Hesitation Blues - Trad

HESITATION BLUES - trad.
J. Kaukonen, as recorded on the LP "Hot Tuna", ca. 1972. Tab by Tim Keenan

This is in response to a request last week. It is a great country blues tune, in "swung" 4/4, i.e. every quarter is subdivided in 3 (or you can think of it as 12/8, if you'd rather). When this sort of thing is written down, it is traditionally written as dotted time, but the eighth note is really only 1/3 of a quarter note, not 1/2. Clear as mud? Count it as ah 1 and ah 2 and ah 3 and ah 4, with all syllables the same length, and you'll do fine. Quarter notes are at a normal walking speed.

Notes:

1. Low notes, on the beat, are always played by the thumb
2. I use the chord positions marked above the tab to play all the other notes--just use the most obvious convenient finger within the chord (or nearby) to fret the tabbed notes
3. /= 1-fret rising slur, //= 2, etc.
^= 1/2 tone push
x= damped note
h= hammer on
!= Broken chord (rapid arpeggio, bass>treble)
==== sustained note

4. The vamp in the first line shows h's before the treble notes in the Am and E7 chords: these are hammered on on the beat, but not plucked.

5. There are probably some errors-- if it doesn't sound right, you'll know. It is pretty obvious, once you get the feel. I never play it exactly the same, two verses running, so this is just a template.

I'm not at all sure of the first line of that last verse, but it's my best guess. I'd be happy to hear alternate "translations".

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I hope someone enjoys this--let me know.

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Am          E7           Am          E7
e-----|-----------------O-------|-----------------O-------
B-----|h1x----1-----O---3-------|h1x----1-----O---3-------
G---O-|h2x----2---Oh1---------O-|h2x----2---Oh1---------O-
D-----|h2x----2----h2-----2-----|h2x----2----h2-----2-----
A-----|-Ox---------h2-----------|-Ox---------h2-----------
E-----|-------------O-----------|-------------O-----------

a       nickel is a nickel and a dime is a dime

4 + a   1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a   1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a
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I need a new gal          she won't mind, tell me --

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Chorus:

F           F              F          F
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Music resources from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk
How long do I have to wait?

Can I get you now, Lord, must I hesitate?

Well, the eagle on the dollar says "in God we trust"
You say you want a man, I wanna see that dollar first, tell me--
(Chorus)
If the river was whiskey, and I was a duck,
You know I'd swim to the bottom, Lord, an' never come up, tell me--
(Chorus)
Rocks in the ocean, baby, fish in the sea
knows you mean the world to me, tell me--
(Chorus)
Well, the hesitatin' stalker's got them hesitatin' shoes
Lord, I got them Hesitatin' Blues, tell me--
How long do I have to wait?
Can I get you now, Lord, must I hesitate
Said, can I get you now, how long must I hesitate?