



Building a Traditional Tune Repertoire

by Wendy Anthony

Old Dubuque

(Key of D)

The Tune:

Old Dubuque is also known as (aka) *Dubuque*, & closely related to both *Duck River* and a crooked variation called *Big Mule*. This fiddle tune Breakdown is played in many OldTime jams. The City of Dubuque, a river port on the Mississippi River, near the border of Iowa, Wisconsin & Illinois, is the oldest city in Iowa, & also one of oldest settlements west of the Mississippi River.

Techniques:

- **Overview of Tune:** Play this tune with a combination of smooth transitions within the 1/8th notes runs, & rest spaces, to help play this tune with some character.
- **Chords:** The chords for both Parts A & B differ only in the 4th measures.

Part A: ||: D | D | G | A | D | D | G | A/D :||

Part B: ||: D | D | G | G | D | D | G | A/D :||

- **Pick Strokes:** Pick all 1/4 notes with Downstrokes & all paired 1/8 notes with Down/Upstrokes. To help give this tune some character, pay attention to the rests, which are moments when no note is sounding, by actually lifting your fretting fingers from the strings - the space between the notes can sometimes be just as important as the notes themselves. In Part A, try starting the first 4-note run using two hammer-ons. In Part B, measures 9, 11, & 13, the 1/16th notes rests each come after a dotted 1/8th, & are played with an Upstroke; these rests would be counted out something like this: 1, and, 2, and, a(rest), 3, and, a(rest), 4, and.

Comments or Suggestions?

Keepin' tuned ...Wendy Anthony
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Old Dubuque

Traditional Old-Time

Arranged for Mandolin by Wendy Anthony

The image displays a musical score for the mandolin piece "Old Dubuque". It is written in 4/4 time and the key of D major. The score is divided into four systems, each consisting of a melodic line and a double bass accompaniment line. Chord markings (D, G, A) are placed above the melodic lines. The double bass lines include fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 5) and rhythmic notation (vertical stems with flags) to indicate the timing of the notes. The piece begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The first system is numbered 1, the second 5, the third 9, and the fourth 13.

Listen to the Midi: [120 bpm](#) & [160 bpm](#)