

Can You Dance A Tobacco Hill?

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the tune "Can You Dance A Tobacco Hill?". The key signature is D Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The first staff contains the first two measures of the A section, and the second staff contains the next two measures. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, G, D, G, A7, D in the first staff, and D, G, D, G, D, G, A7, D in the second staff. The notation includes a repeat sign at the beginning of each staff and a double bar line with repeat dots at the end of each staff.

"Can You Dance a Tobacco Hill?" is an American reel in D Major. The parts are played AABB. It is a reel from the playing of Owen 'Snake' Chapman who learned the tune from his father, G.W. Chapman.

A possibly related, although distanced, tune is "Charlie MacLean's Strathspey" from the playing of fiddler Joe Peter MacLean.

"Can You Dance a Tobacco Hill?" moves like a Scottish tune and it may be related to "Charlie MacLean's Strathspey". Sources don't give a good explanation as to what the title of the tune actually means. It is assumed that a "tobacco hill" is a type of dance.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His comment:

This is as I heard Brad Leftwich's cover of the tune mixed with Mac Benford's rendering.

Both are great. I've heard it played as written here, but also with A and B repeated.

It was printed in Titon's **Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001).

It was recorded Brad Leftwich on **Say Old Man** (1996), Bruce Greene & Hilary Dirlam on **Fiddler's Dozen** (1985) and Owen "Snake" Chapman on **Up in Chapman's Hollow** (1996).