

JOHN HENRY

American folk song

TablEdited by James Kuder

When John Hen- ry was a lit- tle ba- by, sit- ting

D 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 3 3 5 3 3
D 4 5 7 7 7 4 5 4 5 7 4 5

on his dad- dy's knee, He

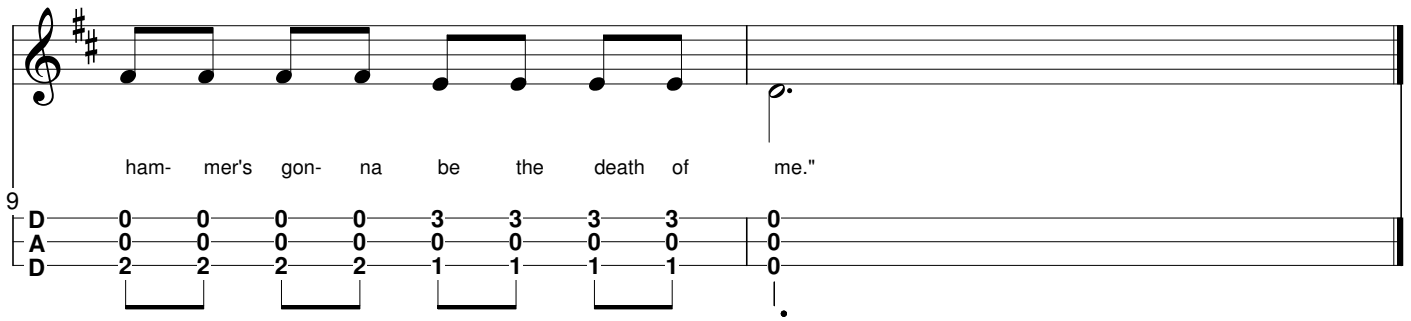
3
D 0 0 4 3 0 0
A 5 5 4 3 3 3
D 7 7 6 5 4 5

grabbed up a ham- mer and a lit- tle piece of steel, said,

5
D 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 2
A 5 5 5 3 3 0 3 3 3 0 0 1 1
D 7 7 7 5 4 2 4 5 4 2 1 0 0

"Ham- mer's gon- na be the death of me, Lord, Lord, he said

7
D 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 2 2
A 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1
D 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 0



9

ham- mer's gon- na be the death of me."

D 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 0
 A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 D 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 0

John Henry said to his captain
 "A man ain't nothin' but a man,
 But before I'll let your steam drill beat me down,
 I will die with my hammer in my hand!
 Lord, Lord! Die with my hammer in my hand!"

John Henry got his thirty-pound hammer,
 And by that steam drill he did stand,
 And he beat that steam drill three inches down,
 Then he died with his hammer in his hand!
 Lord, Lord! Died with his hammer in his hand!

They carried John Henry to the graveyard
 And they buried him underneath the sand,
 And every locomotive that goes roarin' by
 Says, "There lies a steel drivin' man!
 Lord, Lord! There lies a steel drivin' man!"