

**Three Forks of Cheat**  
**Traditional**  
**Banjo Tuning: gDGBD, capo on 2**

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G (A) Po

D7 (E7) G (A)

G (A) B part bridge, see notes.

D7 (E7) G (A) Start of C part.

D7 (E7) G (A)

1. D7 (E7) G (A)

Open position variation, see notes.

D7 (E7) G (A) Start of C part.

D7 (E7) G (A)

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

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He learned the tune from his uncle Peter Hammons. The structure of the tune is AABCC; the B part is the section from measure 11 through 14, and is basically just a bridge between the other two parts. The fiddle is in a cross tuning that is sometimes called Calico tuning, AEac#. The Cheat River flows through northern Pocahontas County, eventually emptying into the Monongahela, one of the two rivers that forms the Ohio.

I have included an open position variation which really picks up the character of the tune, but since the range of the banjo doesn't reach down far enough, I've had to transpose a number of the phrases up an octave. Both the variation and the main setting make liberal use of successive hammers and pull-offs, which take a lot of practice to get execute rhythmically tight and smooth.