

The Murphy Method

Recommended Advanced Banjo Track Part 1 (1st and 2nd Levels)

Because we offer so many Advanced Level tunes, we have divided the Advanced Banjo Track into three levels of increasing difficulty. We have also included a group of Specialty Tunes, some of which are advanced and some of which are intermediate. And finally, we offer a track called If You Play In A Band. The first two levels are discussed here. Level Three, Specialty Tunes, and If You're In A Band are in [Part Two](#).

If you are "advanced," you can play all or most of the tunes on our Intermediate Track, you can vamp to these numbers, you can trade breaks easily in a jam, you can do some basic improvising, and, through your participation in jams, you have gained an ability to play faster. For those of you who are playing at home alone, strictly for your own enjoyment, you might want to stick to the instrumentals and bypass the singing songs which really call for band participation.

NOTE TO JAMMERS: Do not bring these tunes to a jam and expect the pickers to play them slow! When you start bringing Advanced Tunes to the jam, folks will expect you to play them somewhere close to speed. Most pickers are tolerant of playing songs like Cripple Creek slowly but few will tolerate your playing songs like Rocky Top slow. That's why it's important to make sure that when you arrive here, at this Advanced Level, you have acquired the skills and experience to play faster or at least not train wreck! (You might want to read the blog I wrote titled "[Stop Learning Songs That Are Too Hard For You!](#)") Just saying...!

Advanced Banjo Track—First Level

(All Advanced Tracks assume you can play and vamp all or most of the songs on the [Intermediate Track](#).)

Salt Creek ([Beginning Banjo Vol. 2](#))

Daybreak In Dixie ([Ralph Stanley DVD](#))

Clinch Mountain Backstep (Ralph Stanley DVD)

Rocky Top ([Jam Sessions Standards](#)) (if this comes up in your jam)

Goldrush ([Great Banjo Tunes](#))

Riding On That Midnight Train (Ralph Stanley DVD)

Shenandoah Breakdown (Great Banjo Tunes)

How Mountain Girls Can Love (Ralph Stanley DVD)

Theme Time ([Rawhide DVD](#))

Little Maggie (Ralph Stanley DVD)

NOTE: Now is also the right time to start working with the [High Breaks and Backup DVD](#), especially if you are playing in a jam or playing with other people. I strongly suggest doing these songs in the order I present them on the DVD.

Advanced Banjo Track—Second Level

Here are some tunes that are a bit harder. These take you deeper into the playing of Earl Scruggs, give you a taste of the Melodic Style, and introduce you to playing in the Key of C without a capo. These tunes don't have to be done in this specific order, but naturally, I think this is a good order!

Earl's Breakdown ([More Advanced Earl](#)) (uses special Keith D-Tuners; we also show how to play it without special tuners]

Blackberry Blossom ([Blackberry Blossom DVD](#)) (melodic style)

Bluegrass Breakdown (Rawhide DVD) (only if you're jamming)

Turkey In The Straw (Blackberry Blossom DVD) (If you enjoyed learning Blackberry Blossom; melodic style)

Worried Man ([Wildwood Flower DVD](#)) If you are in a jam, now is a good time to Venture into the Key of C without the Capo (also called Open C). Start with the first songs on the Wildwood Flower DVD. Do several of these "easy" songs until you get the hang of playing in Open C. At the very least learn the suggested Worried Man in Open C.

Flint Hill Special (More Advanced Earl) (Uses the Keith tuners; we also show you how to play it without the tuners)

Arkansas Traveler (Wildwood Flower DVD) (If you like playing in Open C, fiddle tune.)

What A Friend We Have In Jesus ([Amazing Grace DVD](#))

Soldier's Joy ([Soldier's Joy DVD](#)) (Fiddle tune, open C)

Groundspeed ([Advanced Earl DVD](#))

Liberty (Soldier's Joy DVD) (Fiddle tune, open C)