Nail That Catfish to the Tree

© Steve Rosen

Transcribed by Pete Showman, 2015



Transcribed from Steve Rosen's playing on his page nailthatcatfish.tripod.com/nailthatcat.html. Steve plays the tune at several speeds so you can hear it "straight from the horse's mouth. I mean the horse's fiddle". This is transcribed from the medium-speed version. You can read more about the tune there, and read about Steve (and order Nail That Catfish T-shirts) on his home page, www.steverosen.com.

Steve writes "'Nail That Catfish to the Tree' is a fiddle tune I wrote a long time ago.... note that the B2 has a different ending than the B1."

Notes: The notations in measures 1, 3 and 19 probably aren't quite what Steve plays, though they give the idea. It sounds like he's playing an open-D drone and hitching or rocking the bow to break the melody note while continuing the drone. And generally he plays more drones than are shown here. Also he describes measures 9, 13 and 17 as being just double-stops, but I've notated what I hear him playing, with (usually) the upper notes coming in delayed a half beat. But as Steve says, "Many slight variations on the melody are played." So do what feels right and sounds good.

Here's a YouTube video of the Volo Bogtrotters (Steve Rosen's band) playing several tunes, including Nail That Catfish [to the tree] at around 7:30 into the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnUNzthyw0c

Transcribed 6/29/2015 by Pete Showman (Rev. 1)