

Take This Hammer

A Traditional American Folk Song

arranged for mountain dulcimer by Jaymie Maham



A Traditional Work or Roll Cadence song

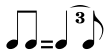
*"This old hammer killed John Henry,
But it can't kill me.
Take this hammer, take it to the Captain,
Tell him I'm gone, babe, tell him I'm gone"*

~DAD Tuning

~Suggested for
Advanced Beginner
players and above

~Includes tablature,
lead sheet
standard notation,
lyrics variations,
accompaniment chords,
& strum pattern

**INCLUDES
COPY FOR
DULCIMERS WITH
1+ FRET**



Moderately, with swing

TAKE THIS HAMMER

Anonymous - American Folk Song

Arranged for dulcimer by
Jaymie Maham

G

D7

**Optional: add extra strumming over rests as desired*

TAKE THIS HAMM - ER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TAKE THIS

1 2 3 4

D 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
D 0 1 3 3 4 3 4 3 2 0 0 2

G

HAMM - ER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TAKE THIS

5 6 7 8

D 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3
A 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3
D 4 4 7 6 7 6 5 3 3 5

G7

C

HAMM - MER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TELL HIM I'M

9 10 11 12

D 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 6 6
A 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
D 7 7 7 7 7 6 6 7 7 6

G

D7

G

Repeat for additional verses

GO - NE, TELL HIM I'M GONE.

13 14 15 16

D 3 3 3 0 0 0 0
A 3 3 3 0 0 1
D 5 3 3 5 5 4 3

<< ADD STRUM FILL / TURNAROUND >>



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D7

TAKE THIS HAMM - ER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TAKE THIS

1 2 3 4

D 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 1 1 1 1 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+
D 0 1 3 3 4-3 4-3 2 0 0 2

G

HAMM - ER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TAKE THIS

5 6 7 8

D 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3
A 1+ 1+ 0 0 3 3 3 3
D 4 4 7-6 7-6 5 3 3 5

G7

C

HAMM - MER, CARR - Y'T TO THE CAP - TAIN, TELL HIM I'M

9 10 11 12

D 0 0 0 6 6 6 6
A 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
D 7 7 7-7 7-7 7 6 7-7 6

G

D7⁰₁₊₀

G

Repeat for additional verses

GO - NE, TELL HIM I'M GONE.

13 14 15 16

D 3 3 3 0 0 0
A 3 3 3 0 0 1
D 5 3 3 5 5 4 3

<< ADD STRUM FILL / TURNAROUND >>

Take This Hammer - a sampling of the many verses

Take this hammer, carry it to the captain
Take this hammer, carry it to the captain
Take this hammer, carry it to the captain
Tell him I'm a-gone, just tell him I'm a gone

If he asks you, was I running
If he asks you, was I running
If he asks you, was I running
Tell him I was flying, tell him I was flying

And if he asks you was I laughing,
If he asks you was I laughing,
If he asks you was I laughing,
You can tell him I was crying, Lord,
You can tell him I was crying.

I don't want your old darn shackles
I don't want your old darn shackles
I don't want your old darn shackles
It hurts my leg, hurts my leg

I don't want no greenback dollar
I don't want no greenback dollar
I don't want no greenback dollar
It hurts my pride, hurts my pride

I don't want no cornbread and molasses,
I don't want no cornbread and molasses,
I don't want no cornbread and molasses
'Cause it hurts my pride, Lord,
'Cause it hurts my pride.

Swing this hammer, it looks like silver,
Swing this hammer, it looks like silver,
Swing this hammer, it looks like silver
But it feels like lead, Lord,
But it feels like lead.

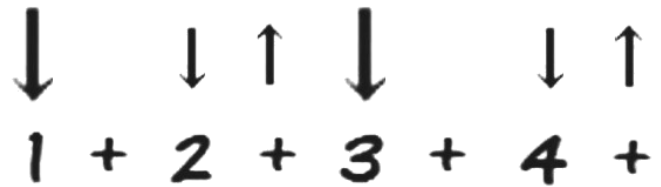
This old hammer killed John Henry,
But it can't kill me.
Take this hammer, take it to the Captain,
Tell him I'm gone, babe, tell him I'm gone.

"Take This Hammer" is a prison, logging, and railroad work song. It is similar to "Nine Pound Hammer", with which it shares verses. Numerous bands and artists have recorded covers of this song, nearly all of them containing verses about the legendary railroad worker, John Henry.

**Check out the FANTASTIC covers of this song in the blues and rock & roll genres by Leadbelly, The Beatles, Van Morrison (and more!) that can be found on YouTube.

Strum Pattern

Below is the typical "Bum Diddy" rhythm that is familiar to all dulcimer players.



It is the same basic pattern that is used in this (and other traditional spirituals or work) songs, but with added swing.

Instead of hearing
"Bum did-dy, Bum did-dy"

The cadence is closer to
"Boom CHICK-a, Boom CHICK-a"
with a little longer time spent on
the first of the eighth note pair