

Don't Let Your Deal Go Down

Earl Scruggs has done most of his playing out of the key positions G and C. However, back in the fifties, Lester would sometimes sing in F. This wouldn't bother Earl. He'd just jump in without a capo and go to it.

Here, though Scruggs is playing out of open F, he's still relying mostly on D, G, and C licks. This is because the chord progression is in the "Salty Dog" (circle-of-

fourths) genre, transposed from G down to F.

This break is taken from a 1957 Flatt and Scruggs recording and represents Earl at the height of his powers. He sticks close to the melody, driving it along with a good number of forward rolls. He also makes effective use of quarter notes and tied notes, which give the tune room to breathe.

Key of F Gladys Stacey, Louise Certain & Walker-Wilkin

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