

Flatpicking Guitar Magazine
Free Monthly Lesson - April 2020

The Old Rugged Cross

Arranged by Dan Miller

The month we have released a new book in our Flatpicking Guitar Magazine Archival Book Series. This book is titled “The Big Book of Gospel Songs.” It contains arrangements for 63 Gospel songs as they appeared in Flatpicking Guitar Magazine over the course of our twenty years of publication. The book is also accompanied by 127 audio tracks. As this month’s lesson, we thought we’d provide you with one of the tunes from the book. This one is the old Gospel classic “The Old Rugged Cross.”

This tune was presented in the magazine by Flatpicking Guitar Magazine editor Dan Miller in our March/April 2015 issue. This lesson presents the tune exactly as it appeared in the magazine. First you will be presented with the bare melody of the song and then a Carter style arrangement based on that melody.

We hope that you enjoy this month’s lesson!

The Old Rugged Cross

by Dan Miller



In the past several issues I have presented a step-by-step method that anyone can use to help create a variety of melody-based arrangements on any tune. The song that I used as an example was “More Pretty Girls Than One.” I first presented the simple melody and then a “Carter-style” arrangement. I next presented arrangements that were based on using a variety of guitar techniques (hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, tremolo, double stops, neighboring notes, toggles, etc.) to embellish the melody notes and insert new notes in the spaces between the melody notes.

After working to embellish the melody using Carter-style strums and a variety of notes, the approach then turned away from technique and more towards theory. At

that point I presented ways in which you could use a variety of scale patterns drawn from the major scale, major pentatonic scale, major blues scale, minor pentatonic scale, and minor blues scale as a basis for embellishment. I also demonstrated how you could combine the notes of these various scales with an assortment of guitar technique to come up with interesting solos.

For this issue, I wanted to take the same method and apply it to a gospel song. The song that I selected is “The Old Rugged Cross.” This song has a beautiful melody, which I have presented on the next two pages. I suggest to all of my students that when they start to learn a new song that they first get a solid sense of the melody by first learning how to play nothing but the simple

melody. That is why I have presented the melody here.

The next thing that I do after learning the melody is to create a fairly simple Carter-style arrangement. I did this with “The Old Rugged Cross” (see pages 30 and 31). After creating this arrangement, I explored using various other scale notes and techniques, but to my ear, anything that I added beyond the arrangement shown on page 30 and 31 took me too far away from the simple melody. Sometimes when you are arranging solos you have to know when enough is enough. I tend to like to keep my solos simple when appropriate and I think this beautiful melody is best served with a simple presentation. Enjoy!

CAMP BLUEGRASS 2015

For year 29 of Camp Bluegrass at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, the camp will celebrate the music of Jimmy Martin and celebrate the life of the camp’s long-time co-director Joe Carr. It all happens during the week of **July 13-17, 2015**. There are several special activities planned to learn about the music of Jimmy Martin and to honor Joe Carr. This camp is always a highlight of the year for all attendees. This year is going to be extra special.

Special activities include:

- Jimmy Martin Concert Night – All Martin Songs – All Night! Featuring the entire faculty.
- Jimmy Martin Story Telling Session – Inside stories from people who were there.
- Video presentation on Jimmy Martin’s career.
- Special evening of Joe Carr storytelling and a faculty performance of Joe Carr’s music

This Year’s Staff includes: Guitar: Tim May, Dan Miller, Elliot Rogers. Banjo: Ned Luberecki, Alan Munde, Sterling Masat. Mandolin: Steve Smith, Gerald Jones. Fiddle: Nate Lee. Dobro: Tim McCasland. Vocals: Dee Dee Wyland. Bass: Anne Luna

