

Sugar in the Gourd

Traditional

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Guitar tablature for the song "Sugar in the Gourd". The piece is in 2/4 time and features a mix of open strings and fretted notes. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The arrangement includes various chords such as G (A), D7 (E7), and C (D). The notation includes standard guitar symbols like H (hammer-on), Sl (slide), and Po (pull-off). The piece is divided into two main sections, with the second section starting at measure 10. The first section ends at measure 22, and the second section ends at measure 30. The tablature is presented on a six-string guitar with a standard tuning (E2-A2-D3-G3-B3-E4).

Chords: G (A), C (D), D7 (E7), G (A)

Measures: 1-5, 6-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-22, 23-26, 27-30

Techniques: H, Sl, Po, $\frac{1}{4}$

1. D7 (E7) G (A) 2. D7 (E7) G (A) * see notes D7 (E7)

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D7 (E7) G (A)

32 D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)

37 C (D) G (A) SI

41 D7 (E7) G (A) 1. D7 (E7) G (A) 2. D7 (E7) G (A)

46 D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)

50 D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)

54 D7 (E7) G (A)

The image displays fiddle tablature for the song 'Sugar in the Gourd'. It consists of five systems of music, each with a system number (32, 37, 41, 46, 50) and a key signature (D7 (E7) G (A)). The tablature is written on a five-line staff with numbers 0-5 representing frets. Various techniques are indicated by letters: 'SI' for slurs, 'H' for hammer-ons, 'Po' for pull-offs, and 'Pc' for pull-outs. Arrows indicate fingerings and slurs. A double bar line with a repeat sign is used at the end of the 41-measure system. The final system (54) ends with a double bar line.

Sugar in the Gourd is one of those old tunes that at one time was in just about every fiddler's repertoire, no matter what part of the country, in the same category as Arkansas Traveler, Sally Goodin, Turkey in the Straw, and Ragtime Annie. It was one of the tunes recorded by Fiddlin' John Carson in his first 1924 Victor session in Atlanta, perhaps the first recordings ever made of southern fiddling. It has words, probably going back to minstrel times. One of my favorite verses:

I had a little hen who had a wooden leg,
That's the best hen that ever laid an egg;
Laid more eggs than he had around the farm,

And another drink of liquor wouldn't do you any harm.

Sugar in the Gourd and you can't get it out,
When you wanna get to sugar got to break it all about.

measures 12, 14, 15 and 18 all incorporate a hammer on the fourth string, even though the fourth string hasn't been picked first. This will take some practice, and the hammer will need a little more than the usual force. The ghost note in parentheses that precedes it is only inserted so that the MIDI playback will sound the hammered note. The ghost note is not actually picked.