

Squirrel Hunters

A Dorian

Chirps Smith from John Hartford

The musical score for 'Squirrel Hunters' is presented in four systems, each on a single treble clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third system begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The fourth system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chord markings are placed above the staff: Em (Am) and G in the first system; Em, G, and D (Am) in the second; Em (Am) and G in the third; and Em, G, and D (Am) in the fourth. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some beamed sixteenth notes.

Note: Like many modal fiddle/banjo tunes, the mode of this tune is often ambiguous. Possibilities include A-Dorian as notated here (Am/G chords, C natural) or A-Mixolydian (Amajor/G chords, C# throughout), or a mixture thereof. To add to the confusion, sometimes the C notes on the fiddle sound halfway between natural and sharp. In Bayard's book (*Dance to Fiddle, March to Fife*), the supposed source for John Hartford, ten different versions are notated. There is no single "correct way", so get over it!