

## Texas

The musical score for "Texas" is written in A Mixolydian mode (one sharp, F#) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a triplet of eighth notes (A, B, C) followed by a quarter note (D), then a half note (E), and another quarter note (D). A bracket labeled 'A' spans the first two measures. The second staff continues the melody, featuring a triplet of eighth notes (A, B, C) followed by a quarter note (D), then a half note (E), and another quarter note (D). A bracket labeled '1.' spans the last two measures. The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note (A), followed by a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C), and a quarter note (D). A bracket labeled '2.' spans the first two measures. The fourth staff continues the melody, featuring a quarter note (A), followed by a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C), and a quarter note (D). A bracket labeled '1.' spans the last two measures, and a bracket labeled '2.' spans the final two measures.

"Texas", also known as "New Castle" is an old-time breakdown in A Mixolydian. The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB (Phillips). It is a crooked tune (the first strain has a long measure before the endings, the second strain is only six measures long with another long measure, from fiddler Henry Reed, of Glen Lyn, Virginia who played it in AEae fiddle tuning. Alan Jabbour dubbed it "Texas" because Reed told him he had no name for it but learned it from 'a fellow either going to Texas or from Texas'. At some point Reed told Jabbour the man who played the tune was a Mr. Drummond.

The tune was popularized under the title "Texas" by Jabbour through his playing with the Hollow Rock String Band. However, when the folklorist later visited Reed the old fiddler said "with certainty" that the correct title was "New Castle", referring to the county seat of Craig County, Virginia.

Jabbour believes he may have misheard or misunderstood the "Texas" title. Fiddler Bertram Levy played the tune as "The Road to Texas", perhaps after Jabbour's title. I have used the "Texas" title to avoid confusion with the Dancing Master tune "Newcastle".

Folklorist Gerald Milnes says West Virginia variants were played only along the southern border and in the south-central portion of the state.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by David Bragger on **Big Fancy** (2015).