

Mad as a Hornet

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: aDF#AD

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D String bend and release, see notes.

String bend A7 String bend D String bend and release, see notes.

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A7 D

A7 D

1. A7 D 2. A7 D

This tune comes from Pikeville, Kentucky fiddler Owen "Snake" Chapman (1919 - 2003), who recorded it for Rounder records in 1999. I do a lot of string bending in this setting, trying to get a feel for all the slippery sliding Snake does in this tune.

In trying to capture the feeling of all the slippery sliding that Chapman does in the A part of this tune, I have made liberal use of string bends. String bends are handled a little strangely in the Tabledit program, and so the tablature display needs some explanation. In the very first measure (measure 3 on the tab), the note picked at the 2nd string, 13th fret is choked enough to bend it up a half step, as close as possible to the note one would get when fretting at the 14th fret. The tab shows the that note as a ghost note, but you're not actually fretting it, your just bending to it, that's your target pitch. In the next measure (measure 4), the 3rd is fretted at the 10th fret, and choked upwards an entire half step, so that it reaches the pitch of the next fret, the 11th. It is held in that choked position, and played again two notes later. The tab shows the string being fretted at the 11th fret when it is released, but that is only to ensure that the MIDI playback is at the correct pitch. The note is still actually fretted at 10, albeit in a choked position. Overall, this basic move- bend up, pick, then release- is repeated again in measures 8, 12 and 16.