

## The Britches Full of Stitches

G **A** D7 G D7 G D7 G D7  
 7 G C D7 G **B** D7 G D7 G  
 14 C 1. G D7 C | 2. G D7<sub>3</sub> C D7 **Fine** D7<sub>3</sub>  
 20 C G

"The Britches Full of Stiches", also known as "O the Breeches Full of Stitches", "The Breeches On", "The Britches", "The Irish Lad" or "The Irish Lad's a Jolly Boy" is an Irish, Polka or Single Jig in A Major (Sullivan) or G Major (Roche, Tubridy).

The parts are played AABB. The American tune "Leather Britches" appears to be a variant.

The tune is first mentioned in Irish novelist and Fenian Charles Kickham's novel **Knocknagow, or the Homes of Tipperary**, first published in 1879, in which this ditty is sung by a jew's harp player who first plays the tune for a visitor who has torn his pants, then sings:

Oh, my breeches full of stiches,  
 Oh, my breeches buckled on

It was printed in Mallinson's **100 Irish Polkas** (1997), Roche's **Collection of Traditional Irish Music, vol. 2** (1912), Sullivan's **Session Tunes, vol. 2**, Taylor's **Crossroads Dance** (1992), Taylor's **Music for the Sets: Blue Book** (1995) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Cape Cod Fiddlers on **Concert Collection II** (1999), The Chieftains on **The Best of the Chieftains** (1992), Séamus Creagh & Jackie Daly (1977), Planxty and Shaskeen on **My Love is in America**.