

Cotton Patch Rag

The musical score for "Cotton Patch Rag" is written in 4/4 time. It consists of a main melody and a bass line. The main melody is marked with a boxed 'A' at the beginning and a boxed 'B' later on. The bass line features a variety of chords and ornaments, including triplets and grace notes. The score is divided into two systems, each containing five staves.

System 1 (Staves 1-5):

- Staff 1: Main melody, marked with a boxed 'A'. Chords: C, C7, F.
- Staff 2: Main melody. Chord: G (with a triplet ornament).
- Staff 3: Main melody. Chords: C, G7, C.
- Staff 4: Main melody. Chords: C7, F, G7 (with a triplet ornament).
- Staff 5: Main melody, marked with a boxed 'B'. Chords: C, C.

System 2 (Staves 6-10):

- Staff 6: Bass line. Chords: C7, F.
- Staff 7: Bass line. Chords: G7, C.
- Staff 8: Bass line. Chords: G7, C, C7.
- Staff 9: Bass line. Chords: F, G7.
- Staff 10: Bass line. Chords: C, G7. Ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

"Cotton Patch Rag" is a Texas-style country rag in C Major. The parts are played AA'BB' (Silberberg), AA'BCC' (Phillips) or AABCDEA (Brody). A tune by this title was composed in the 1st decade of the 20th century, during the Ragtime era. "Cotton Patch Rag" was originally a Texas fiddle tune. Bluegrass fiddler Byron Berline relates:

"I used to go to fiddle contests with my dad, but I never heard 'Cotton Patch Rag' played anywhere except in the states of Texas and Oklahoma" (Frets Magazine).

It has also been attributed to popular Grand Old Opry star Tennessee's Fiddlin' Arthur Smith (1898–1971). In Texas-style fiddling the tune uses 'figure-eight bowing' in the 'B' part, while an added fourth part to the tune features 'double-shuffle' bowing.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Frets Magazine, March 1983 "Byron Berline: The Fiddle", Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995), Reiner & Anick's **Old-Time Fiddling Across America** (1989) and Silberberg's **93 Tunes I Didn't Learn at the Tractor Tavern** (2004).

It was recorded by Benny Thomasson on **You Be the Judge**, Lonnie Robertson on **Fiddle Favorites** (c. 1971–72), Lewis Franklin on **Texas Fiddle Favorites**, The Dillardards with Byron Berline on **Pickin' and Fiddlin'**, John Dilleshaw (1929), Mark O'Conner on **A Texas Jam Session** and **Pickin' in the Wind**, Earl Garner on **Fiddle Hoedown**, Herman Johnson on **More Fiddle on The Weiser Reunion: A Jam Session** (1993).