

Jig vs. Reel

When listening to a tune, how can you tell whether it is a jig or a reel? Jigs are written in 6/8 time (meaning that there are six eighth-note beats in a bar) and are classified as single jigs (which sound like “pizza pizza”) or double jigs (“jiggity jiggity”). Reels are written in 4/4 time or cut time, featuring 2 or 4 strong beats to a bar. When you hear a reel, you can detect a rhythmic pattern that sounds like “peanut butter peanut butter” or “run pony run pony.”

D Major Scale in Single Jig Pattern

CD# 2 (track 2)

Violin 
piz - za piz - za

5 

9 

13 

Short Bow Jig

trad.
CD#2 (track 3, 4), CD#3 (track 16)

Violin 

5 

10 

15 