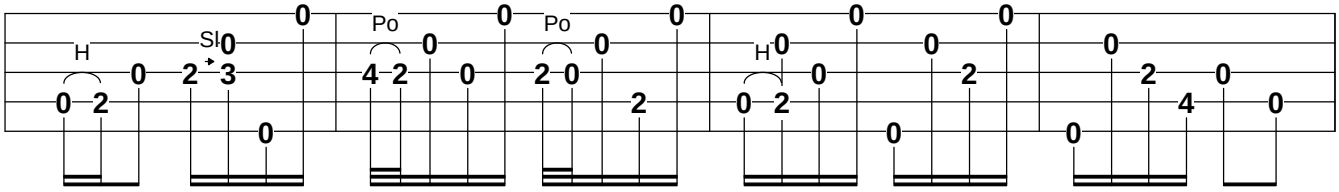
D7 (E7) G (A) Extra beat, see notes

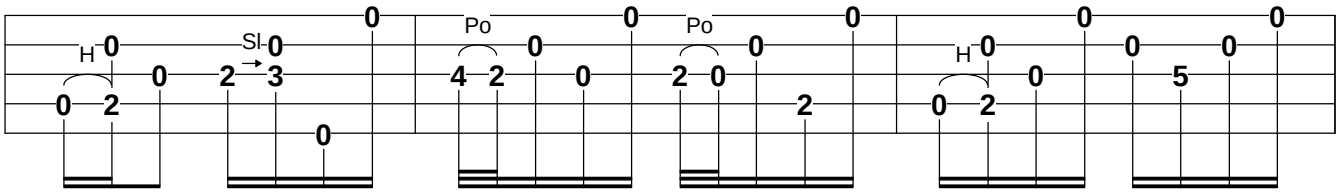


D7 (E7) G (A)

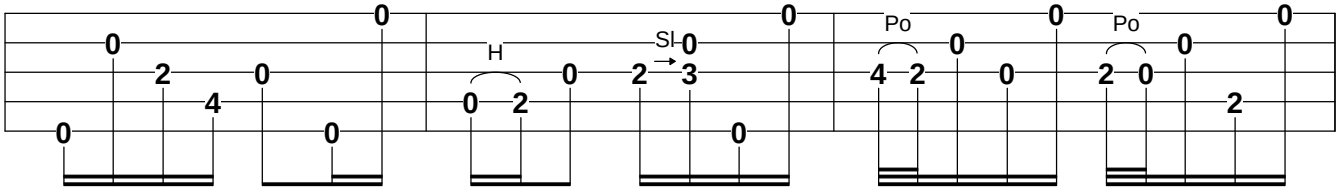


D7 (E7) G (A)

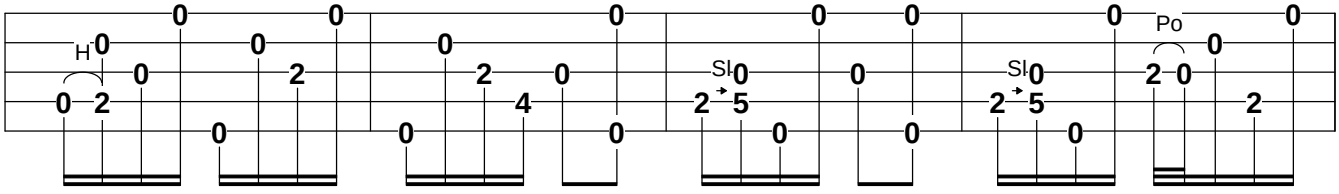




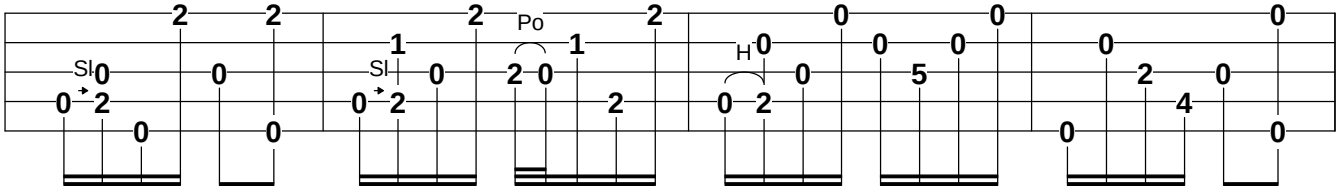
D7 (E7) G (A)

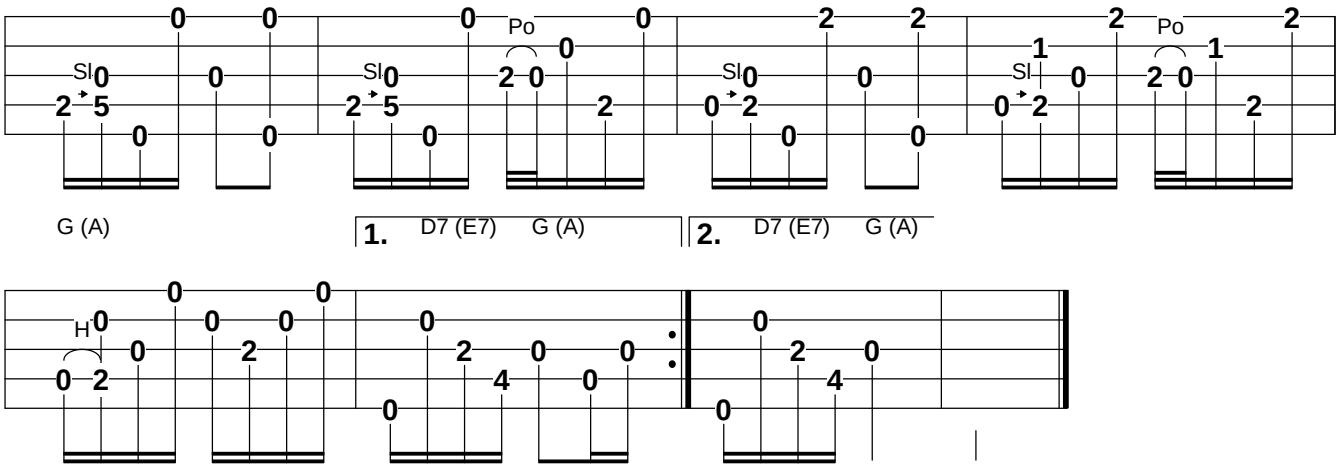


D7 (E7) G (A)



C (D) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)





This tune bears no resemblance to the tune in the key of D which is a close cousin to Cherokee Shuffle. This tune comes from the great Eastern Kentucky fiddler Ed Haley (1885-1951), and to my ear sounds closely related to Black Mountain Rag. Like the latter tune, Lost Indian is played in a cross A tuning on fiddle, AEac#. This allows the complex figures of the A part to be executed with a simple rocking of the bow between the 1st and 2nd strings. I have set this arrangement in open G tuning, capoed on the 2nd fret to match the fiddle the key of A.

Ed Haley's take on this tune has some unusual rhythmic elements. The first strain of the B part has an extra beat in the first measure, for a total of 9 beats, while the remaining three strains are square, with 8 beats each. The C part is also squirelly; each strain has just 12 beats instead of 16, or 6 measures instead of 8.