

ARKANSAS TRAVELER

Old-Time, Bluegrass, American; Reel, universally known. **DATE:** The music was in print in 1847, Rosenberg states, and both the tune and the accompanying skit are presumed by him to have been in oral circulation at the time. **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **RECORDING INFO:** Gid Tanner & Riley Puckett; Kenny Baker; Clark Kessinger; Roscoe Holcomb and Wade Ward; **NOTES:** One of the most popular bluegrass fiddle tunes.

O once up - on a time in Ar - kan - sas, An old man sat in his
lit - tle cab - in door, And fid - dled at a tune that he lik'd to hear, A
jol - ly old - - tune that he play'd - - by ear. It was rain - ing - - hard but the
fid - dler did - n't care, He saw'd a - way at the pop - u - lar air, Tho' his
roof top - - leak'd like a wa - ter - - fall, That did - n't seem to bother the old man - - at all.

© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI
All Rights Reserved.

D Bm A7 D
Oh, once upon a time in Arkansas

A E A7
An old man sat in his little cabin door

D Bm A7 D
And fiddled a tune that he liked to hear

G A7 D
A jolly old tune that he played by ear.

D A Bm A
It was raining hard, but the fiddler didn't care

D A Bm A
He sawed a-way at the popular air

D A Bm A
Though his rooftop leaked like a waterfall

D G A7 D
That didn't seem to bother the old man at all.

ARKANSAS TRAVELER (ADDITIONAL LYRICS)

D Bm A7 D
The cabin was afloat and his feet were wet
G A7 D
But the old man still didn't seem to fret.
D A Bm A
So the stranger said "The way it seems to me
D A Bm A
You'd better mend your roof," said he
D A Bm A
But the old man said as he played away
D G A7 D
I couldn't mend it now, it's a rainy day.

D Bm A7 D
The traveler replied that's all quite true
A7 E A
But this I think is the thing for you to do
D Bm A7 D
Get busy on a day that is fair and bright
G A7 D
Then patch the old roof till it's good and tight
D A Bm A
But the old man kept on a-playing at his reel
D A Bm A
And tapped the ground with his leathery heel
D A Bm A
Get along said he for you give me a pain
D G A7 D
My cabin never leaks when it doesn't rain.