

# Styles & Genres



## Tune Types: Jigs 1

**T**HE JIG originated in 16th Century England, but was quickly adopted in mainland Europe, where it became part of the Baroque Dance Suite. It was also imported into the Irish and Scottish musical traditions and became one of the main tune forms in both. A few different time signatures are used: there are jigs in 9/8 (in Ireland they're called *slip jigs* or *hop jigs*), 12/8 (in



Ireland they're *slides*), but the vast majority of jigs are in the most common 6/8 time signature. Even so, they're sometimes categorised as *single jigs* (fewer notes):



or *double jigs* (lots of notes):



## The Rhythm of Jigs and Pick Direction

Jig rhythm is explored more fully in the next sheet (*Jigs 2*), but the first thing to learn is that in 6/8 jigs there are two beats in every bar (that's why in double jigs the notes are in

two groups of three). For this reason, the pick direction remains the same - down strokes on the beat - but it's perhaps not as intuitive as for reels, etc.

BEATS:

d d dud dud dud du dud d u

In Scotland, not all tunes in 6/8 time are jigs. In the bagpipe repertoire, 6/8 marches are very common. It makes sense when you consider the two beats in the bar: same as

2/4 marches, corresponding to the rhythm of marching. In the dancing world, two-steps are popular - long 6/8 tunes in three parts. However, here's a straightforward Scottish jig:

## Over the Border (traditional)

G G C G D G G  
5 5 5 2 0 5 2 0 5 2 2 2 0 0 5 2 0 2 5 5 5 2 5 5 2 0 5 5 5 2 0 5 2 0 5 2 0

C G G D7 G C G G Em  
3 5 0 5 3 5 5 0 2 0 5 5 2 5 5 2 5 0 5 2 2 0 5 5 2 5 0 2 3

G D7 G C G Em D7 G D7  
5 0 2 2 0 5 5 2 5 5 2 5 0 5 2 2 0 5 2 5 2 0 2 4 5 0 2 0 5

Jigs 1