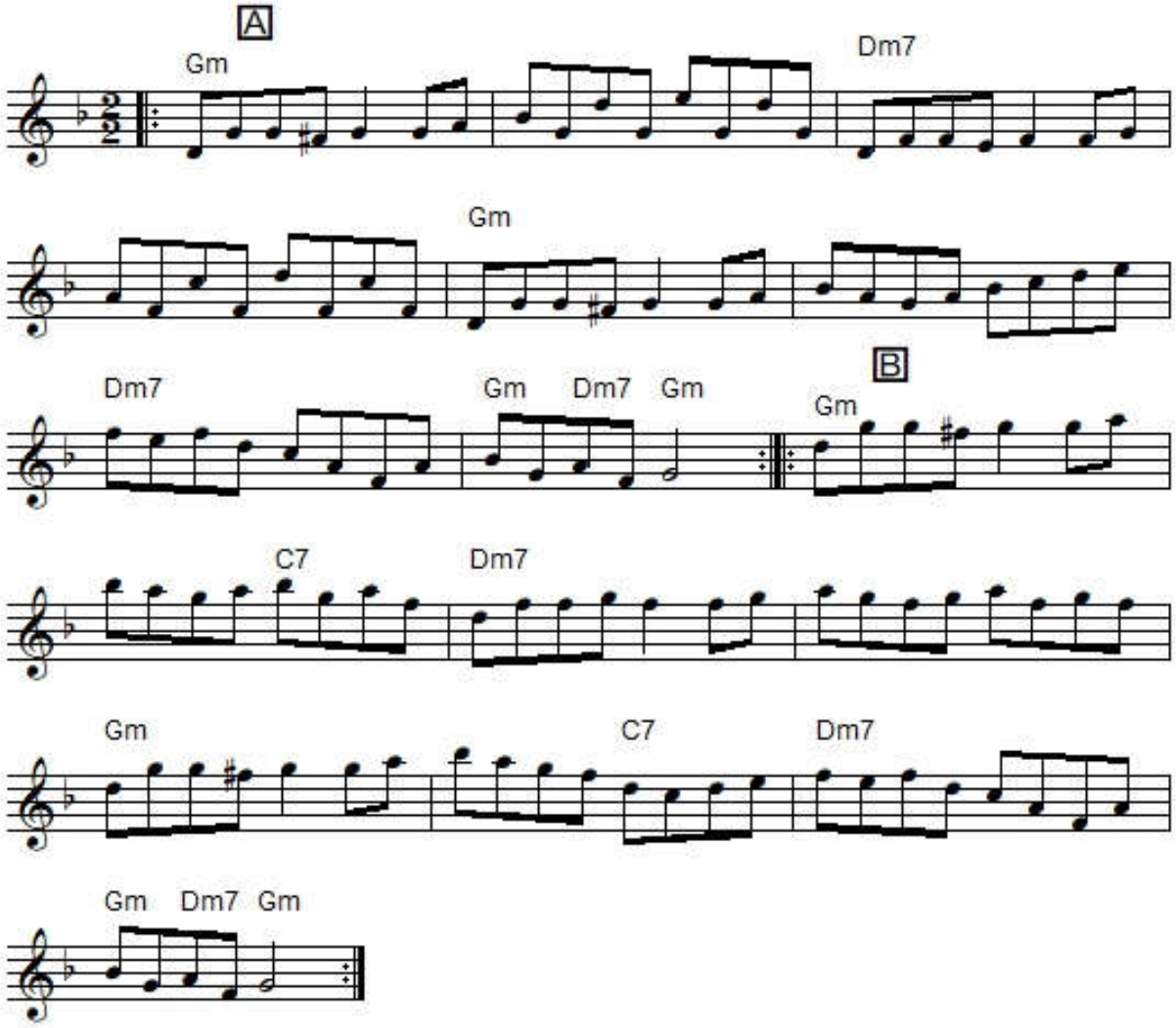
Paddy on the Turnpike



"Paddy on the Turnpike" is part of a large and varied tune family whose members go by numerous titles with settings in various modes, from major (ionian) to dorian as well as mixed modes. Other members of the family include "The Bunch of Keys", "The Flowers of Limerick" and "The Ewe (or Ewie) with the Crooked Horn". The tune is also known as "Half Past Four", "Indian Nation", "Jenny on the Railroad", "The Mills are Grinding", "Old Town Reel", "Paddy on the Handcar", "Paddy on the Handlecar", "Pigeon on the Gatepost", "*Reel de la bombarde*", "*Reel du plombier*" or "Telephone Reel". It is an Irish, Scottish, Canadian and American old-time reel in G Major/Mixolydian, G Mixolydian/Dorian (Bégin, Perlman), G Minor/Dorian (Brody, Cole, Howe, Miller & Perron, Winner), A Dorian (Bayard), A Minor (Kennedy & Raven) or A Major or A Mixolydian (Silverberg, Thede).
It is played in standard or AEae fiddle tuning. The parts are played AABB (most versions), AA'BB (Phillips) or AA′BB′ (Perlman).
I first learned this from the Electra Records **Old Time Banjo Project** album.
The banjo tab is my approximation of a version playing the B part up the neck.
It was printed in Bayard's **Hill Country Tunes** (1944), Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Bégin's **Fiddle Music in the Ottawa Valley: Dawson Girdwood** (1985), Bohrer's **Vic Kibler: Adirondack Fiddler** (1992), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), DeVille's **Universal Album** (1912), Krassen's **Masters of Old-Time Fiddling** (1983), Henebry's **A Handbook of Irish Music** (1928), Henebry's **Irish Music** (1903), Howe's **Musician's Omnibus, No. 3** (1865), Kennedy's **Fiddler's Tune-Book, vol. 2** (1954), Lowinger's **Bluegrass Fiddle** (1974), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddler's Repertoire** (1983), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Stanford/Petrie's **Complete Collection** (1905), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: Old Time Southern** (1989), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Raven's **English Country Dance Tunes** (1984), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Scanlon's **The Violin Made Easy and Attractive** (1923), Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002), Thede's **The Fiddle Book** (1967) and Septimus Winner's **Excelsior Collection for the Violin** (1864).
It was recorded by Red Steely and the Red Headed Fiddlers, Kenny Baker on **Farmyard Swing**, Joe Greene on **Joe Greene's Fiddle Album**, Bobby Hicks on **Texas Crapshooter**, The Red Headed Fiddlers on **Old-Time Fiddle Classics, vol. 2**, The Dillards with Byron Berline on **Pickin' and Fiddlin'**, Frank Ferrel on **Yankee Dreams: 'Wicked Good Fiddling from New England'** (1990). Roger Sprung on **Grassy Licks**, Thomas Hunter on **Deep in Tradition**, Banish Misfortune on **A Health to the Company** (1981), Richard Lieberson on **Flat Picking Guitar Festival**, Allan Block on **Alive and Well and Fiddling**, Glen Smith on **Say Old Man** (1990), Berline, Bush and O'Conner on **In Concert**, Wilson Douglas on **The Right Hand Fork of Rush's Creek** (1975), Joe Cormier on **Scottish Fiddle Music of Cape Breton** (1974), Graham Townsend on ***Le Violin*/The Fiddle**, Natalie MacMaster on **My Roots are Showing** (2000), Andy McGann & Paul Brady on **Andy McGann & Paul Brady**, Benny and Jerry Thomasson on **The Weiser Reunion: A Jam Session** (1993), Wendy MacIsaac on **That's What You Get** (1998) and The Hoover Uprights on **Known for their Reputation** (2006).