

Nine Pound Hammer *key of G*

“Nine Pound Hammer” is another of those “you-gotta-know-this, fergeddaboutit” songs. Everybody plays and sings it. Luckily it is a fairly easy song and tons of fun to play.

The guitar kicks off the song with a full solo: verse plus chorus. Playing a full solo is another good way to get into a song. Of course we could have played a turnaround, a partial solo, or maybe even potatoes.

The form of the song is verse/chorus, and though the melodies differ slightly the chord progression is the same. Solos are usually played over both parts.

After the second open solo we added a bass solo. As with “Going Down this Road Feeling Bad” on page 14 the band plays chopped accent chords.

The guitar solo has lots of slides and some eighth note hammers but is otherwise mostly quarter notes.

Dix Bruce on vocals.

G
1. Well the nine pound hammer,
C
Is a little too heavy,
G
Buddy, for my size,
D G
Buddy, for my size.

G
Chorus: So roll on buddy,
C
Don't you roll so slow,
G
How can I roll,
D G
When the wheels won't go?

2. I'm goin' on the mountain,
Just to see my baby,
And I ain't coming back,
Lord I ain't coming back.

3. This nine pound hammer,
It killed John Henry,
But it won't kill me,
No it won't kill me.

4. There ain't no hammer,
In this here tunnel,
That can ring like mine,
That can ring like mine.

5. It's a long way to Harlan,
It's a long way to Hazard,
Just to get a little brew,
Just to get a little brew.

Track locations

Slow speed CD track 24:

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

Regular speed CD track 25:

1. *Guitar solo (:00)*
2. *Vocal verse 1 (:22)*
3. *Vocal chorus 1 (:31)*
4. *Open solo 1 (:40)*
5. *Vocal verse 2 (:57)*
6. *Vocal chorus 2 (1:05)*
7. *Open solo 2 (1:14)*
8. *Vocal verse 3 (1:32)*
9. *Vocal chorus 3 (1:40)*