

JACK O' DIAMONDS

Old-Time, Texas Style; **DATE:** Early 1900's-First appears around 1910; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes. **RECORDING INFO:** Blue Sky Boys; Jules Allen; Curly Fox; Tommy Jarrell; Owen "Snake" Chapman; **OTHER NAMES:** "Drunken Hiccups/Hiccoughs;" "Rye Whiskey;" "Way Up On Clinch Mountain;" "Clinch Mountain;" **NOTES:** The song, "Jack O' Diamonds" is an American branch of an old and large family of songs originating in the British Isles as "The Cuckoo." Both the "Jack O' Diamonds" and "Rye Whiskey" are well-known in America and as the fiddle tune "Drunken Hiccups." The "Jack O' Diamonds" is also a 1926 blues title by Blind Lemon Jefferson and the line "Jack O' diamonds is hard," appears in Big Joe Williams' "Baby Please Don't Go." The reference to the "Jack O' Diamonds" is that it's a bad (unlucky) card to hold. In the last 50 years (Randolph in 1954) and especially the last several decades, "Jack O' Diamonds" has been somewhat separated from "Rye Whiskey" although the titles are still interchanged.

Jack of dia - monds, Jack of dia - monds I've known you of old. You've
robbed my poor pock - ets of sil - ver and gold.

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G
Jack O' Diamonds, Jack O' Diamonds,
C G
I know you of old

G
You've robbed my poor pockets,
C (D) G
Of silver and gold.

Whiskey you villain,
You've been my downfall
You've kicked me, you've cuffed me,
But I love you for all.

Her parents don't like me,
They say I'm too poor
They say I'm unworthy
To enter her door.

They say I drink whiskey,
But my money's my own
And them that don't like me
Can leave me alone.

O baby, O baby,
I've told you before
Do make me a pallet,
I'll lay on your floor.

I've no wife to quarrel,
No babies to bawl;
The best way of living,
Is no wife at all.

Way up on Clinch Mountain,
I wander alone,
I'm as drunk as the devil,
Oh, let me alone.

You may boast of your knowledge,
An' brag of your sense,
Twill all be forgotten,
A hundred years hence.