Check out <http://www.campbluegrass.com/>

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JIMMY MARTIN



Audio CD
Track 11

The Old Rugged Cross Melody

Arranged by Dan Miller

1

G C

On a hill far a way stood an old rug-ged cross, The

TAB

6

D G

em - blem of suff - ering and shame; And I

TAB

10

G C

love that old cross where the dear - est and best For a

TAB

14

D G

world of lost sin - ners was slain. So I'll

TAB

18

D G

cher - ish that old rug - ged cross, Till my

TAB

The Old Rugged Cross—Melody (con't)

22 C G

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will

0 0 2 3 2 0 3 3 3 3 3

26 G G7 C

cling to the old rug - ged cross, And ex -

7 7 7 8 7 5 0 0 0 3 0

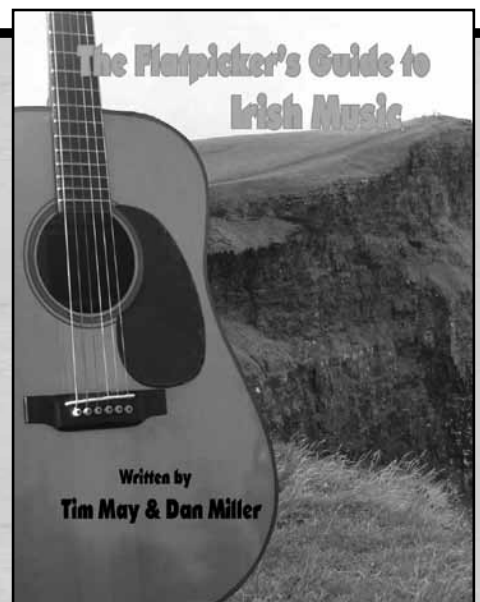
30 G D G

change it some day for a crown.

3 2 3 5 3 2 3 3

The Flatpicker's Guide to Irish Music by Tim May & Dan Miller

Tim May and Dan Miller's book and audio CD *The Flatpicker's Guide to Irish Music* (116 pages) introduces the flatpicking guitar player to ten common Irish tunes and the theory and technique of Irish rhythm. The first part of the book discusses the theory and technique of Irish guitar rhythm, to include right hand technique, chord substitutions, and bass movement within chords. In the second part of the book each of the ten tunes presented include a study the melody of the tune, variations on the melody, standard chords for the tune, and chord substitution variations. Additional rhythm ideas that include harmonized scale rhythm, Drop D rhythm, and DADGAD chords are also presented.



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Audio CD
Track 12

The Old Rugged Cross—Carter Style Solo

Arranged by Dan Miller

1 G C

T
A
B

6 D D7 G

10 G C

14 D D7 G

18 D G

The Old Rugged Cross—Carter Style Solo (con't)

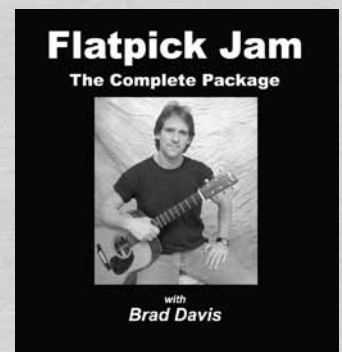
22 C G

26 G G7 C

30 G D G

Flatpick Jam The Complete Package!

On this DVD-Rom disc you will find all of the *Flatpick Jam* (play-along) tracks for the 48 tunes that appear on all of the Volumes of Brad Davis' *Flatpick Jam* series. Additionally, in the "Flatpick Jam Tabs" folder on this disc, you will find a folder for each tune that includes transcriptions provided by Brad (the numbered transcriptions), plus any arrangement of that particular tune that has appeared in *Flatpicking Guitar Magazine* during our first 10 years of publication. This means that you will get anywhere from 4 to 10 different variations of every tune tabbed out. Additionally, the audio tracks that are companions to those FGM arrangements are also included. This is the ultimate *Flatpick Jam* package and a must have resource for anyone who wants to build their flatpicking repertoire, learn variations, and study different arrangements of all of the standard jam session tunes. And you are able to practice all of your arrangements at four different tempos by jamming along with Brad Davis!



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