

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: D (0), A (2), F# (4), A (0). Measure 2: 11 (quarter), 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 3: 0 (quarter), 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 5 (quarter). Measure 4: 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 11 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 11, 9, 0, 0, 5, 0, 3, 5, 11 notes.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 6: 0 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 7: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 5 (quarter). Measure 8: 0 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 11 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 9, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 7, 0, 9, 0, 0, 5, 0, 3, 5, 11 notes.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 10: 0 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 11: 12 (quarter), 14 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 12: 0 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 10 (quarter), 12 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 9, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 7, 0, 12, 14, 12, 0, 0, 12, 10, 12 notes.

A7 D

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13: 12 (quarter), 14 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 14: 0 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 15: 12 (quarter), 14 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 16: 0 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 10 (quarter), 12 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 12, 14, 12, 0, 0, 7, 7, 0, 12, 14, 12, 0, 0, 12, 10, 12 notes.

A7 D

choke 1/2 step, hold and release

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Measure 17: 12 (quarter), 14 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 18: 0 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 19: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 5 (quarter). Measure 20: 0 (quarter), 6 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 11 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 12, 14, 12, 0, 0, 7, 7, 0, 9, 0, 0, 5, 0, 6, 5, 11 notes.

A7 G

choke 1/2 step, hold and release

Musical notation for measures 21-24. Measure 21: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 22: 0 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 0 (quarter). Measure 23: 9 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 0 (quarter), 5 (quarter). Measure 24: 0 (quarter), 6 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 11 (quarter). Slurs and accents are present over the 9, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 7, 0, 9, 0, 0, 5, 0, 6, 5, 11 notes.

A7 G

25

A7 G

29

A7 G D

33

A7 D D

37

A7 D

41

A7 D

45

A7 D

49

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.