

## **Two-Finger Thumb Lead Sources and Songs:**

*Organized by tuning and song title.*

### **Sources:**

#### **J = Jan Olav**

Jan Olav is an enormously prolific contributor to the “Tabs” section of Banjo Hangout (<http://www.banjohangout.org>). The best way to access his tabs is via the search function in the Tab section. You can either search by song title or by entering in “thumb lead” in the search box.

#### **S = Sean Barth**

Sean (a/k/a Mojo Munk on Banjo Hangout) maintains an excellent list of songs and some background on the old time thumb-lead style at his site, “Thumb-Lead Banjer,” located at <http://2ftlbanjer.wordpress.com>

#### **OMB = Old Time Mountain Banjo**

Written in 1968 by music collector, artist and University of Georgia professor Art Rosenbaum, this out-of-print book is a treasure trove of old time banjo styles, including thumb-lead. (Rosenbaum, Art. *Old Time Mountain Banjo*. Oak Publications, 1968. Print.)

#### **AMB = The Art of the Mountain Banjo**

Another book from the esteemed Mr. Rosenbaum, this text has fewer thumb-lead pieces than *Old Time Mountain Banjo*, but it is still in print. (Rosenbaum, Art. *The Art of the Mountain Banjo*. Mel Bay Publications, 1999. Print)

#### **PSeeger = How to Play the 5-String Banjo**

The late Pete Seeger’s book has existed since 1948 in one form or another. While it only has one more-or-less complete thumb-lead song (“Darling Corey”), it is a wonderful book to read and shows Pete’s enthusiasm for the 5-string banjo and all of its styles. (Seeger, Pete. *How to Play the 5-String Banjo*. Music Sales America, 1992. Print)

#### **TBk = Homespun Book – Five String Banjo**

First published as a series of instructional tape recordings accompanied by a bound book, this resource is now in a more technology friendly CD format. The price is a bit high (about \$50 as of 2014), but it has a number of well tabbed thumb-lead songs and instructor Happy Traum is an excellent teacher. The book covers thumb-lead as well as other old-time styles. (Traum, Happy. *Five-String Banjo*. Homespun, 1974. Print)

#### **TVid = Homespun Video – Five-String Banjo for Beginners**

In a similar vein to the Five-String Banjo book is the Homespun DVD. Again, it contains a few thumb-lead songs as well as other folk banjo styles. (*Five-String Banjo for Beginners*. Dir. Happy Traum. Homespun Tapes, 2004. DVD)

#### **SoBSv2 = Homespun Video - Southern Banjo Styles Vol. 2**

Taught by Mike Seeger, this DVD series has thumb-lead as well as other styles. The songs are more geared towards experienced players, but his arrangements are lovely. (*Southern Banjo Styles, Vol. 2*. Dir. Happy Traum. Perf. Mike Seeger. Homespun Tapes. 2006. DVD)

# Index of 2-Finger Thumb Lead Songs by Tuning.

## **gDGBD**

a/k/a “Open G” or “G” or “Standard G”

<b>A</b>	Arkansas Traveller (J)	<b>H</b>	Handsome Molly (S) Handsome Molly (TVid) Hot Corn/Cold Corn/Green Corn (J)
<b>B</b>	Bald Headed End of the Broom (S) Banjo Pickin' Girl (J) Black-Eyed Suzy (TBk) The Blackest Crow (J) Buffalo Gals (S)	<b>I</b>	I Walk the Line (J)
<b>C</b>	Careless Love (S) Chased Ol' Satan (S) Cindy (J) Cowhide Boots (S) Cripple Creek v1 (S) Cripple Creek v2 (S) Cripple Creek (J) Cripple Creek Variations (J) Crow Black Chicken (J) Cumberland Gap (J) Cumberland Gap (TBk & TVid)	<b>J</b>	Jack Wilson (S) Jesse James (TVid) Jingle Bells (J) John Brown's Dream (J) John Henry v2 (J) John Henry v3 (J) June Apple (J)
<b>D</b>	Daisy Dog (J) Down in the Willow Garden (J) Down in the Willow Garden (TBk) Down the Road (J) Ducks in the Millpond (J) Duelling Banjos (J) The Dying Californian (S)	<b>L</b>	Lazy John (S) Little Birdie (TBk) Little Maggie (J) Lonesome Road Blues (J)
<b>F</b>	Frankie Baker (J)	<b>M</b>	Mama Don't Low (J) Milk Cow Blues (J) My Home... Smokey Mtns (TBk & TVid)
<b>G</b>	Grey Eagle (J) Ground Hog (J) Gound Hog (OMB)	<b>O</b>	Old Joe Clark (J)
		<b>P</b>	Policeman (S) Polly Put the Kettle On (J) Proud Mary (J) Purty Little Gal (J)

**R**

Ramblin' Hobo (J)  
Red River Valley (J)  
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer (J)  
Run Mountain (J)

