

Black Jack Grove

Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2020,
by Donald J. Borchelt

5c2

A

5

9

13

17

21

25

See notes

GH

29

A G A G

33

A

1. G A 2. G A

This tune comes from fiddler Walter McNew (1912-1998) of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, who was recorded by Jeff Titon in April, 1990. McNew learned the tune from his father. The A part of the tune is in Mixolydian mode, while the B part is closer to Dorian, as the 3rd degree of scale in that second part, as McNew plays it, is a neutral tone that sounds much closer to the minor 3rd, the C, than it is to the major, C#.

Measures 20 and 28 feature a ghost hammer onto the 4th string, 3rd fret. A ghost hammer is a hammer onto a string that has not first been picked by the right hand. Since it is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough.