

Going Down this Road Feeling Bad key of G

“Going Down this Road Feeling Bad” is usually performed as an instrumental but it has great lyrics too. Banjo players tend to have this tune in their repertoires and it’s probably known more as a banjo-centric instrumental than anything else. A guitarist who plays with banjo players should know “Going Down this Road Feeling Bad.”

Notice the different styles of backup on the regular speed track behind open solos 1 and 2. Behind open solo 1 Bill Evans plays a “chop” or clipped back beat on the banjo on beats two and four of the measure. The mandolin is playing a similar chop. The chop is the bluegrass band’s version of a snare drum. In a real life band situation the banjo player and the mandolin would probably not both play chops at the same time. If the mandolinist is playing chops, the banjo player would tend to play a roll as you hear in open solo 2.

The solo starts out with slides in the first three measures that take your fretting hand out of first position. You’ll play several notes in frets three through five. That kicks the difficulty level of the solo up a bit, especially if you’re not used to playing up the neck. Things settle down to routine Carter-style picking in measures four through ten. Measure eleven is a repeat of measure two. From there on, for the most part, you’ll be back in first position. If the solo is difficult for you, take the time to play it slowly and learn it section by section. Be sure to follow the suggested fretting hand fingerings shown under the standard notation.

After open solo 2 we have a bass solo. Here the band plays chopped accent chords while Cindy Browne does her thing. This is by no means the only way to back up a bass solo but it is kind of the standard method. It can be a little tricky to play these chord chops at the right time behind the bass and to keep the rhythm on track. Here’s your chance to practice!

After open solo 3 you’ll get a chance to back up a banjo solo. The basic rule of thumb is to keep doing what you’ve been doing. If you’re not sure what to do, listen to the track. At the end of his banjo solo, which is also the end of the tune, Bill plays a little banjo ending or tag. As you jam with other people, keep your ears open so you can end when everybody else does. This is always a good thing!

“Going Down this Road Feeling Bad” is also called “Lonesome Road Blues.”

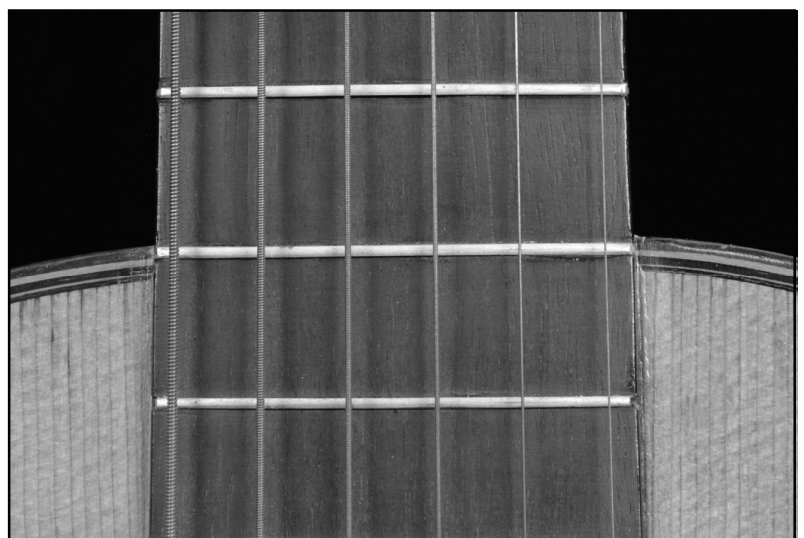
Track locations

Slow speed CD track 4:

1. *Guitar solo (:00)*
2. *Open solo 1 (:34)*
3. *Bass solo (:57)*
4. *Open solo 2 (1:22)*

Regular speed CD track 5:

1. *Guitar solo (:00)*
2. *Open solo 1 (:24)*
3. *Open solo 2 (:42)*
4. *Bass solo (1:01)*
5. *Open solo 3 (1:19)*
6. *Banjo solo (1:38)*
7. *Banjo outro/tag (1:54)*



Mid-1800s Martin parlor guitar, fretboard detail

Photo by Dix Bruce