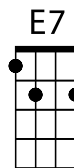
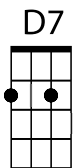
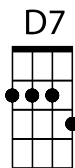
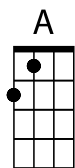




EMPTY BED BLUES

(1928) Bessie Smith



/A /A /A /A /D7 /D7 /A /A /E7 /D7 /A /A-E7

**repeat the italicized line twice*

*Woke up this mornin'
with an awful achin' head.*

...

*My new man had left me.
Just a room and an empty bed.*

*Bought me a coffee grinder,
the best one I could find.*

...

*Oh he could grind my coffee
Cos he had a brand new grind.*

*He knows how to thrill me
and he thrills me night and day*

...

*He's got a new way of loving,
almost takes my breath away*

*He had that sweet something
And I told my girlfriend Lou.*

...

*The way she's ravin'
she must have gone and tried it,
too.*

*Now, when my bed gets empty
I get to feelin' mean and blue.*

...

*The springs are gettin' rusty
sleepin' single like I do.*

*And now when you get good lovin',
never go and spread the news.*

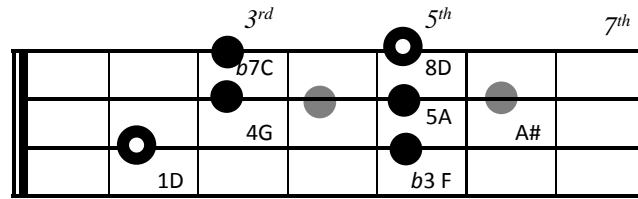
...

*Cos he'll doublecross you and
leave you with the empty bed blues!*

Bessie Smith (1895-1937) was the 'Empress of the Blues' and hit #20 on the US charts with his classic hokum tune. Some of her other hits were the Downhearted Blues, Baby Won't You Please Come Home, St Louis Blues, After You've Gone and Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out.

ST. JAMES INFIRMARY

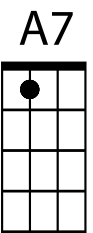
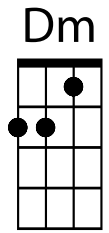
Minor Pentatonic Blues box: you can use this scale in D (or, I believe, F)



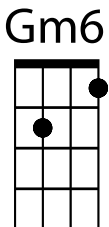
TAB of the melody line in D

—
 A -----5-----
 E -----55-3-53-----55-5-6-----55-3-53-----53-----
 C --2-5-----5-5-2--2-5-----5-5-2--2525252--52-----
 g -----

2 beat bars: /Dm /A7 /Dm /Dm
 /Dm /Dm /Gm6 /Gm6
 /Dm /A7 /Dm /Dm
 /Bb7 /A7 /Dm /Dm



I went down to St James Infirmary
 To see my baby **there**.
 She were lying on a long white table
 So cold, so still, so fair.
 I went down at ol' Joe's Bar Room
 At the corner of the square.
 The usual drinks were being served
 And the usual crowd were there.]
 Beside me was Joe McKennedy
 His eyes were bloodshot red
 He looked around at the crowd all around him
 And these are the words he said:



Let her go, let her go, let her go
 God bless her wherever she may be
 She can travel the wide world all over
 She'll never find another man like me.

When I die won't you bury me
 In my brand new Stetson hat
 Put two gold dollars on my eyelids
 So the Lord'll see I died standing pat
 Get six gamblers for my pall-bearers
 And a chorus girl to give me a song
 Put a jazz band on my funeral hearse
 To raise hell as we roll along.

Sometimes called the anthem of New Orleans, St James Infirmary has been covered time and time again from Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington to Van Morrison, Hugh Laurie and The White Stripes. The title actually comes from hospitals in London and the tune and lyrics have developed from C18th folk songs.