

Briggs' Corn Shuckin' Jig

The image displays the musical notation for "Briggs' Corn Shuckin' Jig" in 2/4 time. The notation is presented in three staves. The first staff contains Part A (8 measures) and Part B (4 measures). The second staff contains Part C (8 measures). The third staff contains Part D (4 measures) and ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine". The music is written in treble clef and features a syncopated rhythm with frequent eighth-note patterns.

"Briggs' Corn Shuckin' Jig" is an early example of a stroke style / minstrel style banjo tune. It was printed in **Briggs' Banjo Instructor** that was published in 1855 by Oliver Ditson & Co. in Boston. It is not known whether the tune was a plantation tune appropriated by Thomas Briggs or was composed by him.

In 19th-century America, the jig was the name adopted for a form of step dancing developed by enslaved African-Americans and later adopted by minstrel show performers. Danced to five-string banjo or fiddle tunes in 2/2 or 2/4 time played at 120 - 144 bpm, the minstrel jig (also called the "straight jig" to distinguish it from Irish dances) was characterized by syncopated rhythm and eccentric movements.

The parts are played AABBC repeated for the duration of the dance and ending with part D which is really another part A with no repeat.

The standard notation version is adapted from the banjo tab version that I picked up at Midwest Banjo Camp. Briggs' book was published before the invention of banjo tab so all of the tunes were written in standard notation but I have streamlined the banjo version a little to make a fiddle / mandolin version.