

Whiskey Before Breakfast

Traditional

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The image contains eight horizontal fretboard diagrams for a six-string guitar, each representing a different measure of the song. The diagrams show the strings from bottom (A) to top (D). Fret numbers are indicated above the strings, and fingerings are shown below them. Chords are labeled above the diagrams, and a key signature of one sharp (G major) is indicated at the end. Measure 1 starts with a G major chord. Measures 2-4 start with D chords. Measures 5-6 start with G chords. Measures 7-8 start with D chords. Measures 9-10 start with G chords. Measures 11-12 start with D chords. Measures 13-14 start with G chords. Measures 15-16 start with D chords. Measures 17-18 start with Em chords. Measures 19-20 start with D chords. Measures 21-22 start with A7 chords. Measures 23-24 start with D chords. Measures 25-26 start with G chords. Measures 27-28 start with D chords. Measures 29-30 start with A7 chords. Measures 31-32 start with D chords. Measures 33-34 start with G chords. Measures 35-36 start with D chords. Measures 37-38 start with A7 chords. Measures 39-40 start with D chords. Measures 41-42 start with G chords. Measures 43-44 start with D chords. Measures 45-46 start with G chords. Measures 47-48 start with D chords. Measures 49-50 start with A7 chords. Measures 51-52 start with D chords. Measures 53-54 start with G chords. Measures 55-56 start with D chords. Measures 57-58 start with A7 chords. Measures 59-60 start with D chords. Measures 61-62 start with G chords. Measures 63-64 start with D chords. Measures 65-66 start with A7 chords. Measures 67-68 start with D chords. Measures 69-70 start with G chords. Measures 71-72 start with D chords. Measures 73-74 start with A7 chords. Measures 75-76 start with D chords. Measures 77-78 start with G chords. Measures 79-80 start with D chords. Measures 81-82 start with A7 chords. Measures 83-84 start with D chords. Measures 85-86 start with G chords. Measures 87-88 start with D chords. Measures 89-90 start with A7 chords. Measures 91-92 start with D chords. Measures 93-94 start with G chords. Measures 95-96 start with D chords. Measures 97-98 start with A7 chords. Measures 99-100 start with D chords.

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D

31 G D A7 D

Em A7

35

D A7 G D G D A7 D

39

G D A7 D

44

G D A7 D

48

G D A7 D

52

G D A7 D

56

Whiskey Before Breakfast - Traditional
D A7

Em

60

G D G D A7 D

64

G D A7 D

68

I first heard this tune in the early seventies, on a Voyager Records compilation of contestants at the National Old Time Fiddler's Contest in Weiser, Idaho. The tune was played by Texas fiddle legend Dick Barrett, who started the tune not with the scale pattern you usually hear now, but instead with a lovely long slide that I have tried to imitate. There should be a slight hesitation before sliding; the MIDI playback comes close to imitating it, but not perfectly. This arrangement has both a low and a high version of the A part, but only one version of the B part.

I once saw lyrics written out for this song, which purported to be traditional, but I'm suspicious. The chorus went like this:

Lord preserve us and protect us,
We've been drinking whiskey 'fore breakfast