

Hamilton's Special Breakdown

Traditional

G

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D
A
G
D
g

2 4

0 2 → 4

0 4 3 0 7

7 → 10 10

0 0

SI

SI

D7

0 4 3 0 9

10 11 12

5 5 7 8 9

8 9

9 9 7 0

0 0

SI

H

H

G

9 10 9

9 9 10

5 4 0 2 → 4

0 4 3 0 7

7 → 10 10

0 0

SI

SI

C

G

12 9 12 5 7

5 7 5 0

2 0 2 5

0 0 0

2 4 4 0

0 0 2 4 2

SI

Po

SI

SI

H Po

D7

G

3

0 0 0

0 0 2 4

0 0 2 → 4

0 4 3 0 7

7 → 10 10

0 0

SI

SI

D7

0 4 3 0 9

10 11 12

5 5 7 8 9

8 9

9 9 7 0

0 0

SI

H

H

1/2

9 10 9 0 0 9 9 10 0 0 5 4 0 2 4 0 4 3 0 7 7 10 10 0 7 9

0 0 9 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C G

12 9 12 5 7 5 7 5 0 7 0 7 7 0 12 9 10 0 7 9

0 0

D7 G

9 0 9 0 9 0 0 0 2 4 0 4 3 0 7 7 10 10 0 0 2 4

0 0

D7

0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 10 11 12 5 5 7 8 9 8 9 9 9 7 0

0 0

G

1/2

9 10 9 0 0 9 9 10 0 0 5 4 0 2 4 0 4 3 0 7 7 10 10 0 7 9

0 0 9 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C G

12 9 12 5 7 5 7 5 0 7 0 7 7 0 12 9 10 0 7 9

0 0

D7 G

9 0 9 0 9 0 0 0 0 2 4 0 2 4 9 10 12 0 0 9 10 0 0 7 9

0 0

3 H H

First system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9 0 9 0 9 | 0 0 2 4 | 0 4 3 7 | 0 7 10 10 0 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7. Slurs and accents are present over the 2 4 and 7 10 intervals.

D7

Second system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0 4 3 0 | 10 11 12 5 | 5 7 8 9 8 9 | 9 9 7 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for G. Slurs and accents are present over 10 11, 5 7, and 8 9 intervals.

G

Third system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9 10 9 0 0 | 9 9 5 4 0 2 4 | 0 4 3 7 | 0 7 10 10 0 7 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for C and G. Slurs and accents are present over 9 10, 5 4, and 7 9 intervals.

C

G

Fourth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 12 9 12 5 7 | 5 7 5 0 | 7 7 7 0 12 | 9 10 0 7 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Slurs and accents are present over 5 7, 7 9, and 7 9 intervals.

D7

G

Fifth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9 0 9 0 9 | 0 10 14 14 14 | 0 0 0 14 14 14 12. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for C. Slurs and accents are present over 10 14 and 14 14 intervals.

C

Extra beat

Sixth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0 0 0 10 10 10 | 10 10 10 | 10 9 10 10 10 | 8 9 9 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Slurs and accents are present over 9 10, 8 9, and 9 9 intervals.

D7

G

Seventh system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 12 12 10 12 | 14 0 14 0 | 14 0 0 12 14 0 0 14 12. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Slurs and accents are present over 12 14 and 14 14 intervals.

First system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0, 14, 14, 14, 9, 10, 0, 9, 8, 9, 9, 7, 0, 12, 9, 10, 0, 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 8th fret.

Second system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 0, 10, 14, 14, 14, 0, 0, 0, 0, 14, 14, 14, 12. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for C and an 'Extra beat'. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 10th fret.

Third system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 14, 14, 14, 0, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 9, 10, 10, 10. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Slides (Sl) are indicated over the 9th and 10th frets. A 3/4 time signature is shown.

Fourth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 12, 12, 10, 12, 14, 14, 14, 0, 14, 14, 14, 12, 0, 0, 0, 14, 14, 14, 12. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for C and G. A 2/4 time signature is shown. Slides (Sl) are indicated over the 12th fret.

Fifth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 14, 14, 14, 9, 10, 0, 9, 8, 9, 9, 7, 0, 12, 9, 10, 0, 7, 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 8th fret.

Sixth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 9, 0, 1, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 7, 0, 7, 0. The bottom staff shows a chord diagram for D7. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 1st fret.

Seventh system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0, 12, 0, 7, 9, 9, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0, 9, 9, 7, 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Slides (Sl) are indicated over the 7th and 10th frets. A 1/4 time signature is shown.

