

## SOME VARIANTS ON A WELL-KNOWN TUNE

Here's a tune that most everybody knows. Below are a clawhammer version with some variants, a finger-picked version and some words.

The clawhammer version starts out with an A Part which I remember from the playing of Vester Jones ("Music From Grayson & Carroll Counties" - Folkways Records). The arrow (▲) means that you should stretch the string. The alternate versions are what I like to do to have fun with a tune. Try them; experiment with them; modify them; make up new ones. I particularly like the slides, in succession, in the B' version. On the B'' version I have noted p (opt) - (meaning pull-off optional) because there is some difficulty in execution. You can substitute 7-7-10-10.

The finger-picked version is a simple melody which I played in the Juggernaut String band against a more complicated clawhammer part played by Peter Taney. Finger-picked banjo together with clawhammer banjo can result in some very interesting sounds. There is a lot of thumb lead in this version and almost no standard rolls.

The following words I have learned from many sources. (A and B indicate the part the words are to be sung with.)

**CARL BARON**  
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- B** Cluck old hen, cluck and squall  
You ain't laid an egg since way last fall
- B** Cluck old hen, cluck and sing  
You ain't laid an egg since way lasy spring
- B** Cluck old hen, cluck all night  
Tomorrow you'll be "Chicken Delight"  
(from Denver, CO)
- B** Old hen, old hen, where your chickens gone  
Down in the new ground peckin' up corn
- B** Cluck old hen, cluck all day  
Cluck old hen, your chicks have run away
- A** The first time she cackled  
She cackled in the lot  
The next time she cackled  
She cackled in the pot

### CLUCK OLD HEN

G Tuning: g DGC♯D; capo 2

Setting by CARL BARON

(PART A)

(PART B)

(PART A')

(PART B')

(PART B'')

FINGER PICKING

(PART A)

(PART B)

(PART B)

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