

# **Irish Guitar Podcast**

## **Book 5**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Book 5 of the Irish Guitar Podcast.

Audio files for this chapter can be downloaded free of charge from [www.irishguitarpod.com](http://www.irishguitarpod.com).

We hope you'll find this a useful resource for learning to play traditional Irish music on the guitar.

The book builds on the previous ones. Starting with Book 1 is not required, but in general we don't repeat explanations of things already covered.

## Lesson 73 – An t’Athair Jack Walsh

“Athair” is the Irish word for “father”, and the Anglicized title “Fr. Jack Walsh” is often used as the title for this tune, as is “Tatter Jack Walsh”.

The tune is played in the D mixolydian mode and thus contains the same notes as a G Major scale. A cursory glance at the chords used in the sheet music should alert you to this. The two main chords used are D and C and this combination in a “D” tune invariably tells you it’s mixolydian. The key signature is one sharp (F#). If I used two sharps (F# and C#) then there would be natural signs used for the C notes occurring in the tune.

Some tune books incorrectly notate the tune this way. Tony’s old copy of that excellent small collection “Allan’s Irish Fiddler” has it in D Major with natural signs for the C. Although the transcription still ends up with the same notes it is not very good “musical grammar”. There are two accidentals in the tune, both in the last bar of each section. In fact the last three bars of each section are identical.

### Playing the Tune

Sometimes instead of playing the fifth bar thus:



Tony plays a triplet. Down-Up-Down for the triplet and Down again for the fourth note.



We’ve also included a variety of ways to begin the tune and there is a separate sheet for this, including the above example. Try and work out some of your own variations for tunes, and put your own stamp on them. Many years ago Tony was lucky enough to get an engagement backing up John Carty, who was playing mostly banjo at the time. Carty is a master at putting in variations into his music, as is London banjo player Mick O’Connor with whom Tony has also worked.

Tony often pairs this tune with the following tune, “Boys Of The Town”.

# An t'Athair Jack Walsh

Chords: D C D C

Chords: D C D A D

Chords: D C

Chords: D C D A D

An t'Aithair Jack Walsh-Variations for  
the bars 1 & 2

			
<b>Original Bars 1 &amp; 2</b>		<b>Example No. 1</b>	
2-0-2-0	1-0-1-0-1	2-0-2-2-0	1-0-1-3-0
3-3	2	3-3	2

			
<b>Example No. 2</b>		<b>Example No. 3</b>	
2-5-2-0	1-0-1-2	2-0-2-0	1-0-1-1-0-1
3-3	2	3-3	2