



Old Molly Hare

Double C Tuning
gCGCD

Here is your first tune to play in double C tuning, "Old Molly Hare." I've heard an African song which strongly resembles this tune, so it may well go back even further than to ante-bellum days of the old South. The reason we start with "Old Molly Hare" is that it is a well-known tune where the melody is mostly played on the 1st string, which makes it easier to play. Use your left index finger to play the 1st string at the 5th fret and your left ring finger to play the 1st string at the 7th fret. The best finger to use on the "4" on the chorus is your ring finger.



I collected the first several verses at fiddlers' conventions in Southwest Virginia and North Carolina in the early 1970s. The verses starting with "Old Granny Hare" were collected from W.E. Bird of Cullowhee, NC on October 28, 1925, by Robert Gordon.

1 5 7 3 5 2 3 2 0 C

"Old Molly Hare what you doin' there?" Sittin' by the fireplace smokin' my cigar.

Chorus

1 2 3 2 0 2 3 2 0 C

Jump back, jump back, daddy shot a bear, shot him in the eye and he never touched a hair.

Old Molly Hare what you doin' there?
Runnin' through the cotton patch as fast as I can tear.

Old Molly Hare what you doin' there?
Sittin' in the butter dish pickin' out a hair.

I'd rather be here than to be over there
A whole mess of cockleburs tangled in my hair.

Old Granny Hare what you doin' there?
Runnin' through the cotton patch as hard as I can tear.

Wheat bread, cornbread or any such a thing
The old sow died with the measles in the spring.

Old Granny Hare what you doin' there?
Sittin' in the corner smokin' a cigar.

The old sow's leg or the old sow's tail
Make as good a hammer as ever drove a nail.

You don't need to concern yourself with chords on "Old Molly Hare," except where it says "C" at the end of both lines. Although the 2nd string is played "open" or unfretted, you'll need to hold down the "C" chord for the "Ham" or brush of the clawhammer.



After you can play "Old Molly Hare," you can add some pull-offs. See page 56.