

East Tennessee Blues

by Dan Miller and Tim May

In this month's newsletter we are giving our regular newsletter contributor, Mickey Abraham, a break and providing you with some material from Volumes 5 and 6 of the *Flatpicking Essentials* course. For those of you who already have those volumes of the course, don't worry, we've thrown in something a little extra that doesn't appear in the course.

In this month's newsletter lesson we are providing beginner, intermediate, and advanced arrangements of the fiddle tune "East Tennessee Blues." The beginning arrangement, by Dan Miller, does not appear in the *Flatpicking Essentials* course. So, for those of you who are studying the course (as well as those of you who are not) this beginner's arrangement will provide a good opportunity for you to learn a simple arrangement of the tune before trying to tackle the intermediate and advanced versions.

In arranging the beginners version, I listened to a recording of Bill Monroe playing the tune. I did not transcribe Monroe's arrangement, I simply listened to what he was doing, hummed along to get a general feel for the basic melody, then I came up with my arrangement. In Volume 3 of the *Flatpicking Essentials* course I teach how to arrange simple versions of fiddle tunes using this method.

The "intermediate" level arrangement is taken from *Flatpicking Essentials Volume 5*. In this volume the idea was for Tim May to improvise tunes in the style of various famous flatpickers. Again, the tunes in this book are not exact transcriptions. Tim improvised the arrangements and during each section of the tune he played in the style of a different flatpicker. For instance, in his improvisation of "East Tennessee Blues" for Volume 5 he played the opening A section in the style of Doc Watson, then he played the B section in the style of Pat Flynn, then he played another A section in the style of Mark O'Connor. Other flatpickers' styles who are presented and studied in this volume include Tony Rice, Norman Blake, Clarence White, and Dan Crary.

The "advanced" arrangement of "East Tennessee Blues" that appears in this lesson comes from *Flatpicking Essentials*, Volume 6. In this volume Tim May improvised about 18 different fiddle tunes and bluegrass songs, playing each two times through. For each song he focused on various and different advanced flatpicking techniques. For this particular song he presented the use of syncopation, the use of the "flat 9" arpeggio, and the use of quarter note triplets.

If you'd like to find out more about each volume of the *Flatpicking Essentials* course, please go to www.flatpickingmercantile.com.

We hope you enjoy these arrangements of "East Tennessee Blues."

East Tennessee Blues

(Beginner)

Arranged by Dan Miller

1

C F

TAB

0 1 2 | 3 5 3 0 3 5 3 0 | 3 0 3 0 5 3 0 | 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 | 1 1 3 1 2

6

C D G G C

1. 2.

S

0 2 0 2 | 1 1 3 5 | 3 5 3 5 | 3 3 3 5/7 5 | 3 0 1 2 | 1 2 0 1 2 0 | 0 0 1 1 1 3

12

C F C

0 3 5 3 0 | 1 1 1 1 0 1 | 2 1 3 1 2 | 3 3 3 3 0 2 | 3 0 1 2 0 2

17

D G G C

1. 2.

1. 2.

1 2 0 2 | 0 2 4 0 2 0 4 2 | 0 0 0 0 1 3 | 0 2 0 0 2 0 2 | 0 1 1 1 3

East Tennessee Blues

(Intermediate)

Arranged by Tim May

Doc Watson

1 **C** **F**

4/4

TAB

3 5 3 0 3 5 3 0 | 3 5 3 0 5 3 0 | 1 3 1 2 1 3 1 2 | 1 3 1 2 1 2 0 2

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the piece. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on a C4 chord and moves to an F4 chord. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each note, including triplets and bends.

5 **C** **D** **G**

3 2 0 2 3 0 | 1 2 0 2 1 2 0 2 | 4 2 1 2 1 2 4 1 | 3 0 0 0 0 3 0

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 through 8. The key signature changes to one sharp (F#) for the D and G chords. The melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The guitar tablature includes a triplet in measure 5 and various fretting patterns for the D and G chords.

