

fiddlepogo's bowings study

<http://www.fiddlehangout.com/blog/2525>
<http://www.fiddlehangout.com/blog/2526>
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transcribed by mmuussiiccaall,
Richard Van Patten, 2019
in memory of Michael Springer
1952- 2016
Chico, California

Sawstroke

Up Bow Sawstroke

Conceptually simple,
like using a flatpick,
lots of melodic clarity.
Forces the left hand to get
in sync with the bowing arm.

Unshuffle

Georgia Shuffle

Conceptually simple,
like using a flatpick,
lots of melodic clarity.
Forces the left hand to get
in sync with the bowing arm.

Great for extreme accents on
the backbeat- loved by
bluegrass fiddlers for this
reason.

1. Two Note Slurs

5

Offset Two Note Slurs

Offset Two Note Slurs

Nashville Shuffle

7

There is also a version where the two note slurs begin on the second and fourth notes in a series. A bit tricky to get the hang of. It sounds really good on ragtime tunes. I hear tell Jason Anick considers it a fundamental lick in Swing fiddling too.

Classic rhythm is the same as the bump-ditty banjo pattern and the "church lick" backup pattern on guitar. Very easy to create a sense of drive with this pattern. Good starting point for learning other patterns that are similar.

Offset Nashville

alt. Offset Nashville

9

Just as the only real difference between Unshuffle and Georgia Shuffle is where you start it, Offset Nashville utilizes the same motions as Nashville, but shifts the pattern so the downbeat comes in a different place.

continued-I first heard this at Galax in 1976 in the playing of a fiddler named Dave Viddick. I can't find any trace of him on the web. It's become one of my favorites- it has much of the flavor of Nashville, but lends itself to a bouncy hornpipey

Jingle Bells Shuffle

Sawshuffle

I just realized that there is another balanced pattern made by reversing the long slur and the sawstrokes in Nashville. If you play the first part of the chorus of Jingle Bells you've got it.

It's not a flashy sounding shuffle, but it has a plea

Smoothshuffle

SyncoShuffle

Very similar to Sawshuffle, and very compatible with it, yet it sounds very different, since Sawshuffle is 5/8 sawstroke, and Smoothshuffle is 6/8 slurs... or something like that. Brad Leftwich also calls it Melvin's Lick, I think he classifies it

Similar to Nashville- really just a rearrangement of it by changing the first slur to a single note and the first single note to a slur. As you can tell from the name, it syncopates well, and is a natural choice if you want to add some of this flavor

Reverse Syncoshuffle

Upbow Backbeat Shuffle

I don't use this myself, but it's obviously a possibility- I just haven't found a use for it yet- anybody else???

Based on a backwards Georgia Shuffle- note the upstroke on the first backbeat. I still haven't found a use for it though, but it seems easy enough to do

Countdown Shuffle (???)

Musical notation for Countdown Shuffle (???) in G major (one sharp). The notation consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written as a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Below the staff, there are seven bowing directions: square (up), square (up), square (up), V (down), V (down), square (up), V (down). A box number '17' is written to the left of the staff. Below the bowing directions is a fretboard diagram with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are: T: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0; A: 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2; B: 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2. Below the fretboard diagram are four empty rectangular boxes.

I think I saw this on a Japanese website that may have gotten ideas from Brad Leftwich. Still on my "backburner" with no application yet.