

Corn Husk Fiddle and a Shoestring Bow

Traditional
*See notes G

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2
4

D7 G *See notes

5
1/4

D7 G *See notes

9
1/4

D7 G *See notes

13
2/4

1. D7 G *See notes

17
2/4

D7 G *See notes

21
2/4

25

29

33

This tune comes from the playing of Wayne County, Kentucky fiddler Clyde Davenport, who learned it from his father. The title of the tune refers to a folk instrument made from a section of a hollow cornstalk. Thin strands of the fibrous outer skin are slit and lifted by small twigs to create the "strings." The bow is often made from a length of thin cornstalk or willow, and a shoelace. It is pretty much identical to the first two parts of Uncle Charlie Acuff's tune Josie Girl. Davenport likes to sing some nonsense lyrics when he plays it:

My bow's sugar, my bow's sweet,
 My bow's sugar and she can't be beat.
 Cornstalk fiddle and a shoestring bow,
 Cornstalk fiddle and a shoestring bow,
 Cornstalk fiddle and a shoestring bow,
 Cornstalk fiddle and a shoestring bow.

I have imitated the fiddler's use of melodic anticipation in this arrangement, starting the melody not a half beat ahead of where you would expect it. Instead of playing the note on the beat at the beginning of the first measure of each strain, it is sometimes played instead on the last half beat at the end of the preceding measure. See the lead in, measure 2-3, and again in measures 6-7, 10-11, 14-15, 18-19, 22-23, 26-27, 30-31, and 34 back to 3.