

# Smith's Reel

Traditional

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D

D  
A  
F# 2/4  
D  
a

A7 Ghost hammer, see notes

D

G

0 0 0 0 7 7 9 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10

A7 GH

D

D

0 0 0 0 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10

A7 GH

D

G

0 0 0 0 7 7 9 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10 9 10

A7 GH

D

Po

0 0 0 0 10 9 10 11 16 14 12 9 0 10 5 5 5 5 5

GH

Smith's Reel - Traditional

The image displays four systems of guitar tablature for the piece "Smith's Reel - Traditional". Each system consists of two staves: a top staff for fret numbers and a bottom staff for chord diagrams. The first three systems are identical and end with a double bar line. The fourth system is a first ending, marked with "1." and "2." above the staff. Chord diagrams are labeled with "A7", "D", and "G". Fret numbers include "0", "5", "7", "9", "10", "12", "14", and "17". A "Sl" (slide) is indicated above the 7th fret in the first system. A "Po" (ghost hammer) is indicated above the 16th fret in the first system. A "H" (hammer-on) is indicated above the 9th fret in the first ending. The piece concludes with a final double bar line.

Smith's reel is an old fiddle tune that is found mostly in the northern states and Canada, but it does seem to be closely related to the western Virginia tune Belles of Lexington. This version comes from the playing of Nebraska fiddler Bob Walters (1889-1960). In the second part of the tune, Walters goes down to the 4th string to get some low notes you can't find on the banjo, so I had to transpose it up an octave, finding the notes but losing that growly feeling he gets on the fiddle. This is when you need a six string banjo, with an extra bass string.

Measures 5, 9, 13, and 17 feature a ghost hammer, where you hammer onto the 4th string at the 4th fret, without picking it first with the right hand. Since string is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough.