

Peep O'Day

C

Traditional

C

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The tablature is organized into six systems, each consisting of a treble staff and a bass staff. The first system includes a DADGAD tuning diagram. The music features various chords (G7, C, Am), techniques like slides (Sl), pull-offs (Po), and triplets (GH), and includes a double stop section. Fingering numbers 1-4 are shown for the left hand, and fret numbers 2-10 are shown for the right hand.

Peep O'Day
aka Duck Wooten's High C Tune - Traditional

Am

C Double stop (see notes)

1. Up the neck break

G7GH (see notes)

G7 C

G7 C

G7 Am

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The tablature is written on three systems of five-line staves. The first system starts with a low part in Am (16, 19, 16, 19, 19) and a high part in C (22, 19, 16, 19, 19, 14, 12, 19, 22, 19, 19, 19, 19). The second system continues the high part in C (16, 19, 16, 19, 19, 19, 19, 19, 19, 19, 19, 22, 19, 16, 19, 19). The third system concludes with a 3/4 time signature change and a ghost hammer (GH) section (14, 12, 19, 22, 19, 19, 19, 19, 19, 0, 0, 9, 9, 0, 0, 9, 0, 4, 0). A '2.' indicates a second ending.

A diagram showing a rectangular box with two horizontal lines. The top line contains the number '2' and the bottom line contains the number '4'. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the box, representing the fretting hand's position for a ghost hammer on the 3rd string, 2nd fret.

This tune comes from Texas fiddler Thomas Jefferson "Duck" Wooten (1882-1964), from Kimble County, Texas. Also known as Duck Wooten's High C Tune, the low part is square until the transition to the high part, where it drops a beat, so that the high part takes you by surprise. The high part itself is very crooked, with a total of 25 beats, rather than the usual 16. The tune does bear a very slight resemblance to the old Scottish tune, the Peep O'Day Reel, which has been attributed to the legendary fiddler Neil Gow. the Scottish tune, of course, is perfectly square.

This setting uses a ghost hammer (marked as GH under the tab) liberally throughout the low part at the 3rd string, 2nd fret. A ghost hammer is a hammer onto a string that has not first been picked by the right hand. Since it is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough. There is also a melodic double stop imbedded in measures 23 and 29, picked by the thumb and middle fingers of the right hand. The open 1st string notes which precede and follow it are picked with the index finger. In the up the neck break, I have taken considerable greater liberties perhaps than usual with the fiddle melody, but the key notes are all there. Tone, rhythm, and execution are more important than melodic detail. To play fiddle tunes on a banjo, you have to turn them into banjo tunes.