

Long Journey Home *key of G*

“Long Journey Home” has a verse/chorus format, but both parts are the same. The solos are played over one of those parts. In measure 12 of the guitar solo you’ll use your fourth fretting finger to fret the second string, third fret, D note. Keep your finger there for the strums that follow until beat four of measure thirteen, where you’ll move it back to the first string, third fret, G note.

After the third chorus you’ll get a chance to back up Bill’s banjo solo.

Rhythm note: We already talked a little about the back beat chop in “Going Down this Road Feeling Bad” on page 14. While the guitar is playing ringing chords on beats two and four in a 4/4 measure, the mandolin or banjo plays a chopped chord that’s more percussive than harmonic. The chop is analogous to a snare drum beat and keeps the rhythm together and moving. It’s one of the innovations bluegrass inventor Bill Monroe pioneered, and it gave the music a harder groove and separated it from old-time and mountain music.

The mandolin is the main chopper while the banjo plays rolls or some other backup part, except when the mandolin plays a solo. Then the banjo chops rhythm to keep rhythmic continuity. Both banjo and mandolin don’t usually chop at the same time, but in most cases on the recording, we kept them both in so you could hear both. The fiddle can also be the chopper in a bluegrass band, if there’s no mandolin or banjo available to do the job. It’s all about keeping a continuous back beat going.

Dix Bruce and Julie Cline on vocals.

G

1. Black smoke’s a rising and it surely is a train,

C G

Surely is a train boys, surely is a train,

Black smoke’s a rising and it surely is a train,

D G

I’m on my long journey home.

Chorus: Lost all my money but a two dollar bill,

Two dollar bill boys, two dollar bill,

Lost all my money but a two dollar bill,

I’m on my long journey home.

2. Cloudy in the West and it looks like rain,

Looks like rain, boys, looks like rain,

Cloudy in the West and it looks like rain,

I’m on my long journey home.

3. Dark and a’ raining and I want to go home,

Want to go home, boys, want to go home,

Dark and a’ raining and I want to go home,

I’m on my long journey home.

Track locations

Slow speed CD track 6:

1. *Guitar solo (:00)*
2. *Open solo 1 (:30)*
3. *Open solo 2 (:53)*
4. *Open solo 3 (1:17)*

Regular speed CD track 7:

1. *Guitar solo (:00)*
2. *Vocal verse 1 (:22)*
3. *Vocal chorus 1 (:39)*
4. *Open solo 1 (:57)*
5. *Vocal verse 2 (1:14)*
6. *Vocal chorus 2 (1:32)*
7. *Open solo 2 (1:49)*
8. *Vocal verse 3 (2:07)*
9. *Vocal chorus 3 (2:24)*
10. *Banjo solo (2:42)*
11. *Vocal chorus 4 (2:59)*