

Banana Boat Song (Day-0)

Traditional

Melody Fret numbers for Dad (or any 1-5-8) tuning

Chorus:

7 4 4 7 5-4 4
Day-0 Me say Day-0

0 0 2 2 0 1 0 0 2-4
Daylight come and me wanna go home

7 4 4 7 5-4 4
Day-0 Me say Day-0

0 0 2 2 0 1 0 2M 0
Daylight come and me wanna go home

Verse 1:

2 4 2 4 4 2 4 7
Work all night 'til the morning come

0 0 2 2 0 1 0 0 2-4
Daylight come and me wanna go home

2 4 2 2 4 4 2 4 7
Stack banana 'til the morning come

0 0 2 2 1 1 0 2M 0
Daylight come and me wanna go home

2 4 4 2 2 4 3 3 3 1 2M 0M
Come mister tally man, tally me banana

0 0 2 2 0 1 0 0 2-4
Daylight come and me wanna go home

2 4 4 2 2 4 3 3 3 1 2M 0M
Come mister tally man, tally me banana

0 0 2 2 0 1 0 2M 0
Daylight come and me wanna go home

Chorus

Verse 2:

A beautiful bunch of ripe banana

Daylight come and me wanna go home

Lift six hand, seven hand, eight hand, bunch

Daylight come and me wanna go home

Come mister tally man, tally me banana

Daylight come and me wanna go home

Chorus

NOTES:

- The song is often attributed to Harry Belafonte who recorded a popular version, but the tune and at least some versions of the lyrics are traditional and in the public domain.
- Two numbers with a dash in between (e.g. 2-4 over "home") mean there are two notes with that syllable.
- Numbers followed by an "M" (0M, 1M or 2M) mean the note is fretted on the middle string.
- If you want to get rid of playing on the middle string, you can tune to DAA and add 3 to all fret numbers. Also, 0M becomes 0, 1M becomes 1 and 2M becomes 2.
- As with any traditional song, this is just one of many variations. Feel free to adjust these fingerings to suit your favorite version.
- This tune is commonly found in G (one sharp). If you tune to Dad you will be playing in D (two sharps). This isn't a problem unless you want to play with someone else. An easy way to play it in G is to tune your middle string down to G (resulting in DGD or "Reverse Ionian" tuning). Melody fingering in this tuning would be just like fingering in DAA (see note above).