

Sugar in the Gourd

Traditional

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2/4

G (A) C (D)

6

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

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

10

G (A) * see notes D7 (E7) G (A) * see notes D7 (E7)

14

G (A) * see notes ⊕ D7 (E7) G (A) C (D)

18

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

23

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

28

Detailed description: This is a fingerstyle guitar sheet music for the piece 'Sugar in the Gourd'. The music is written in 2/4 time and uses a standard guitar tuning (D, B, G, D, G). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6, 10, 14, 18, 23, and 28 indicated. Chord diagrams for G (A), D7 (E7), and C (D) are provided above the staff. The notation includes various techniques such as hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (Po), slides (Sl), and triplets. Measure numbers 10, 14, 18, and 23 are marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign, indicating first and second endings. A circled plus sign (⊕) is used in measure 14. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots in measure 28.

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D7 (E7) G (A)

32 D7 (E7) G (A) 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 measure 41. 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.