

Whiskey Before Breakfast

Traditional

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This guitar tablature is for the song "Whiskey Before Breakfast" in the key of D major and 2/4 time. The piece is in standard tuning (E2-A2-D3-G3-B3-E4) and consists of 30 measures. The notation includes various fret numbers (0-17), accidentals (sharps, naturals), and techniques such as hammer-ons (H), slides (Sl), and grace notes (1/4). Chord diagrams for D, A7, G, and Em are provided above the staff. A capo symbol is placed at the end of the piece. The tablature is organized into six systems, each with a measure number (6, 10, 14, 18, 23, 27) at the beginning of the first staff in the system.

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