



**IDA RED**  
(Four Times Over)  
by **CARL BARON**

I HAVE OFTEN BEEN ASKED HOW I ARRIVE at what I play for a particular fiddle tune. A short lesson dealing with this subject is presented here in four transcribed versions of the tune, *Ida Red*, which I learned from Armin Barnett, a fiddler who now lives in Seattle, Washington.

The first version has no double-thumbing, yet contains all the elements of the tune. The fifth string is played as much as possible, which provides a lot of drive when playing for dances or lively gatherings. In developing my style of playing, I decided that if the thumb is not being used for a melody note (i.e., a dropped-thumb) then it should be playing the fifth string.

The second version uses some double-thumbing and slides. Also, at the beginning of the second part, the strum across the strings leads to the next note in an interesting manner.

THE THIRD VERSION INTRODUCES THE use of the bass (fourth string) drone and the fourth version is the most complete in terms of the number of notes. In the first measure, a little bit of finger gymnastics is required. After hammering-on on the second string, the finger (of the left hand) is in the correct position for the

next note on the first string. But watch it; the finger has to be rolled out of the way so that the second string is open for the next note (which is played with the thumb).

I hope you all have fun with these ideas and use some on the hundreds of other tunes you play.

NOTE: In my last article appearing in December, 1980 (VIII, No. 2, pg. 20) there was an error in the table. It should read "G or Em" (meaning "G major or E minor") as well as "C or Am"; "F or Dm" and "D or Bm". I hope this will help those who didn't notice the error immediately.

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**IDA RED**

Tuning: G CGCD; Capo 2 A DADE

Setting by CARL BARON

*Ida Red (con't)*

**GOOD PICKIN'**