

Whiskey Before Breakfast

Traditional

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D
A
F#
D
A

2
4

D

G D

A7 D G D

6

A7 D G D

10

A7 D G D

14

A7 D Em

18

D A7 G D G D A7 D

23

G D A7

27

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31 **D** **G** **D** **A7** **D**

35 **Em** **A7**

39 **D** **A7** **G** **D** **G** **D** **A7** **D**

44 **G** **D** **A7** **D**

48 **G** **D** **A7** **D**

52 **G** **D** **A7** **D**

56 **G** **D** **A7** **D**

60

64

68

I first heard this tune in the early seventies, on a Voyager Records compilation of contestants at the National Old Time Fiddler's Contest in Weiser, Idaho. The tune was played by Texas fiddle legend Dick Barrett, who started the tune not with the scale pattern you usually hear now, but instead with a lovely long slide that I have tried to imitate. There should be a slight hesitation before sliding; the MIDI playback comes close to imitating it, but not perfectly. This arrangement has both a low and a high version of the A part, but only one version of the B part.

I once saw lyrics written out for this song, which purported to be traditional, but I'm suspicious. The chorus went like this:

Lord preserve us and protect us,
We've been drinking whiskey 'fore breakfast