

Drunken Hiccups

Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2009, by Donald J. Borchelt
All rights reserved.

A (G)

4

7

10

13

16

Drunken Hiccups - Traditional
A (G)

E7 (D7)

19

22

E7 (D7)

A (G)

E7 (D7)

25

A (G)

1. E7 (D7)

A (G)

28

2. E7 (D7) A (G)

31

This is an instrumental version of the old song Rye Whiskey, sometimes also called Jack of Diamonds or Clinch Mountain. This version is based on the fiddle showpiece played by old-time fiddler Tommy Jarrell, who learned the tune from his father, Ben Jarrell, who recorded it in 1927 with Frank Jenkins. The fiddle is tuned in what has become known as Drunken Hiccups Tuning, AEAC#, which is basically key of A cross tuning, but with the first string tuned down to C#. Jarrell's version of the tune has four parts. On the fiddle, the last part involves pizzicato, plucking the notes rather than bowing. I generally play the 12th fret notes in measures 26 through 29 as harmonics, which better imitates that sound. Jarrell plays that pizzicato section with an extra beat in each phrase, the "hiccup." Others, like Fiddlin' John Carson, played it more regular.

Raw whiskey, raw whiskey, raw whiskey, I cry,
If I don't get rye whiskey, I'll live 'til I die.

Rye Whiskey, rye whiskey, rye whiskey I crave,
If I don't get rye whiskey I'll go to my grave.

I eat when I'm hungry, and drink when I'm dry,
And if whiskey don't kill me I'll live till I die.

Way out on Clinch Mountain I wander alone,
Drunk as the devil and can't find my home.

Jack o' diamonds, jack o' diamonds, I know you from old,
Robbed by poor pockets of silver and gold.

I tune up my fiddle I rosin my bow,
I make myself welcome where ever I go.