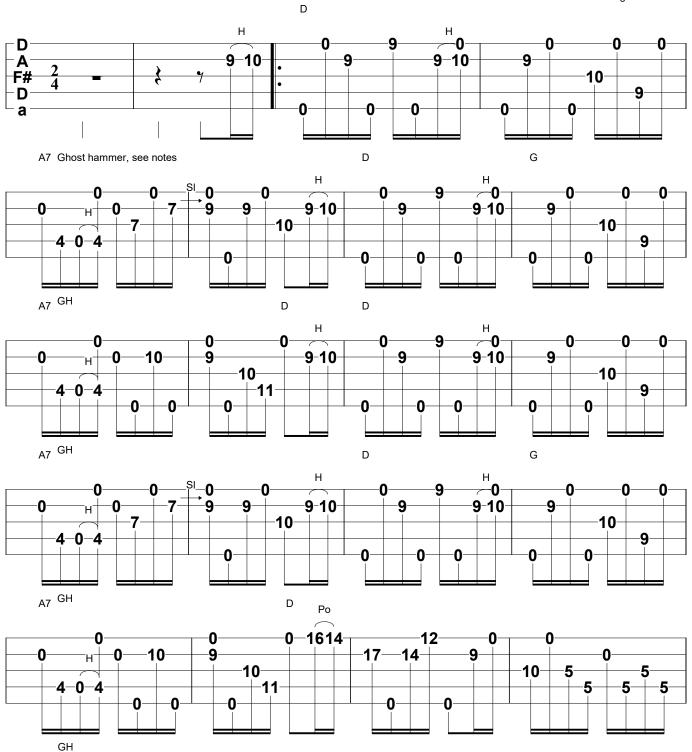
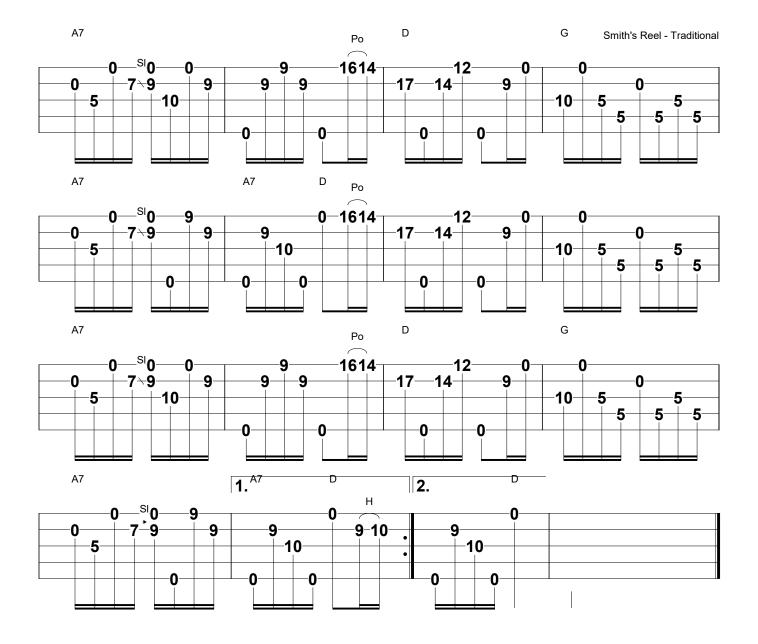
Smith's Reel

Traditional

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Smith's reel is an old fiddle tune that is found mostly in the northern states and Canada, but it does seem to be closely related to the western Virginia tune Belles of Lexington. This version comes from the playing of Nebraska fiddler Bob Walters (1889-1960). In the second part of the tune, walters goes down to the 4th string to get some low notes you can't find on the banjo, so I had to transpose it up an octave, finding the notes but losing that growly feeling he gets on the fiddle. This is when you need a six string banjo, with an extra bass string.

Measures 5, 9, 13, qnd 17 feature a ghost hammer, where you hammer onto the 4th string at the 4th fret, without picking it first with the right hand. Since atring is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough.