

Paddy on the Handcar
Traditional
Banjo Tuning: gDGAD open

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2016 by Donald J. Borchelt
 All rights reserved.

The sheet music is written for a 5-string banjo in gDGAD open tuning. It consists of 12 measures of music, organized into four systems of three measures each. The time signature is 2/4. The key signature has one flat (F major/D minor). The music features several chords: G, F, and D7. Techniques used include slurs, hammer-ons (marked with 'H'), pull-offs (marked with 'Po'), and grace notes (marked with a quarter note symbol). The notation includes fret numbers (0, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17) and specific fingering instructions like 'SI' (slide) and '4→5' (hammer-on from 4 to 5).

Chord progressions and measure breakdowns:

- Measure 1: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 2: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 3: F chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 4: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 5: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 6: D7 chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 7: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 8: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 9: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 10: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 11: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)
- Measure 12: G chord (0, 0, 12, 0, 0)

F G

Extra two measures---->

D7 1-2 G 3. G

This tune comes originally from Texas fiddler A.L. "Red" Steeley, who recorded it for Melotone Records in 1930. It is basically in G Mixolydian, with a flatted 7th note (F) prominent in both parts, though like a lot of old tunes, it reverts to the major 7th (F#) and the D7 chord at the cadence resolving to the G at the end of each part. The B, or "course" part of the tune moves down to the low A, well below the range of the banjo tuning, so I have transposed the whole part an octave. The A part of the tune is square (16 beats), but the B part is substantially crooked, with an extra phrase that adds two full measures, bringing it to 20 beats.