

Camp Chase

Traditional

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Based on the fiddling of French Carpenter

G (A)

D7 (E7)

G (A)

C (D)

D7 (E7)

G (A)

D7 (E7)

G (A)

C (D)

D7 (E7)

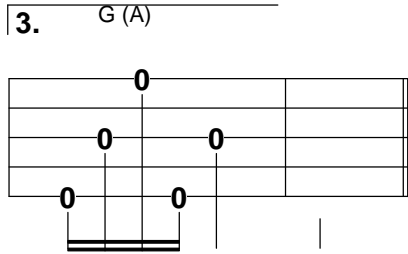
G (A)

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The image displays a fiddle tablature for the piece 'Camp Chase'. It consists of seven systems of music, each with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The notation includes various techniques such as slurs, accents, and specific fingering patterns. Chord diagrams are provided below the staff lines to indicate the harmonic structure. The chords used are C (D), D7 (E7), G (A), F (G), and C (D). The tablature includes notes on the first four strings, with fret numbers ranging from 0 to 17. Some notes are marked with 'H' (hammer-on) or 'Po' (pull-off). The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

Chord diagrams shown in the image:

- C (D)
- D7 (E7)
- G (A)
- F (G)
- C (D)
- D7 (E7)
- G (A)
- C (D)
- D7 (E7)
- G (A)
- F (G)
- C (D)
- D7 (E7)
- G (A)



For years now I have been playing a more or less straightened out version of this tune that I learned at the Monday night old time jam that used to be held at Sandy's Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I put off learning the original, prototypical version by West Virginia fiddler French Carpenter (1899-1965), as it is just about the squirreliest tune I have ever heard. The A part has 18 beats, and the B part has 23. But my jamming pals Linda Henry and John Reddick have been nagging me to learn Carpenter's version, so I sat down and figured out something that works on the banjo. It is very cool, once you internalize it's idiosyncratic structure. But I find Carpenter's classic introduction a bit ironic, given that the two extra beats he talks about were added to a tune that already had a whole lot of extra beats, thank you very much!

French Carpenter's introduction:

"This is an old piece that was played by my grandfather when he was in prison at Camp Chase, Ohio. That was back in the old war, they had five men in prison, and the soldiers and the officers knew that the five could play the fiddle, and they set aside a day to have a contest, and the best fiddler was to win his freedom, and my grandfather, Solly Carpenter, played this piece along with 'em, and he added two little notes to the tune that they played, that won his freedom. Through our generations of the fiddlin' Carpenters, we've always kept this in our minds, as one of the most important tunes of all of our fiddling is called Camp Chase."

"Now in the beginning of the last verse of the tune you will notice that there are two little notes that was b'put in there, I put 'em in slow so that you can hear it. Here's the two notes that won my grandfather's freedom when he played this tune."