

Devil in the Woodpile

The image shows a musical score for the fiddle tune "Devil in the Woodpile". It is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score is divided into two main sections, A and B. Section A consists of two staves of music. Section B consists of two staves of music, with the second staff containing a first ending and a second ending. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, A7, D in the first staff; G, D, A7, D in the second staff; D, G, A7, D, G, A7, D in the third staff; and A7, D in the fourth staff.

"Devil in the Woodpile" is an American reel in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

A story from the fiddling Hammons clan of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, tells of one member of the family, Old Pete Hammons, who made the mistake of continuing to fiddle for a Saturday night dance after midnight had struck. He returned home and put the fiddle on its peg on the wall, but later in the night heard the instrument playing "Devil in the Woodpile" by itself. Hammons had to burn the instrument to end the phenomenon and is said to never have touched a fiddle again (Milnes' **Play of a Fiddle** (1999)).

The source for this version is Melvin Wine (1909-2003, Copen, Braxton County, W.Va.).

The A part is very close to "Old Molly Hare" in this section. The banjo tab is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Melvin Wine on **Hannah at the Springhouse** (1989).