

A black silhouette of a mandolin body is centered on a red background. The silhouette includes the body, two f-holes, a bridge, and a tailpiece. The text is overlaid on the silhouette.

ZUPPARDI'S

**OLD TIME
COLLECTION**

FOR
MANDOLIN

SECOND EDITION

Welcome to Zuppar di's Old Time Collection!

The tune versions presented here should be viewed as the building blocks of melody, and are hopefully satisfying enough to play as written, but with plenty of room for variation and embellishment as you see fit. The selections are presented in both standard notation and tablature, but as ever, there's no substitute to learning these tunes by ear, and an accompanying YouTube playlist (see below) will give you an opportunity to learn these tunes as intended, without the distraction of fiddly dots, lines and numbers.

A note on the Second Edition:

Other than the groundbreaking addition of page numbers, this second edition also features an additional section featuring tunes in the key of C, which is a more uncommon key in the old time tradition. I've also included words to a few of the tunes, but rest assured singing is not necessary to play and enjoy these melodies! As ever, keep an eye on key signatures unless otherwise indicated. Old Time tunes often feature what we call modes, which lend tunes an evocative sound somewhere between a happy major and more brooding minor.

In this version June Apple, Cluck Old Hen and Kitchen Girl feature some of these modal variations in the key of A. Whilst the key signature might indicate D or G, these are the 'parent' keys, but the tunes revolve around A as the root.

For videos visit

www.niczuppar di.com/oldtime



Why Old Time Music?

Old-time music has deep roots in the rural American South, blending influences from African, British, and Irish traditions. It grew out of a mix of fiddle and banjo styles, passed down through generations by ear and memory. It is a deeply communal tradition that puts playing together above playing fast or flashy. It's about groove, feel, and shared rhythm — where repetition becomes a strength, following regular phrases with an



***" If you get lost, keep playin' G.
It'll come around again in a second."***

- Anon

G

- 6. Big Sciota**
- 7. Buffalo Girls**
- 8. Elk River Blues**
- 9. Shove The Pig's Foot**
- 10. The Girl I Left Behind Me**

D

- 12. Angelina Baker**
- 13. Arkansas Traveler**
- 14. Soldier's Joy**
- 15. The Spotted Pony**
- 16. Whiskey Before Breakfast**

A

- 18. Booth Shot Lincoln**
- 19. Cherokee Shuffle**
- 20. June Apple**
- 21. Cluck Old Hen**
- 22. Kitchen Girl**

C

- 24. Rock The Cradle Joe**
- 25. Billy In The Lowground**
- 26. Old Molly Hare**
- 27. Four Cent Cotton**
- 28. Monkey In The Dogcart**

Common Chords

Here's a cheat sheet for chords commonly found in the tunes in this collection. It's not exhaustive, and devised as a quick reference to prompt shapes that frequently repeat.

	I	IV	V	vi	
	G	C	D	Em	ii
G					
	D	G	A	Bm	
D					
	A	D	E	F#m	I
A					
	C	F	G	Am	bVII
C					

These chords feature in some of the tunes, and expand on the basic I - IV - V pattern.



