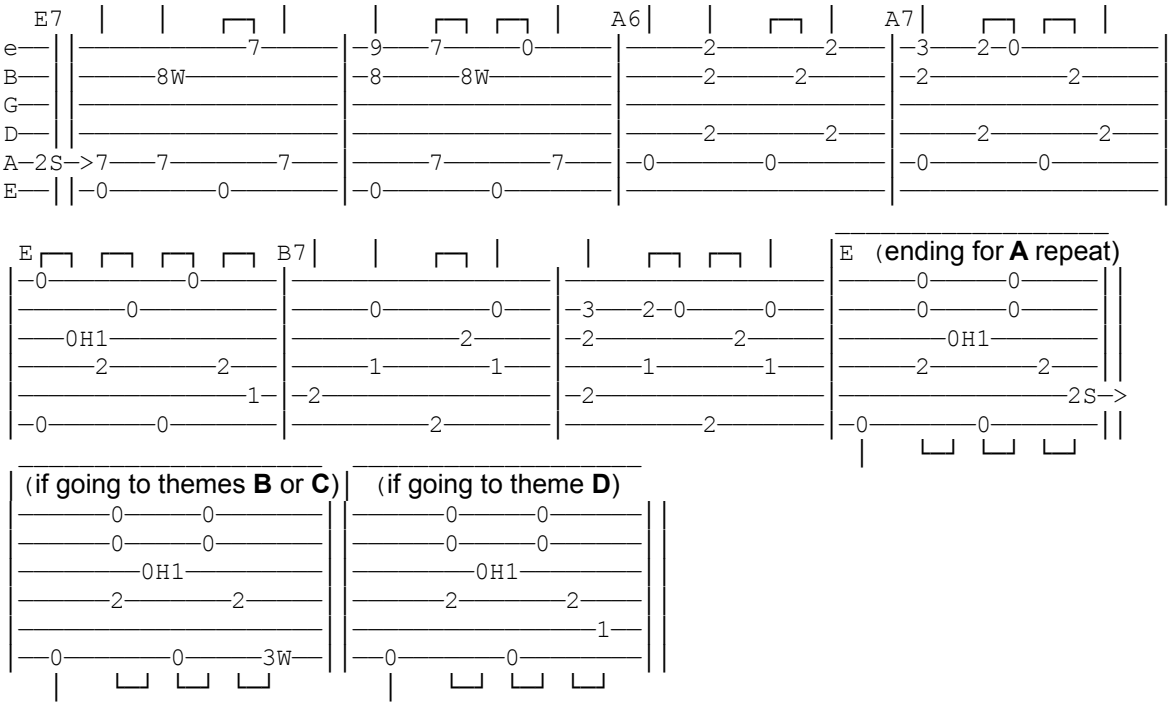
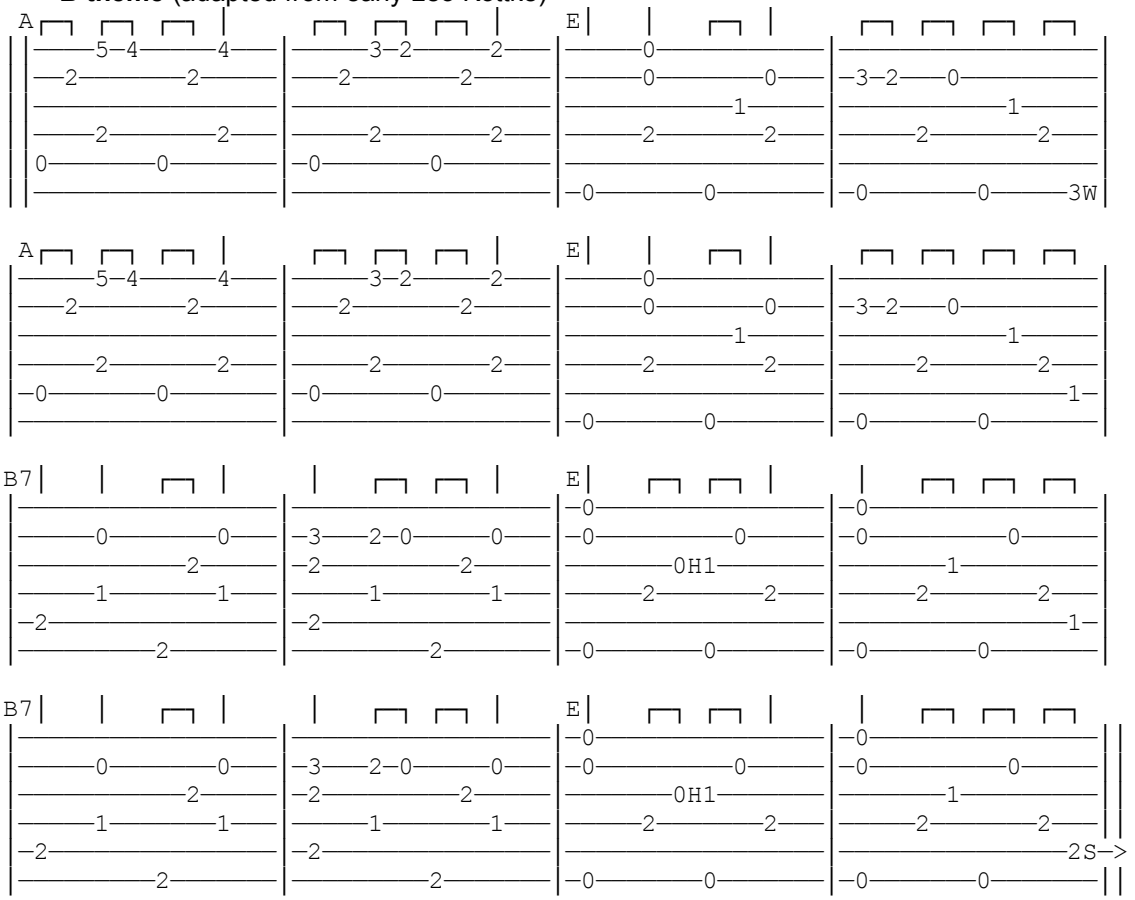
The Last Steam Engine Train