First system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 10, 9, 0, 0, 9, 9, 10, 0, 5, 4, 0, 1, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 7, 0, 7, 7, 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for open strings (0) and chords C and G. Annotations include a half note (1/2) over the first measure, a slur (H) over the 9-10-9 sequence, a slur (Po) over the 5-4-0 sequence, and a slur (H) over the 7-7-9 sequence. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 1-2 transition.

Second system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 10, 10, 11, 5, 7, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 7, 7, 0, 12, 9, 10, 9, 7, 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Annotations include slides (Sl) over 9-10, 5-7, and 7-9.

Third system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 9, 0, 0, 1, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 7, 0, 7, 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7. Annotations include a slide (Sl) over the 1-2 transition.

Fourth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0, 12, 0, 7, 9, 9, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0, 9, 9, 9, 9, 7, 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for G. Annotations include a quarter note (1/4) over the 12, and slides (Sl) over 7-9 and 10-12.

Fifth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 10, 9, 0, 0, 9, 9, 10, 0, 5, 4, 0, 1, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 7, 0, 7, 7, 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for C and G. Annotations include a half note (1/2) over the first measure, a slur (H) over the 9-10-9 sequence, a slur (Po) over the 5-4-0 sequence, and a slur (H) over the 7-7-9 sequence. A slide (Sl) is indicated over the 1-2 transition.

Sixth system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 10, 10, 11, 5, 7, 7, 5, 7, 5, 7, 7, 7, 0, 12, 9, 10, 9, 7, 9. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for D7 and G. Annotations include slides (Sl) over 9-10, 5-7, and 7-9.

Seventh system of guitar tablature. The top staff shows fret numbers: 9, 0, 9, 0, 9, 9, 0, 0, 2, 4, 0, 4, 3, 7, 7, 10, 10, 0, 0, 2, 4. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams for open strings (0) and chords G and D7. Annotations include slides (Sl) over 2-4 and 7-10.

0 0 3 0 | SI 12 0 0 | 0 0 0 H 0 H 0 | 9 9 7 0

0 4 3 9 | 10 11 5 5 7 8 9 | 8 9 9 9 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

G

1/2 0 0 | 0 Pc 0 0 | 0 0 0 3 7 | SI 0 7 9

9 10 9 9 | 9 H 5 4 0 2 4 | 4 7 7 10 10 | 7 9 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C G

9 12 12 5 7 | SI 5 7 5 0 | 7 0 7 7 0 12 | 9 10 0 SI

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 7 9

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

D7 G

9 0 9 0 9 | 0 0 0 SI 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 SI

10 14 14 14 14 14 14 12

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C Extra beat

0 0 0 10 10 10 | 10 10 10 | 10 9 10 10 10

14 14 14 9 9 9 9 9 9 3 8 9 9 9

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

D7 G

12 12 10 12 | 14 14 14 0 0 | 14 14 14 12 SI 0 0 0 SI

2 11 11 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C G

0 0 0 10 0 | 0 7 0 12 | 9 10 0 SI

14 14 14 9 10 9 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 7 9

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C G

9 0 9 0 9 9 | 0 0 10 14 14 14 | 0 0 0 14 14 14 | 12

C Extra beat

0 0 14 14 14 | 10 10 10 10 10 10 | 10 9 10 10 10 | 10 9 10 10

D7 G

12 12 10 12 | 14 14 14 0 0 | 14 14 14 0 0 | 12 0 0 0 14 14 14 | 12

C G

0 0 14 14 14 | 10 0 9 8 9 9 | 0 7 0 12 9 10 0 | 7 9

D7 G

9 0 9 0 9 9 | 0 0 2 4 0 4 3 0 7 | 7 10 10 0 2 4

D7

0 3 0 9 | 10 11 12 5 5 7 8 9 | 8 9 9 9 7 0

G

9 10 9 9 9 | 5 4 0 2 4 0 4 3 0 7 | 7 10 10 0 7 9

D7 G

This tune comes from Alabama old time fiddler Y.Z. (Wyzee) Hamilton (1888-1936), who recorded it for Herwin Records in 1927. My setting is based on the rendition by Rafe Stefanini, from his CD *Holy Smoke*, released in 2018. The structure is unusual: AA'A'BBA'CCDDA'CCA'A, and I suspect may have been dictated by the time limitations of the 78rpm recording capacity of Hamilton's time. The difference between A and A' is that in the latter, he goes up an octave for the final phrase. The C part, the high part, has an extra beat in it near the end of the IV chord phrase.