Big Sciota

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A G D G D G

5 5 2 0 0 3 | 2 5 5 0 4 | 5 5 2 0 0 3 | 2 5 5 0 4

5 G C D G

5 5 0 2 5 | 0 0 0 3 0 | 5 2 5 0 5 4 | 5 5

9 **B** G D C

5 5 2 0 5 | 0 0 2 0 0 | 0 0 2 0 5 2 | 2 2 0 2 2 4

13 C Em D G

5 5 0 5 4 2 0 | 2 2 0 2 2 3 | 5 2 5 0 5 4 | 5 5

Buffalo Girls

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **G** **D** **G**

5 0 2 5 | 0 5 2 | 5 3 0 | 0 5 2

5 **G** **D** **G**

5 0 2 5 | 0 5 2 | 0 0 3 2 0 | 5 5

9 **B** **G** **D** **G**

3 2 0 5 | 0 5 2 | 5 3 0 | 0 5 2

13 **G** **D** **G**

3 2 0 5 | 0 5 2 | 0 0 3 2 0 | 5 5

Elk River Blues

Ernie Carpenter

A **C** **G**

5 2 5 | 0 0 | 0 2 0 5 | 2 0 2 | 5 5

6 **C** **D**

0 0 2 5 | 0 0 | 0 2 0 5 | 2 0 5 | 0 0

B **Am** **G**

0 0 2 5 | 0 0 | 0 2 0 5 | 2 0 2 | 5 5

16 **Am** **G**

0 0 2 5 | 0 0 | 0 2 0 5 | 2 0 2 | 5 5

Shove The Pig's Foot

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A G C G D

2 3 2 0 5 2 4 | 5 0 5 2 0 | 0 5 2 3 | 2 0 5 0

5 G C G D G

2 3 2 0 5 2 4 | 5 0 5 2 0 | 0 5 2 5 | 0 5 5

9 **B** G C G D

2 3 5 5 5 | 0 5 2 3 5 5 | 2 5 3 3 | 0 5 5

13 G C G D G

2 3 5 5 5 | 0 5 2 3 5 5 | 2 3 2 0 5 2 | 0 5 5

The Girl I Left Behind Me

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A G C G D

0 5 2 5 | 0 2 0 0 | 5 5 5 0 2 3 | 5 2 3

5 C G C D G

0 5 2 5 | 0 2 0 0 | 4 0 0 2 4 | 5 5

9 **B** G D

2 5 0 2 | 3 0 5 0 | 2 5 0 2 | 3 2 3 2

13 C G C D G

0 5 2 5 | 0 2 0 0 | 4 0 0 2 4 | 5 5



Angelina Baker

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **D** **G**

1 2 3 4

5 **D** **G**

5 6 7 8

9 **B** **D** **G**

9 10 11 12

13 **D**

13 14 15 16

Arkansas Traveler

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **D** **A**

T
A
B

5 **D** **A** **D**

T
A
B

9 **B** **D** **G** **D** **A** **D** **A**

T
A
B

13 **D** **G** **D** **A** **D** **G** **A** **D**

T
A
B

Soldier's Joy

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **D** **A**

T
A
B

5 **D** **A** **D**

T
A
B

9 **B** **D** **G** **D** **A**

T
A
B

13 **D** **G** **D** **A** **D**

T
A
B

The Spotted Pony

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A D A D G D A

0 0 2 2 4 4 5 5 0 5 2 0 5 2 5 0

5 D A D G D A D

0 0 0 2 2 2 4 4 4 5 0 2 5 0 2 0 5 0 2 0 5

9 **B** D G D A

2 5 2 0 0 2 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 0 5 2 5 0

13 D G D A D

2 2 5 2 0 0 0 2 0 5 2 2 0 2 5 0 2 0 5 0 2 0 5



Booth Shot Lincoln

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A A D A F#m

0 4 0 0 2 5 2 5 5 2 0 4 4 2 0 4 4

5 A D A E A

0 4 0 0 2 5 2 5 5 2 0 4 2 0 4 0 0

9 **B** A F#m

2 2 2 4 2 0 0 2 4 4 4 2 0 4 4

13 A E A

2 2 2 4 2 0 0 2 4 4 2 0 4 0 0

Cherokee Shuffle

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **A** **D**

T
A
B

5 **A** **E** **A**

5 — 5 — 5 — 2 | 0 — 0 — 2 — 0 | 4 — 0 — 2 — 0 6 | 0 — 0 — . :|

9 **B** **D** **A** **D** **A**

2 — 4 — 5 — 2 | 0 — 0 — 2 — 0 | 2 — 4 — 5 — 2 | 0 — 0 — . :|

13 **D** **A** **F#m** **E** **A**

2 — 4 — 5 — 2 | 0 — 0 — 2 — 0 | 4 — 4 — 2 — 0 | 4 — 4 — 0 — 2 | 4 — 0 — 2 — 0 6 | 0 — 0 — . :|

June Apple

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

1 **A** **A** **G** **D**

5 0 3 5 0 3 5 0 5 4 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 3 3 5 0 0 3