9 **C** **F** **P** **S**

3 5 3 0 3 5 3 0 | 3 5 3 0 5 3 0 | 1 3 1 2 1 2 0 3 | 0 1 2 1 3 1 3/5

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 through 12. It returns to the C and F chords. Measure 11 features a 'P' (pull-off) and measure 12 features an 'S' (slide) on the final note. The guitar tablature shows the specific techniques used for these effects.

13 **C** **G** **C**

0 | 5/3 1 2 | 1 1 2 0 2 | 3 2 3 0 2 0 2 0 | 1 0 0 0 0 3/5

Detailed description: This block contains the final four measures (13-16). It features C and G chords. Measure 13 starts with a slide on the fifth string. Measure 16 ends with a slide on the fifth string. The guitar tablature shows the fretting and slide techniques throughout.

East Tennessee Blues

(Intermediate—con't)

Pat Flynn

17 **C** **F**

S **BEND** **BEND** **P** **S**

21 **C** **D** **G** 3

S **BEND** **P**

25 **C** **F** **H**

H

29 **C** **G** **C**

C **G** **C**

East Tennessee Blues

(Intermediate—con't)

Mark O'Connor

33 **C** **F**

5 5 3 5 4 5 3 5 | 3 5 3 5 5 3 5 | S 6 4 . 4 | 3 4 0 3 2 1 0 3

37 **C** **D** **G**

1 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 | 0 2 3 0 2 0 3 0 | 4 2 1 2 1 2 0 2 | 3 2 0 3 2 3 0 2

41 **C** **F**

3 2 3 0 1 2 2 | 1 2 0 1 0 3 0 1 | 2 1 3 1 3/6 5 | 4 5 . 5

45 **C** **G** **C**

8 6 5 8 0 5 3 | 4 0 1 4 0 1 2 3 | 1 0 3 1 0 3 1 0 | 1 1 0 2 3

East Tennessee Blues

Arranged by Tim May

(Advanced)

1 **C** **F** **C**

T
A
B

6 **D** **G** **C**

S **S**

11 **F** **C** **G**

P

16 **C** **C** **F**

S

21 **C** **D** **G**

S

East Tennessee Blues

(Advanced—con't)

25 **C** **F**

1 1 3 4 5 4 3 1 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 1 2 3 4 3 2 0
2 2 3 4 5 4 3 3 3 1 2 3 2 3 4 3 2 0

29 **C** **G** **C**

1 2 0 3 2 0 2 3 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 2 0 2 0 1 3 0 1 1 3 7
1 2 0 2 3 2 0 2 3 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 2 0 2 0 1 3 0 1 1 3 7

33 **C** **F**

7 5 6 5 0 5 3 4 0 4 0 1 1 4 1 S 4 7 4 S 7 10 7 S 10 13 10 10
7 5 6 5 0 5 3 4 0 4 0 1 1 4 1 S 4 7 4 S 7 10 7 S 10 13 10 10

37 **C** **D** **G**

S 12 8 10 8 10 8 7 8 0 0 0 7 7 5 5 4 3 5 1 3 0 1
S 12/13 12 8 10 8 10 8 7 8 0 0 0 7 7 5 5 4 3 5 1 3 0 1

41 **C** **F**

P P 2 3 1 3 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 2 0
2 3 1 3 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3 1 2 0

East Tennessee Blues

(Advanced—con't)

45 C G C

4 1 4 1 2 0 4 1 | 4 1 4 1 2 0 | 0 2 3 2 2 3 0 3 2 0 | 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 2

49 C F

3 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 | 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 0 | 1 3/5 3 5 3 5 7 5 7 5 6 5 7 5

53 C D G

6/8 8 7 5 3 5 3 0 0 2 3 0 2 3 2 0 2 | 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 3

57 C F

1 0 5 4 5 5 4 | 5 5 4 5 6 4 | 6 6 4 6 6 4 | 6 6 4 6 4 5

61 C G C

5 1 3 0 1 | 3 0 1 0 3 1 0 3 | 1 0 2 0 0 2 0 3 | 1 0 1 0 2