

4. All The Pretty Little Horses

The strum I worked out for this song back in 1946 proved so effective that I've since used it on many other songs. My sister Peggy has nicknamed it the "lullaby lick", an apt term. In effect what is happening here is that the third string becomes a drone, (the 5th string usually is) and is plucked between every other note. Try to maintain an even, sustained effect.

The song is one variant of a widely known lullaby. At first glance the words seem to make no sense. But think back to slavery days when it was made up. Many a mother had to work all day up in the Big House, taking care of the master's children, while her own were unattended down in the slave cabins. The verses now are seen as a tragic comparison on the fortunes of two different babies. The imagination is stimulated, as it always is by good poetry, to see many similar contrasts: the song takes on new layers of meaning, as one learns more of life.

Banjo Tuning GDGBbD

Capo up several frets to sing comfortably

Banjo

Tablature

Voice one octave lower
Hush - a - bye, hush - a - bye, Go to sleep - y lit - tle ba - by.

When you a-wake you shall have cake and all the pret-ty lit-tle hors - es.

Fine only

Blacks and bays, dap'l and greys, Coach and six - a lit - tle hors - es.

(dapples)

T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1

Banjo Interlude

T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1

Way down yon-der down in the mea-der There's a poor lit - tle lamb - ie. The

T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1

Bees and the but-ter-flies peck-in' out its eyes, The poor lit - tle thing cried "Mam-mie!"

To ⊕

T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1 T 1 2 1