

## Two White Nickels

The musical score for "Two White Nickels" is presented in four staves. The first staff shows the melody for section A, marked with a boxed 'A' and a chord 'A'. The second staff shows the melody for section B, marked with a boxed 'B' and chords 'Em A Em A'. The third and fourth staves provide accompaniment with chords 'E7 D A D A D E7' and 'A D A E7 A' respectively.

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"Two White Nickels", also known as "Two Wide Nickels" is an American reel in cut or 2/4 time and A Major. The parts are played AB. There are 6 measures in the A part and 10 measures in the B part.

The title may refer to the silver-infused nickels minted during World War 2 (1942 to 1945) when nickel was allocated to artillery manufacturing. They are rare because they had such a short run, were recalled after the war and were the only silver nickels made since 1873. When paired with the tune "Three Thin Dimes" the medley has jokingly been called the "Forty Cent Medley". Both tunes were in the repertoire of Barnesville, Ohio, fiddler John W. Hutchison (1915-1979), who said he had many of his tunes from 'old man' Bondy, an Irishman. They were recorded by the Hutchison Brothers bluegrass band, which included two of Hutchison's sons and fiddler Greg Dearth. John Hutchison himself was recorded before he died by Jeff Goehring, in 1977; the remastered tapes were published on a CD by Ohio University (Athens) in 2003.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997) (appears as "Two Wide Nickels").

It was recorded by Ken Kolodner, Chris Norman & Robin Bullock on **A Winter Solstice with Helicon** (1999), Arm and Hammer String Band on **Visits** (1981, Learned from John Hutchinson) and The Hotmud Family on **Years in the Making** (1978).