

Three Thin Dimes

The musical score for "Three Thin Dimes" is written in A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a boxed section label **A**. The second staff continues the melody and includes a first ending bracket labeled "1." above it. The third staff starts with a second ending bracket labeled "2." above it and a boxed section label **B**. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff begins with a boxed section label **C**. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff concludes the piece with two first ending brackets labeled "1." and "2." above them. Chord markings (A, E7, D) are placed above the notes throughout the score. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated with a "3" below the notes in the fifth and seventh staves.

"Three Thin Dimes" is an American reel in 2/4 time and A Major. The parts are played AABBC. It is played in either AEae or Standard fiddle tuning.

According to Seattle fiddler Kerry Blech, the source for the tune is Barnesville, Ohio, fiddler Old John Hutchison (1915-1979), who was recorded before he died by Jeff Goehring, in 1977; the remastered tapes were published on a CD by Ohio University (Athens) in 2003.

Hutchison said he learned many of his tunes from 'old man' Bondy, an Irishman, although "Three Thin Dimes" is also said to have been original with Hutchinson. Hutchison's sons, 'Lost' John and Zeke, had a bluegrass band in the 1970's with a gifted fiddler named Greg Dearth (who lived for a time in Dayton, Ohio) who took it upon himself to learn many of "The Old Seed's" (Old John's nickname) more exceptional tunes. These were recorded with the Hutchison Brothers band on the Vetco label.

When played with the tune "Two White Nickels" the medley has jokingly been called the "Forty Cent Medley".

The tune was popular for a time with latter 20th century "revival" old-time fiddlers, though it was "folk-processed" from Hutchinson's original version and played very fast and rhythmically.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes vol. 1** (1994) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Fly by Night String Band on **Fly by Night String Band** (1980), The Hot Mud Family **on Live, As We Know It** (1979), Adam Hurt on **Intrigue** (2002), Bonnie Carol on **Laughing Willow** (1985), Helicon on **Helicon** (1987), Orpheus Supertones on **Bound To Have A Little Fun!** (2004), Arm and Hammer String Band on **Visits** (1981). Learned from John Hutchison) and The Hutchison Brothers on **The Hutchison Brothers** (1975).