

Mandolin Solos in G

We started off this book playing all 4 strings at once in the form of chords, then we swung the other way and played single notes in the form of melodies. But most mandolin solos are combinations of melody notes and chordal notes.

The busier sections contain mostly single notes, but there are often plenty of chances to mix in harmony notes that come from the associated chords.

"Boil That Cabbage Down" (YES!) was originally a song, which implies singing, which means singable, which means paced in such a way that humans can physically sing the song. In contrast, fiddle tunes are faster, busier and lack lyrics. Here's the simple, singable melody:

2 2 2 2	3 3	2 2 2 2	0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
Boil that cab - gage	down, boys,	turn that hoe - cake	round

2 2 2 2	3 3 3	2 2 0 0	5
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
On - ly song I	ever did sing,	boil that cab - bage	down

Now let's try a chord-melody version of the tune, where we add notes from the accompanying chords to the melody. Notice the altered fingerings for the chords, leading to nicer transitions. Either mute or avoid the 1st string. We'll keep the chord tones (harmony notes) below the melody here. Do all Down-Ups:

G

o	o	x	
	2		

C

o		x	
	1		
		2	

D

o	o	x	
	1		

G	C	G	D
2 2 2 2	3 3	2 2 2 2	0
0 0	2 2	0 0	0
0 0	0 0	0 0	2
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

G	C	G	D	G
2 2 2 2	3 3 3	2 2 0 0		5
0 0	2 2	0 0		0
0 0	0 0	0 2		0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

It needs some rhythm! Let's insert some double-time Shuffle Strums (D DU):

G	C	G	D
2 2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3 3	2 2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

G	C	G	D	G
2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3 3	2 2 2 0 0 0		3
0 0 0 0	2 2 2 2 2	0 0 0 0		2
0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 2 2		0
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3	

o	o	
	1	
		2