5 **A** **G** **A**

5 0 3 5 0 3 5 0 5 4 0 4 0 2 0 5 0 0

9 **B** **A** **G** **D**

4 4 2 0 0 4 4 5 0 0 5 0 2 4 5 5 0 5 5

13 **A** **G** **A**

4 4 2 0 0 4 4 5 0 0 4 0 2 0 5 0 0

Cluck Old Hen

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A A G A E A

Cluck old hen cluck and sing
Cluck old hen cluck and squall

You ain't laid an egg since late last spring
Ain't laid an egg since late last fall

0 5 3 5 3 0 5 5 0 5 3 5 3 0 5 3 0 0

5 **B** A G A E A

My old hen's a good old hen
She lays eggs for the railroad men
Sometimes eight and sometimes ten
That's enough for the railroad men

Cluck old hen cluck when I tell you
Cluck old hen or I'm gonna sell you

Last time she cackled cackled in the lot
Next time she cackles cackle in the pot
My old hen she's a good old hen
She lays eggs for the railroad men

Sometimes one sometimes two
Sometimes enough for the whole damn crew

0 0 3 0 0 5 0 0 3 5 0 5 3 0 0

My old hen's a good old hen
She lays eggs for the railroad men
Sometimes eight and sometimes ten
That's enough for the railroad men

Cluck old hen cluck when I tell you
Cluck old hen or I'm gonna sell you

Last time she cackled cackled in the lot
Next time she cackles cackle in the pot
My old hen she's a good old hen
She lays eggs for the railroad men

Sometimes one sometimes two
Sometimes enough for the whole damn crew



Rock The Cradle Joe

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A C

5 3 0 5 3 5 3 0 5 3 0 5 3 0 0 0

5 F G C

0 5 3 0 5 3 1 0 5 3 2 3 3

9 **B** G C F C G

2 5 5 2 5 3 0 0 5 0 1 0 5 3 5 0 5 3 2 0

13 G C F C G C

5 2 5 5 2 5 3 0 0 5 0 1 0 5 3 5 0 5 3 2 0

Billy In The Lowground

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A C Am G

5 5 0 2 5 0 | 3 3 5 3 5 | 0 0 2 0 0 2 | 3 0 5 2 0 5 4

5 C Am G C

5 5 0 2 5 0 | 3 3 5 3 5 | 0 0 2 0 0 2 | 0 5 2 0 5

B C F

0 3 0 3 0 3 | 3 5 3 0 5 3 | 3 5 3 5 3 5 | 5 5 3 0 5 3 5

13 C Am G C

0 3 0 3 0 3 | 3 5 3 0 5 3 | 0 0 2 3 0 5 | 0 5 2 0 5

Old Molly Hare

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A C G C

3 3 3 5 5 5 | 1 1 1 3 3 3 | 0 0 0 1 1 1 | 5 3 2 3

5 **B** C F C G C F G C

0 0 0 1 1 1 | 0 0 0 5 5 5 | 0 0 0 1 1 1 | 5 3 2 3

Four Cent Cotton

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A C G C

Old John Davy is dead and rottin'
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

He got drunk on four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

5 0-3-5 0 0 3-5-3-0 3 0-0 3-3 3-0 5-2-0 5

5 **B** C G C

Sleep all night with a hole in your stockin'
Get no more of the four cent cotton'
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

Billie goat a-runnin' in the holler
We gonna sell some four cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

5 5 0-2-5 0 3-3-5-3-0 5 0-0 3-3 3-0 5-2-0 5

Sleep all night with a hole in your stockin'
Get no more of the four cent cotton'
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

Billie goat a-runnin' in the holler
We gonna sell some four cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

All year runnin' in cotton
I went broke on four cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

Four cent cotton sure as you're born
I'm gonna drink some Georgia corn
Hey, hey four-cent cotton
Hey, hey four-cent cotton

Monkey In The Dogcart

Traditional arr. Nic Zuppari

A **C** **Am**

I've got a monkey in a dog cart
I've got a monkey in a dog cart
I've got a tiger in a cage
He goes round and round

5 **C** **G** **C**

I've got a real fire-eater
I've got a world of wonder
Step-up you'll be amazed
Coming to your town

9 **B** **C** **Am**

13 **C** **G** **C**







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