

# Soldier's Joy

Traditional

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The musical score is written for guitar in 2/4 time. It consists of 32 measures, divided into two systems of 16 measures each. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various guitar techniques such as slurs, ties, and bends. Chord changes are indicated by letters above the staff: D, A7, G, and D. Measure numbers 6, 10, 14, 19, 24, and 28 are placed at the beginning of their respective lines. The score concludes with a double bar line and a circled cross symbol.

**Chord Progression:**  
D (measures 1-5, 10-13, 19-23, 28-31)  
A7 (measures 6-9, 14-17, 24-27)  
G (measures 18, 20, 32)

**Measure Numbers:** 6, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28

33

A7 D G D A7

1. D 2. D

37

This is another ubiquitous old-time fiddle tune native to every part of the country, but with variations which reflect the styles and influences typical of each region. I would assume it is originally of Irish origin; "O'Neill's Music of Ireland," the 19th Century collection which can still be found in reprint, includes the tune as a hornpipe. This version follows the southern, appalachian variant more closely than the more formal sounding Irish or New England version. The Southern version is more lyrical, and sometimes the fiddle player will actually break into song:

I am my Mama's darlin' boy,  
 I am my Mama's darlin' boy,  
 I am my Mama's darlin' boy,  
 Pick a little tune called Soldier's Joy.

I once won a bluegrass banjo contest picking this, which surprised me as much as everybody else. Earl Scruggs plays a version on the Foggy Mountain Banjo album, which he called "Old Folks," and he included the tablature in "the book." His arrangement is in C tuning.