

Old Bell Cow

Traditional

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2/4

10 0 12 12 14 12 12 12 14 15 10 12 12 14 12

G (A) Po Po

6 12 10 12 10 12 12 14 12 12 14 15 10 12 12 14 12

D7 (E7) G (A) Po Po

10 12 10 12 0 12 12 0 12 12 0 12 12 7 9 8 0

D7 (E7) G (A) Harmonics Harmonics D7 (E7) G (A) Harmonics D7 (E7) G (A)

15 12 12 0 12 12 7 9 8 0 0 0 9 11

G (A) Harmonics D7 (E7) G (A) Harmonics D7 (E7) G (A)

20 10 12 12 12 10 12 10 8 10 9 9 10 0 2 0 9 11

D7 (E7) G (A)

24 10 12 12 12 12 12 10 8 10 9 9 10 2 4 9 11

D7 (E7) G (A)

28

3

1. D7 (E7) G (A) | 2. D7 (E7) G (A)

32

Po

3

The tune Old Bell Cow was originally an old children's "play party" song of the type that form the basis on many of our oldest American fiddle tunes, like Sally Goodin and old Joe Clark. But this arrangement is based on the version played by texas fiddle legend Benny Thomasson (1909-1984), who dresses it up a bit, and adds a spritely third part. Note that in the B part, Thomasson uses pizzicato on the first two strings, and in order to get the notes he wants, he has tuned his fiddle in Calico tuning (AEac#). Pizzicato is a technique where the fiddler plucks the string with his left hand, rather than or in addition to agitating it with the bow. Thomasson plays the third note in each of those measures (11, 12, 13, 15, 16 & 17) normally with a long bow. On the banjo, I substitute a harmonic note for all three of those notes.