

# Chicken Reel

Traditional

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D

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The key signature is D major (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The notation is written on a four-line staff with strings D, A, F#, and A from top to bottom. Measure 1 contains a whole note chord D (0 2 4). Measures 2-4 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 11 (with a 1/4 note), 9 0, 0 0, 5 (with a 1/4 note), 0 0, 3 5, 3 4, 11 (with a 1/4 note), and 0.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 contains a whole note chord A7 (9 0 9 0) and a whole note chord D (0 0 2 4). Measures 6-8 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 0 7 7, 11 (with a 1/4 note), 9 0, 0 0, 5 (with a 1/4 note), 0 0, 3 5, 3 4, 11 (with a 1/4 note), and 0.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9 contains a whole note chord A7 (9 0 9 0) and a whole note chord D (0 0 2 4). Measures 10-12 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 0 7 7, 12 14, 12 12, 12 12, 0 12, 10 12, and 0.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 contains a whole note chord A7 (12 14 12 0) and a whole note chord D (0 0 5 0). Measures 14-16 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 0 7 7, 12 14, 12 12, 12 12, 0 12, 10 12, and 0.

A7 D

choke 1/2 step, hold and release

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Measure 17 contains a whole note chord A7 (12 14 12 0) and a whole note chord D (0 0 5 0). Measures 18-20 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 0 7 7, 11 (with a 1/4 note), 9 0, 0 0, 5 (with a 1/4 note), 0 0, 6 5, 11 (with a 1/4 note), and 0.

A7 G

choke 1/2 step, hold and release

Musical notation for measures 21-24. Measure 21 contains a whole note chord A7 (9 0 9 0) and a whole note chord D (0 0 2 4). Measures 22-24 contain a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes: 0 7 7, 11 (with a 1/4 note), 9 0, 0 0, 5 (with a 1/4 note), 0 0, 6 5, 11 (with a 1/4 note), and 0.

A7 G

25

A7 G

29

A7 G D

33

A7 D D

37

A7 D

41

A7 D

45

A7      D

49

The image shows a musical score for measures 19 and 20. Measure 19 contains the notes 12, 14, 12, 0, 2, and 4. Measure 20 contains the notes 0, 7, 7, and 0. A slide (SL) is indicated on the 2nd string in measure 19. The key signature is D major, and the chords are A7 and D.

Another chicken picking tune, probably the archetype of the genre. I first worked this out years ago in open G tuning, and it was a very big hit with the Banjo Newsletter's charter subscribers, but the traditional fiddle key has always been D, and so quite awhile ago I moved it over. I have taken a few liberties in the B part, using the sixth note of the scale, where the melody really uses the fifth. The sixth gives it more of a cackling sound, though, and fits well.

There are two variations provided here. One uses the natural seventh, making it sound a little bluesy; the other climbs up the neck and throws in a bit of cackle reminiscent a little of Cacklin' Hen. On the first variant in measures 19 and 20 there is a half step choke at the 3rd string, 5th fret, which should be picked, choked up a half step and held in place, not to be released until it is picked again in the middle of the measure 20. The number 6 in measure 20 represents the pitch the string is at, you are still fretting at 5. This is the quirky way the program makes the bend and release sound right in the MIDI playback.