How to edit a tune using the edit editABC tool (http://wellington.session.nz/editABC)

A little about ABC musical notation

ABC musical notation is a simple way to transcribe music to paper.

A tune in ABC looks like this:

X: 1

T: Kilglass Lakes

R: jig

C: John McEvoy

S: John McEvoy @ Ceol Aneas 2016

M: 6/8

L: 1/8

K: Dmaj

|:DED DFA|BAF d2e|faf ede|fdB AFE|

DED DFA|BAF d2e|faf ede|1 fdd d3 :|2 fdd d2 e ||

|:faa fbb|afe ~f3|faf dBA| (3Bcd B AFE|

DED DFA|BAF d2e|faf ede|1 fdd d2 e :|2 fdd d2 D \parallel

The ABC tune can be "rendered" via software to produce standard sheet music -



Source: John McEvoy @ Ceol Aneas 2016

The first 8 lines of the example is called the header, and consists of:

X: - a number (usually used to sort the tunes)

T: - the title of the tune

R: - the rhythm (jig, reel, hornpipe, etc)

C: - composer (not needed)

S: - source of the tune (not needed)

M: - meter (6/8, 4/4, etc)

L: - length of each note in the ABC (1/8 means that each letter in the ABC has the value of 1/8 of a measure. For example: gabc = 4 eighth notes. 2abc = one quarter note and 2 eighth notes. 3ac = a dotted quarter followed by an eighth note.)

K: - The key (Dmaj is the same as D, however Dmin and Ddor mean different things)

After the last line of the header (K: should always be the last line of the header) the musical notes start. The notes are:



Middle C = C 3^{rd} space C = c high C = c' octave below middle C = C,

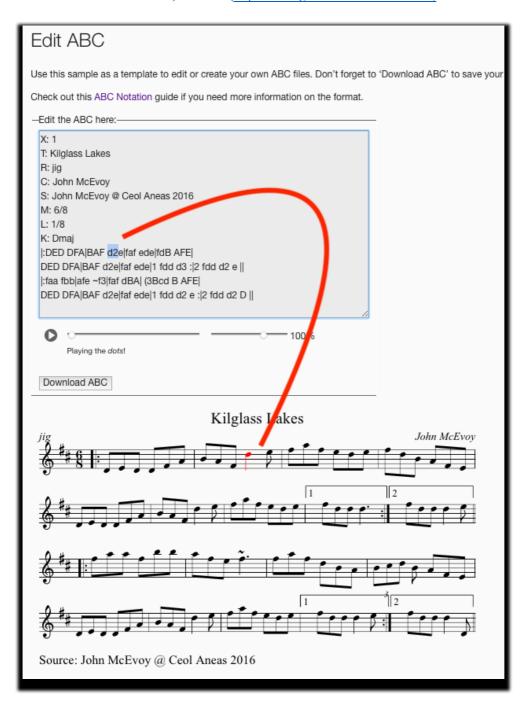
Bar lines are indicated by the symbol |

Repeat symbols are : | and |:

Common ornamentations: 3(abc indicates a triplet, ~a indicates a roll

There are many more options and details about ABC, but that should get you started. (see http://trillian.mit.edu/~jc/music/abc/doc/ABCtutorial.html for a good resource.

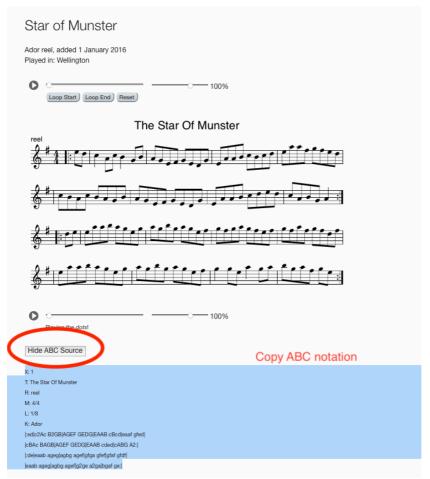
How to use our ABC edit tool, editABC (http://wellington.session.nz/editABC) to correct a tune.



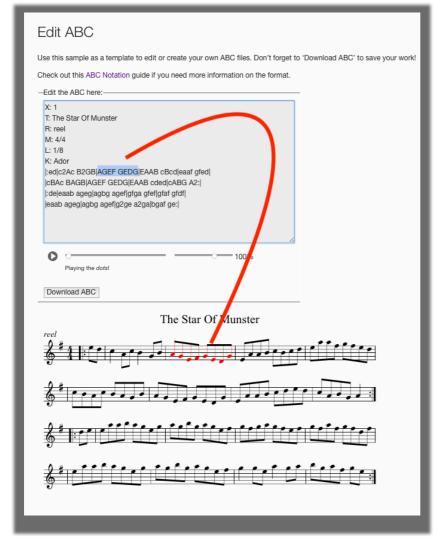
When you first open the page there is already a tune (Kilglass Lakes) in the edit window. If you click on a note, the corresponding symbol is highlighted in the ABC notation. You can edit the note in the ABC, and the results will instantly be seen in the music.

Let's go through an example of correcting a tune.

Suppose you want to "correct" a section of the Star of Munster. First go to the Star of Munster tune page (http://wellington.session.nz/tunes/star-of-munster) and click on the (Show ABC Source) button below the tune. The box will now say (Hide ABC Source)



Now copy the ABC notation, and switch back to the editABC page, clear out the old text in the edit window, and paste the copied ABC into the edit window.



Now edit the ABC notation to see the changes reflected in the music. (remember, you can find the right place in the ABC by clicking a note in the music.)

Make any corrections, and either copy the ABC and mail it to us, or click the (**Download ABC**) button, and mail the ABC file that is saved to your downloads folder.

Corrections should be sent to: admin@session.nz