**S**

Sail Away Ladies (J)  
Sally Goodin (J)  
Salt River (J)  
Skillet Good and Greasy (S)  
Smokey Mountains (H)  
Sourwood Mountain (S)  
Stoney Point (J)  
Sugar Hill (J)  
Sweet Sunny South (J)  
Swannanoa Tunnel (TBk)

**T**

Tater Patch (J)  
That's Where My Money Goes (S)

**W**

Walkin' In My Sleep (J)  
Wamping (Vamping) (J)  
Waterbound (J)  
White Christmas (J)  
White House Blues (J)  
Wildwood Flower 1 (J)  
Willie Moore (TBk)  
Worried Man Blues (J)

## **gDGCD**

a/k/a “Sawmill,” “Mountain Modal,” “G Modal”

### **B**

Bright Sunny South (S)

### **C**

Cluck Old Hen (S)

Cluck Old Hen (J)

The Cuckoo Bird (S)

### **L**

Little Sadie (J)

Little Sadie (S)

Lonesome John (J)

### **P**

Pretty Polly 1 (J)

Pretty Polly 2 (J)

Pretty Polly B.F. Shelton Intro (S)

Pretty Polly B.F. Shelton (S)

Pretty Polly (OMB)

### **S**

Salt River – Modal Version (J)

Shady Grove (J)

### **W**

Wedding Dress (J)

**gCGCD**  
a/k/a “Double C”

**A**

Angelina Baker (J)

**B**

Black Eyed Susie (J)

**F**

Fortune 1 (J)

Fortune 2 (J)

**G**

Going Across the Sea (S)

**I**

I Wish I Was a Mole... (S)

**J**

John Henry 1 (J)

**M**

Muskrat (AMB)

**O**

Old Jack Gillie (J)

Old Molly Hare (J)

**S**

Sally Ann (J)

Shout Little Lula (J)

Soldier's Joy (J)

Sugar Hill (J)

**W**

Whiskey Before Breakfast (J)

**gCGBD**

a/k/a “Drop C,” “Single C,” “Standard C”

**C**

Chinese Breakdown (J)

**gDGAD**

**S**

The Sailor and the Soldier (SoBSv2)

**W**

Willie Moore (S)

**gDGAE**

**G**

Get Along Home Cindy (S)

**P**

Poor Ellen Smith (S)

**gCGCE**

a/k/a “Open C”

**M**

Mississippi Sawyer (J)

**S**

Sugar Hill (S)

**W**

Wildwood Flower II (J)

## **gDGB<sup>b</sup>D**

### **P**

Pretty Polly (S)

## **fDGCD**

### **C**

Cumberland Gap (J)

### **H**

The Hills of Mexico (OMB)

### **S**

Shady Grove 1 (S)

Shady Grove 2 (S)

### **W**

Wild Bill Jones (S)

## **f<sup>#</sup>DGAD**

### **O**

Omie Wise (S)

## **f<sup>#</sup>DF<sup>#</sup>AD**

a/k/a “Graveyard,” “Open D”

### **C**

Coal Creek March (OMB)

### **D**

Darling Corey (Seeger)

## **f<sup>#</sup>DF<sup>#</sup>AD (continued)**

### **I**

In the Pines (AMB and OMB)

### **R**

Reuben's Train (S)

## **f<sup>#</sup>DEAD**

### **L**

Lost Gander (J)  
Lost Gander (SoBSv2)

## **f<sup>#</sup>BEAD**

### **C**

Cumberland Gap (S)

## **eCGCC**

### **D**

Darlin' Cora (J)

## **eCGCD**

### **S**

Shout Little Lula (S)



## **eEABD**

### **R**

Red Rocking Chair (S)

## **aDADE**

### **W**

Whiskey Before Breakfast (S)

# Index of 2-Finger Thumb Lead Songs by Title

## A

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Angelina Baker	gCGCD	J
Arkansas Traveller	gDGBD	J

## B

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Bald Headed End of the Broom	gDGBD	S
Banjo Pickin' Girl	gDGBD	J
Banks of the Ohio	gDGBD	TVid
Black-Eyed Suzy	gDGBD	TBk
Black Eyed Susie	gCGCD	J
The Blackest Crow	gDGBD	J
Bright Sunny South	gDGCD	S
Buffalo Gals	gDGBD	S

## C

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Careless Love	gDGBD	S
Chased Ol' Satan	gDGBD	S
Chinese Breakdown	gCGBD	J
Cindy	gDGBD	J
Cluck Old Hen	gDGCD	S
Cluck Old Hen	gDGCD	J
Coal Creek March	f#DF#AD	OMB
Cowhide Boots	gDGBD	S
Cripple Creek v1	gDGBD	S
Cripple Creek v2	gDGBD	S
Cripple Creek	gDGBD	J
Cripple Creek Variations	gDGBD	J
Crow Black Chicken	gDGBD	J
Cuckoo Bird	gDGCD	S
Cumberland Gap	gDGBD	J
Cumberland Gap	fDGCD	J
Cumberland Gap	gDGBD	TVid TBk
Cumberland Gap	f#BEAD	S

