

Bluegrass ensemble – Martin Gilmore – Swallow Hill

Bluegrass Terms -

Break – a break is an instrumental solo.

Turnaround – a short musical section involving a chord change.

Kickoff – The beginning of a song. Sometimes it's a full break, sometimes it's a turnaround, sometimes it's a vocal line.

Tag – How the song ends. Usually involves singing the last line of the chorus again followed by a musical phrase. Can also be a turnaround or acapella section.

Boom – Sometimes people refer to the bass notes (on the on-beat) as a boom. Guitar bass notes also fall on the on beats.

Chop – A staccato chord very similar to a snare drum sound usually covered by the Mandolin. The chop marks the off-beat.

A-part/B-Part – Usually used in referring to instrumental tunes, but can be used for referring to breaks. The A-part is the first part of a tune, the b-part is the second. Sometimes, if the chorus is different than the verse, someone might say “take a break on the B-part” meaning the chorus.

One, Four, Five chords – this refers to chord changes. Memorize the I,IV,V chords in all the basic keys: G, A, E, D and C. B and B-flat are fairly common in bluegrass as well.