

## Salt Creek

Arranged by Mickey Abraham

Hello and welcome to the free lesson portion of our monthly e-mail newsletter. I could not be more excited about this month's tune. When I first learned "Salt Creek" I truly could not get it out of my head -- I fell asleep and woke up humming the first two bars over and over. The tune does have an infectious melody with really neat chord changes and, if by some chance, this tune is not in your repertoire then stop reading this and start learning this here tune!

"Salt Creek" has perhaps emerged, even more than "Blackberry Blossom" and "Black Mt. Rag," as the ultimate flatpicking standard. The melody falls quite nicely on the guitar neck (especially with the capo on the second fret), and the tune's bluesy groove leaves a lot of room to create cool bluegrass breaks.

To coincide with this month's release of the new Tony Rice biography *Still Inside* (available at [www.flatpickingmercantile.com](http://www.flatpickingmercantile.com)), I've selected to present this tune with a few Tony Rice style licks thrown in here and there. Tony Rice recorded "Salt Creek" on his release entitled *Guitar* back in 1970, and since then he has attached himself to this melody. It seems to be well suited toward his style of guitar playing. To this day, Tony still jams out on this tune and always seems to come up with something new and exciting.

In my lesson I have supplied two versions of the tune. The first version is a fairly straight forward version of the melody. It is a combination of many versions that I have been exposed to through the years. In the second version I tried to stick to the melody while incorporation Tony Rice style runs and licks. I, of course, do not play like Tony Rice!

The second break is not really intended to be learned from beginning to end. Feel free to do so, but, to me, I feel this kind of solo is more of a collage of Tony Rice ideas mixed with some melody phrases. I recommend to isolate some of your favorite runs in the solo and try to incorporate them into your own playing.

In today's flatpicking world there are a lot of players who try to sound just like Tony Rice. This is not entirely a bad thing, but what Tony himself would teach is to look to your favorite players for creative inspiration rather than direct imitation. By learning Tony's solos note-for-note you gain tremendous insight into how he puts his melodic ideas together. Then, go ahead and steal the ideas, add an extra note or two, or change the timing a bit to add your own flavor to it, and presto you have a new "Tony lick!"

I hope you enjoy picking through my arrangement of "Salt Creek." If you have any questions, comments, or concern on this e-lesson or past lessons, or if you have great ideas for future FGM e-lessons just drop me a line at [michabraham@comcast.net](mailto:michabraham@comcast.net)



# Salt Creek (continued)

21 **G C G C D G**

3 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 S 4 0 P 0 P 3 4 0 P 0 S 2 0 2 0 0

25 **G C F D**

S 4/5 0 5 0 2 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 0 2 0 0

29 **G C G C D G**

1 2 3 1 3 2 1 3 1 S S 3/4 0 3/4 0 3 0 3 0 P 3 0 0 S 2 0 2 0 0

33 **G F**

0 0 0 0 2 3 0 3 2 0 2 0 2 3 3 2 2 0 0 2 2 3 3 2 2 0 0 2 0

37 **G C D G**

S 0 3/4 0 0 3 0 0 S 3 3 6 3 3 H 3 5 3 4 0 0 3 0 0 S 3/4 0

# Salt Creek (continued)

41 **G** **F**

1 3 3 1 2 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 3 1 3/4 0 0 2 3 1 0 0 3 0 0 5 0 0 6 0 0

45 **G** **C** **D** **G**

8 0 0 6 0 0 5 0 0 3 0 0 1 2 3 1 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 4 0 3 0 0