## D

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Daisy Dog	gDGBD	J
Darling Corey	f#DF#AD	PSeeger
Darlin' Cora	eCGCC	J
Down in the Willow Garden	gDGBD	J
Down in the Willow Garden	gDGBD	T
Down the Road	gDGBD	J
Ducks in the Millpond	gDGBD	J
Duelling Banjos	gDGBD	J
The Dying Californian	gDGBD	S

## E

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## F

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Fortune 1	gCGCD	J
Fortune 2	gCGCD	J
Frankie Baker	gDGBD	J

## G

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Get Along Home Cindy	gDGAE	S
Going Across the Sea	gCGCD	S
Grey Eagle	gDGBD	J
Ground Hog	gDGBD	J
Ground Hog	gDGBD	OMB

## H

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Handsome Molly	gDGBD	S
Handsome Molly	gDGBD	TVid
Hills of Mexico	fDGCD	OMB
Hot Corn/Cold Corn/Green Corn	gDGBD	J

## I

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
I Walk the Line	gDGBD	J
I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground	gCGCD	S
In the Pines	f#DF#AD	AMB
In the Pines	f#DF#AD	OMB

## J

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Jack Wilson	gDGBD	S
Jesse James	gDGBD	TVid
Jingle Bells	gDGBD	J
John Brown's Dream	gDGBD	J
John Henry v1	gCGCD	J
John Henry v2	gDGBD	J
John Henry v3	gDGBD	J
June Apple	gDGBD	J

## K

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## L

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Lazy John	gDGBD	S
Little Birdie	gDGBD	T
Little Maggie	gDGBD	J
Little Sadie	gDGCD	J
Little Sadie	gDGCD	S
Lonesome John	gDGCD	J
Lonesome Road Blues	gDGBD	J
Lost Gander	f#DEAD	J
Lost Gander	f#DEAD	SoBSv2

## M

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Mama Don't Low	gDGBD	J
Milk Cow Blues	gDGBD	J
Mississippi Sawyer	gCGCE	J
Muskrat	gCGCD	AMB
My Home's Across the Smokey Mountains	gDGBD	TBk TVid

## N

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## O

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Old Jack Gillie	gCGCD	J
Old Joe Clark	gDGBD	J
Old Molly Hare	gCGCD	J
Omie Wise	f#DGAD	S

## P

<b>Song Title:</b>	<b>Tuning:</b>	<b>Source:</b>
Policeman	gDGBD	S
Polly Put the Kettle On	gDGBD	J
Poor Ellen Smith	gDGAE	S
Pretty Polly 1	gDGCD	J
Pretty Polly 2	gDGCD	J
Pretty Polly B.F. Shelton Intro	gDGCD	S
Pretty Polly B.F. Shelton	gDGCD	S
Pretty Polly	gDGCD	OMB
Pretty Polly	gDGB <sup>b</sup> D	S
Proud Mary	gDGBD	J
Purty Little Gal	gDGBD	J

## Q

<b>Song Title:</b>	<b>Tuning:</b>	<b>Source:</b>
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## R

<b>Song Title:</b>	<b>Tuning:</b>	<b>Source:</b>
Ramblin' Hobo	gDGBD	J
Red River Valley	gDGBD	J
Red Rocking Chair	eEABD	S
Reuben's Train	f#DF#AD	S
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	gDGBD	J
Run Mountain	gDGBD	J

## S

<b>Song Title:</b>	<b>Tuning:</b>	<b>Source:</b>
Sail Away Ladies	gDGBD	J
The Sailor and the Soldier	gDGAD	SoBSv2
Sally Ann	gCGCD	J
Sally Goodin	gDGBD	J
Salt River	gDGBD	J
Salt River – Modal Version	gDGCD	J
Shady Grove 1	fDGCD	S
Shady Grove 2	fDGCD	S
Shady Grove	gDGCD	J
Shout Little Lula	eCGCD	S
Shout Little Lula	gCGCD	J
Skillet Good and Greasy	gDGBD	S
Soldier's Joy	gCGCD	J
Sourwood Mountain	gDGBD	S
Stoney Point	gDGBD	J

Sugar Hill (A Tuning)	gDGBD	J
Sugar Hill (Double D Tuning)	gCGCD	J
Sugar Hill	gCGCE	S
Swannanoa Tunnel	gDGBD	T
Sweet Sunny South	gDGBD	J

## T

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Tater Patch	gDGBD	J
That's Where My Money Goes	gDGBD	S

## U

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## V

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## W

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
Walkin' In My Sleep	gDGBD	J
Wamping (Vamping)	gDGBD	J
Waterbound	gDGBD	J
Wedding Dress	gDGCD	J
Whiskey Before Breakfast	gCGCD	J
Whiskey Before Breakfast	aDADE	S
White Christmas	gDGBD	J
White House Blues	gDGBD	J
Wildwood Flower 1	gDGBD	J
Wildwood Flower 2	gCGCE	J
Wild Bill Jones	fDGCD	S
Willie Moore	gDGBD	T
Willie Moore	dDGAD	S
Worried Man Blues	gDGBD	J

## X

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## Y

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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## Z

Song Title:	Tuning:	Source:
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