

## Salt Creek

The musical score for "Salt Creek" is presented in four staves. The first two staves are labeled 'A' and the last two are labeled 'B'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in treble clef. The first staff (A) starts with a repeat sign and has chords A, D, G, and E. The second staff (A) ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff (B) starts with a repeat sign and has chords A and G. The fourth staff (B) ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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"Salt Creek", also known as "Salt River" is an American reel in cut time and A Major/Mixolydian. The parts are played AABB.

"Salt Creek" is Kentucky mandolinist Bill Monroe's bluegrass re-titling of the older American reel "Salt River" although there are reports that his record company, Decca, was responsible for the title change as Monroe's last single had been "Big Sandy River". The record company, the story goes, thought that confusion from the similarity in the titles might interfere with sales so they insisted on changing 'river' to 'creek'. Monroe recorded the tune in the 1963, with Bill Keith on banjo.

The B part goes up to c' which requires a shift to third position on the fiddle, however, the shifts up and down are easy if you shift up to play the a' notes preceding it by shifting up into third position there. The shift back down is also easy because of the following open string notes.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was recorded by Doc Watson, Bill Monroe and many others.

I learned it from Doc Watson's excellent flat-pick guitar version.