

Vocal

That nine pound ham - mer is a lit-tle too heav - y for my

Fiddle

Voc.

size, for my size. Roll on, bud - dy, don't you roll so

Fid.

Voc.

slow, how can I roll when the wheels won't go?

Fid.

Figure 45: Nine Pound Hammer in G with fiddle fills

Even if you aren't able to read music well, you can see something about how fills work in Figure 45. In places where there is a held note or a rest in the vocal, the backing instrument provides a continuation. The fills last only as long as there is silence (though there may be some small overlap with the sung note so that it doesn't sound choppy). The fills do not normally play over the vocal so as not to interfere with it.

Note also that the fill line is not just echoing the vocal with the same notes and durations; the notes used are quick sixteenths (in contrast to the lazy-sounding quarter notes in the vocal) to give a sense of drive and energy to the fills.

Looking at the fill fragments you'll see some snippets that were used in the examples in Figure 44. This should start to give you a sense of how they are applied in practice. Can you think of some other snippets that might be used in place of what we selected?

Finally, remember that we can move many of these fills (other than the ones that use the E string) over one string and play them in the key of D!

Learning To Fiddle, Bluegrass Style

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