

## 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 ||
```

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<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Edit ABC

Use this sample as a template to edit or create your own ABC files. Don't forget to 'Download ABC' to save your

Check out this [ABC Notation](#) guide if you need more information on the format.

—Edit the ABC here:—

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 ||

100 %  
Playing the dots!

[Download ABC](#)

### Kilglass Lakes

*jig* *John McEvoy*

Source: John McEvoy @ Ceol Aneas 2016

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**)

## Star of Munster

Ador reel, added 1 January 2016  
Played in: Wellington



### The Star Of Munster



Hide ABC Source

Copy ABC notation

```
X: 1
T: The Star Of Munster
R: reel
M: 4/4
L: 1/8
K: Ador
[:ed|c2Ac B2GB|AGEF GEDG|EAAB cBcd|eaaf gfed|
|cBAc BAGB|AGEF GEDG|EAAB cded|cABG A2:]
[:de|eaab ageg|agbg agef|gfga gfeff|gfaf gfdff|
|eaab ageg|agbg agef|g2ge a2ga|bgaf ge:]
```

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.

## Edit ABC

Use this sample as a template to edit or create your own ABC files. Don't forget to 'Download ABC' to save your work!

Check out this [ABC Notation](#) guide if you need more information on the format.

—Edit the ABC here:—

```
X: 1
T: The Star Of Munster
R: reel
M: 4/4
L: 1/8
K: Ador
[:ed|c2Ac B2GB|AGEF GEDG|EAAB cBcd|eaaf gfed|
|cBAc BAGB|AGEF GEDG|EAAB cded|cABG A2:]
[:de|eaab ageg|agbg agef|gfga gfeff|gfaf gfdff|
|eaab ageg|agbg agef|g2ge a2ga|bgaf ge:]
```



Download ABC

### The Star Of Munster



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](mailto:admin@session.nz)