

Paddy on the Hand Car

The musical score for "Paddy on the Hand Car" is written in G Major or A Major, cut time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 2/4 time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a repeat sign with a boxed 'A' above it. The second staff continues the melody with various chords (A, Em, A, Em) and a first ending bracket. The third staff has a second ending bracket and a boxed 'A' above it. The fourth staff starts with a G chord and continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes with first and second endings, both marked with 'A' above them.

"Paddy on the Handcar" is an American reel in cut time and G Major or A Major. The parts are played AABB.

The tune under the "Paddy on the Handcar" title is sourced to the Texas string band The Red Headed Fiddlers (fiddler A.L. "Red" Steeley with banjo player J. Warner "Red" Graham). It is part of a large and varied tune family whose members, both Irish and American, go by numerous titles with settings in various modes, from major (Ionian) to Dorian as well as mixed modes. This version is crooked with an extra measure in the A part and sounds like a transposed version of the Irish "Paddy on the Turnpike" played in a major key. The major/mixolydian branch of the family includes the American "Old Bunch of Keys".

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. He plays the parts in reversed order.

It was recorded by The Red Headed Fiddlers (78 RPM) (1930) and on **Old Time Fiddle Classics, vol. 2** (1973), **Yearlings in the Canebrake** (1994) and **Texas Fiddle Bands Vol. 1 1925-1930** (1998).