

Speed The Plough (Tin Whistle) - Instructional Notes

Saving Energy. Don't lift fingers off and replace them unnecessarily!

In Bar 2 (and Bar 6) leave your 1st finger (RH) down all the way through the bar on the 4th note hole as it makes no difference to the A and B notes as there is at least one exposed hole between that hole and the A and B notes.

To explain...

On the whistle, it's the top hole that is exposed that makes the note apart from the low D where the note essentially comes out of the end of the whistle as all holes are covered

So for B - you cover hole 1 and it's the *uncovered hole 2 that gives you the note.

For A - you cover holes 1 and 2 and it's the *uncovered hole 3 that gives you the note.

Any holes below this *uncovered hole (covered or uncovered) won't make any difference to the note - i.e. the pitch of the whistle as the sound is going to come out of that lowest uncovered hole no matter what you do.

Similarly in Bar 3 (and Bars 7,11 and 15)- leave finger 3 (LH) down when you play G B G - simply lift and replace the 2nd finger (LH) to go from G to B and back to G.

Similarly later on in Bar 3 (and Bar 7,11 and 15) - leave finger 1 (RH) down when you play F# A F# - simply lift and replace the 3rd finger (LH) to go from F# to A and back to F#.

In Bar 10 on the second page - once you've played the higher D, you only really have to uncover holes 2 and 3 as well as hole 1 to sound the C# (rather than taking all the fingers off) so the other three fingers can stay on momentarily.

Getting a feel for the chords

In Bars 1 and 2 we are essentially playing some of the notes of the scale of D major. It's when we play the A F# A sequence that we allude to a D major chord. Therefore the backing chord for the first two bars is D major.

In the first half of Bar 3 we're playing a G B G sequence (G major chord) and then in the second half, an F# A F# sequence so D major again. The sequence G E E in Bar 4 suggests an A7 chord.

This is more or less repeated in the next four bars until we come to the end of Bar 8 where the final D note requires a D major chord at this point.

In the B part of the tune we start off with a D major chord in Bar 9 and then we need an A7 chord to go with the C# note in Bar 10. In that same bar we return to D major for the A F# D F# sequence. The rest is repeats of earlier parts of the tune and we again need a D major chord to finish.

Here is the full sequence of chords:-

A part

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" 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4"  
| D      | D      |  
| G  D   | A7     |  
| D      | D      |  
| G  D   | A7  D  |
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B part

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" 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4"  
| D      | D A7 D  |  
| G  D   | A7     |  
| D      | D A7 D  |  
| G  D   | A7  D  |
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