by John Fahey, © 1965 (arrangement by Dale Cotton)

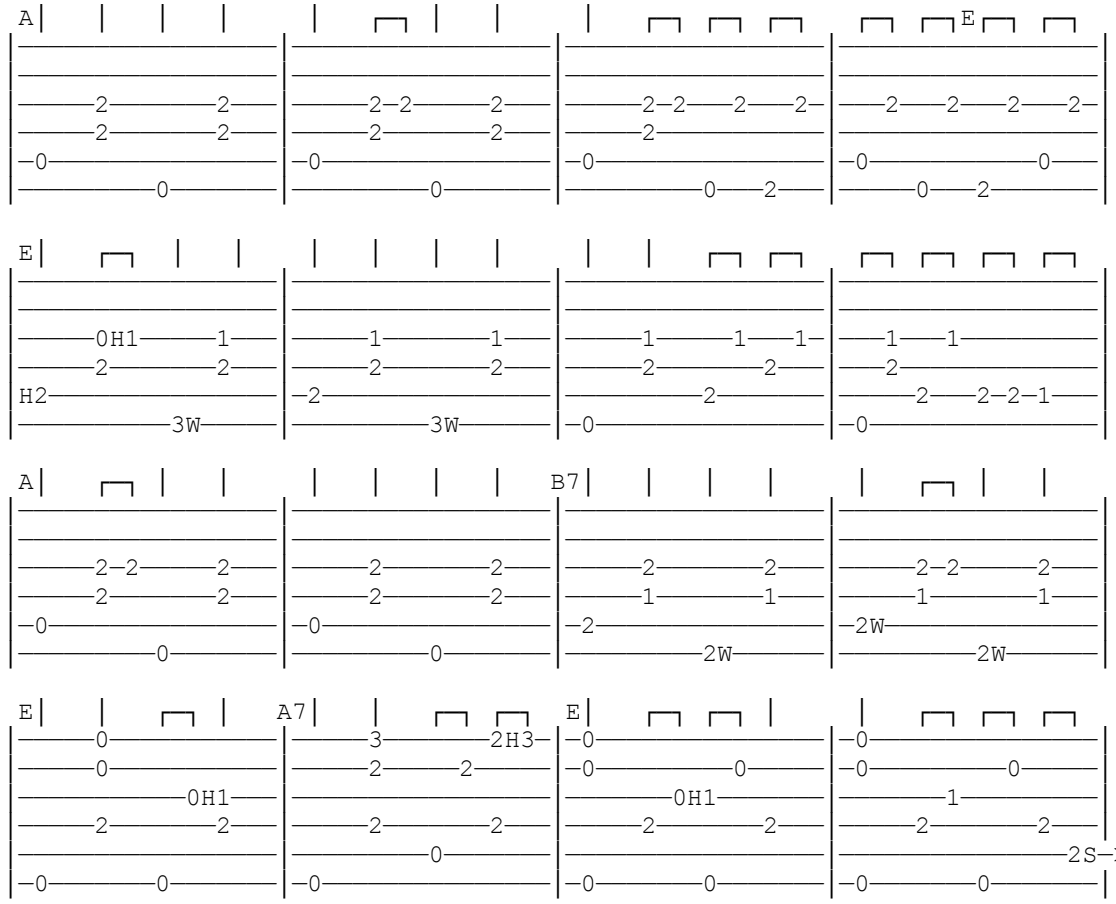
— A theme ——



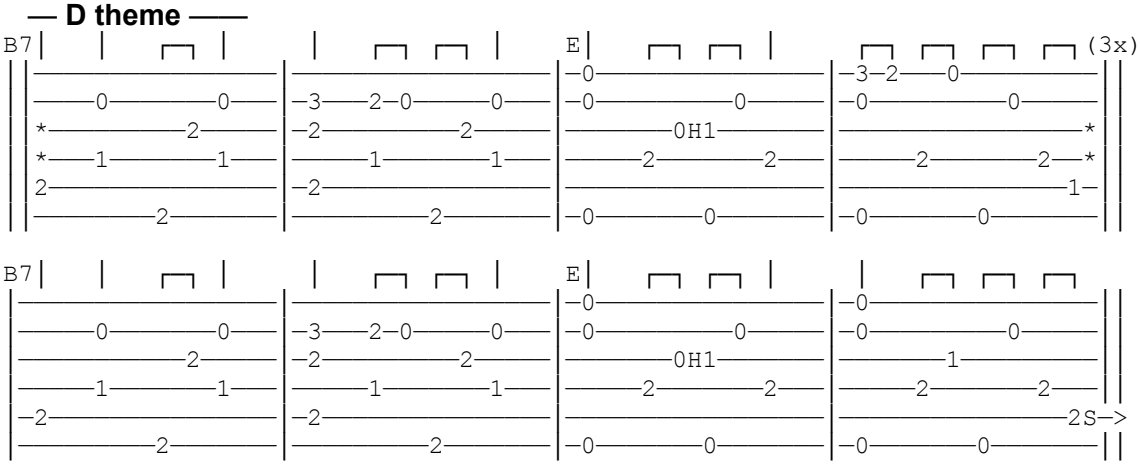
— B theme (adapted from early Leo Kottke) ——



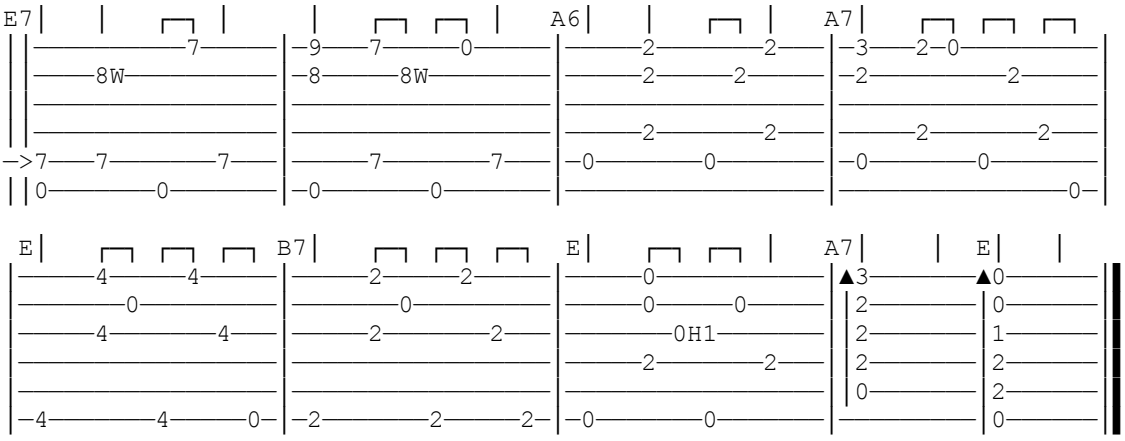
— C theme ——



— D theme ——



— Coda ——



Play: AA B AA C AA D A+Coda

Notes

1. Tab for John Fahey's own version of this composition can be acquired from the Stefan Grossman Guitar Workshop: http://guitarvideos.com/audio/99802.htm and heard here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYSH1izToL4.
2. This arrangement adds some new material, including a break adapted from a very early Leo Kottke cover (**B** theme). I hope I have managed to retain the original version's zany mix of bluegrass plus train imitations.
3. Play quickly, if you must, but not Kottke-fast; otherwise you won't be able to ham it up sufficiently. I find very heavy syncopation on the down beat works at least as well as sheer speed.
4. Repeat the first four bars of the **D** theme three times, not the usual two, so that section has a total of 16 bars.
5. There has long been some controversy, started by John Fahey himself, as to whether this piece is his own or his adaptation of a Sam McGee song., which you can hear here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KaU1f1h7yI. Pretty clear to me that John mutated the Sam McGee piece so greatly that the result certainly deserves to be known as his own composition.