

Now we have all of our information — the tricks that change TWINKLE from just plain notes into a fiddle tune: shuffle bowing, double strings, slides, a fiddler's lingo, and a fiddler's ending. Let's put them all together. Of course, there will be a lot to think about. Pick one trick and work on it, then pick another until you have learned them all. Practice them by yourself, listen to me play on the tape, then your final goal will be to play along with me on the tape. Wearing earphones for part of your practice time when you are playing along with me is a good learning technique.

Lesson #8: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star (Fiddle Style)

Arrangement #4

Key of A
tempo
4 quarter notes

Part 1 m. 1

Part 1 m. 9

Part 1 m. 17

m. 24 Ending

Chords: Notice that the chords appear in this, our final arrangement of TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR. In case you wish to have piano or guitar accompaniment. Back-up chords will appear in all final arrangements of the tunes throughout this book. Once you learn a tune, playing with accompaniment is really fun!



Lesson #40: Liberty (Hoedown)

The majority of fiddle tunes are old — 50, 100, 200 years old! If you are going to be a fiddler, you'll want to have LIBERTY in your collection. Children all over America play it. In fact, when I was performing in Japan, a mandolin player there invited me to play it with him. When you play these old tunes, you feel you are stepping back into our history and helping to preserve it. LIBERTY was written in 1776 when the U.S. gained independence from England, and fiddlers have been playing it for over 200 years.

First let's play a simplified arrangement.

Liberty (Simplified Arrangement)

Arrangement #1

Key of D
Tempo:
2 chops & 4 passes

Part 1
m. 1 ~~~~~
m. 3 ~~~~~

Part 2
m. 10 ~~~~~ m. 10

Dancing Tag

LEARNING TIP: Did you notice that groups of notes (lager patterns) are sometimes repeated? When I learn a tune, I use the idea of patterns to help me. Notice the special lines to indicate patterns I use:



Lesson #41: Other Ideas for Liberty

Let's try some different ideas — "fiddly-choices" — for LIBERTY. You can pick and choose the ones you like and want to learn to play now. Save the other ideas for a later time when you feel ready to "grow into" them.

First, let's consider our introduction. I like to have my intro near the location where I play the tune. In our simplified arrangement, we play on the open D and A strings (the middle register), and then we hop up to the E and A strings (upper register) to play the tune. While this is OK, I prefer my intro to also be high like the tune.

In Ex. 1, you could get along by playing this:

Ex. 1



However, as I explained earlier, you want the *name of the key* (like the note D) present if you are in the key of D. Notice that the note D is not present in this intro chord. It doesn't quite sound complete to me, so these notes are not my favorite choice.

Ex. 2 contains my favorite choice. This is the sound I really like best! But it is more difficult to play because you have two fingers on two different strings at the same time (a double stop).

Ex. 2



Try them all. Listen to your tape. You decide which one you like best and which suits your skill level at this time.

Doubling: Fiddlers will sometimes take one note and change it into two notes. I call this "doubling." You can use doubling in measure 1 and measure 5.

Ex. 3



could be played

Ex. 4



Double A's or three A's: Measures 9, 11, and 13 are perfect spots to use your double A's. I just love this sound. To me it is the essence of fiddling. Have you noticed on how many tunes so far we have had the chance to use this technique? It really is tricky at first — it was for me, too — but, if you really love this wonderful sound, you'll be willing to work on it. It takes time, but it is worth the effort!



Did you remember to slide into
the double A?