

Doc Roberts' Brickyard Joe

Traditional

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

This guitar tablature is for the song "Doc Roberts' Brickyard Joe" in a traditional style. It is arranged for a guitar in D major, 2/4 time. The piece begins with a D major chord and a 2/4 time signature. The notation includes fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10) and various techniques such as hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (SI), and slurs. The piece is divided into measures, with chord changes to D7 and G indicated. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, and 25 are marked at the start of their respective lines. The tablature shows a sequence of chords and melodic lines across 28 measures.

29 D7 G

33

37

41

45

49

53

This tune comes from Fiddlin' Doc Roberts (1897-1978) of Madison County, Kentucky, who recorded it for Gennett Records in August, 1928. Jeff Titon, in his book *Old Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes*, suggests that Roberts probably learned the tune from Owen Walker, an older African-American fiddler also from Madison County, who Roberts credited as the source of many of his tunes. Titon believes the low part is related to the high part of Martha Campbell, the first tune that Roberts recorded, also for Gennett, in 1925.

On the Gennett recording, Roberts plays an alternate high part the second time through the tune, which follows the same progression but is a substantial variation from the original melody, which is otherwise consistent on the rest of the recording. I've tabbed out a banjo setting for the variation, which starts on measure 43.