

# TWO-CHORD SONGS

Compiled by Pete Wernick

“Try hearing where the chords change!” \*

1 and 5 chords: G and D, C and G, etc.

Hear all these songs!

Go to [LetsPick.org](http://LetsPick.org),  
click Watch & Listen

Lots more jamming help  
on **LETPICK.ORG**  
Please copy and share!

## Popular Bluegrass Songs

- Handsome Molly
- Shady Grove
- John Henry
- Little Birdie
- Hot Corn, Cold Corn
- Reuben's Train/Train 45
- Bringing in the Georgia Mail
- Fire Ball Mail
- Jimmie Brown the Newsboy
- I'll Go Steppin' Too
- Katy Daley
- You Are My Flower
- On My Mind
- Get in Line Brother
- Will You Be Lonesome Too
- Somehow Tonight
- My Home's Across the Blue Ridge Mountains
- I'm Going Back to Old Kentucky
- Working on a Building
- Wild Bill Jones
- Pretty Polly
- Stay All Night
- Ashes of Love
- Driving Nails in My Coffin
- Pretty Fair Maid in the Garden
- Darling Corey
- Little Liza Jane
- Where the Soul Never Dies
- What Would You Give in Exchange for Your Soul
- Mansions for Me
- Poison Love

## Other Bluegrass

- Sharecropper's Son
- Standing in the Need of Prayer
- Old Gospel Ship
- Lonely Tombs
- There's No Hiding Place Down Here
- See That My Grave Is Kept Green (or Clean)
- Hear Jerusalem Moan
- Who's That Knocking at My Door
- I'll Be There
- Don't Lie to Me
- Walking in My Sleep
- It's Too Late to Walk the Floor
- Kentucky Girl
- I Just Think I'll Go Away
- I'm Gonna Love You Like There's No Tomorrow
- It Ain't Gonna Rain No More
- It's Goodbye and So Long to You
- I Might Take You Back Again
- Mountain Folk
- Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning
- Hold to God's Unchanging Hands
- The Old Crossroads

## Favorite Country Songs

- Take Me Back to Tulsa
- Jambalaya
- Pistol Packin' Mama
- Honky Tonkin'
- Waltz Across Texas
- I Love You a Thousand Ways
- Crazy Heart

## Favorite Folk Songs

- Tom Dooley
- Puttin' on the Style
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
- Boll Weevil
- Skip to My Lou
- Shortnin' Bread
- Go Tell Aunt Rhody
- Down in the Valley
- Clementine
- Buffalo Gals

1 AND 4 CHORDS:  
G AND C,  
D AND G, ETC.

- Things in Life
- Walls of Time
- Be Proud of the Gray in Your Hair
- Going Up on the Mountain
- Great High Mountain
- Ho Honey Ho
- These Blues Have Got Me
- Get on Your Knees and Pray

1 MINOR AND 7 CHORDS:  
EM AND D,  
AM AND G, ETC.

- What Should We Do with the Drunken Sailor
- Sinner Man
- Shady Grove (minor key version)
- Wade in the Water
- Walking Boss



### Develop your ear skills:

Try guessing where the changes happen. With a choice of just two chords, see which sounds better—and use it!

Start on the 1 chord (that's the key you're in). The other chord in most songs is the 5. Such as G to D, or D to A. Experiment!

Check your guesswork with a songbook or knowledgeable musician. That's how it's done.

These songs are most often done with two chords, though some versions may have more.

## Play Along jam videos!



The BEST way to start for ALL bluegrass instruments!

**BLUEGRASS SLOW JAM**  
for the  
**Total Beginner**

Play along with 17 standards at slow speeds. Only chords: G, C, D, and A, shown on all six instruments! Chords on screen as you play. Print lyrics and chords to all songs.

### BLUEGRASS JAMMING

17 more standards, slow/medium speeds, a soloing opportunity in each song!

### INTERMEDIATE JAMMING

22 songs, moderate speeds, 2 soloing chances each song.

Available on [LetsPick.org](http://LetsPick.org)

## Take a Jam Class...



[LetsPick.org](http://LetsPick.org)

## Learn real bluegrass

in your area — with people like you!

- Hands-on learning in large and small groups
- Only four chords needed, G, C, D, and A
- Gentle tempos! Mistakes expected
- Full ground rules and etiquette of typical jams
- Ear skills taught and emphasized, as in real bluegrass
- How to follow new songs, fake solos, lead songs, find melodies, carry a tune, sing harmony
- Understanding, low-pressure, Wernick-certified teachers

