

Day-O: The Banana Boat Song

Guitar Orchestra Network
<https://guitarorchestra.com>

September 5, 2026
 Jamaican (traditional)
 Arranged by Gary Jugert
 for Guitar

Repeats:
 0 thru 25
 1 thru end

Chords & Lyrics

♩ = 120

Chords: D, D, D, A

Lyrics:
 Day - O. Day - O.
 Day - ay-ay-ay-O. Day - ay-ay-ay-O.
 Day light come and me wan-na go home.
 Day light come and me wan-na go home.

Guitar Melody

TuffAxe

Chords: D, D, D, A, D, D

Lyrics:
 Day - O. Day - O.
 Day - ay-ay-ay-O. Day - ay-ay-ay-O.
 Day light come and me wan-na go home. Hey mis-ter tal-ly man,
 Day light come and me wan-na go home. Ripe yel-low ba-na-na.

Chords: A, D, A, D

Lyrics:
 tal - ly me ba-na - na. Day light come come and me wan-na go home. Hey mis-ter tal - ly man,
 Beau-ti - ful ba-na - na. Day light come and and me wan-na go home. Ripe yel-low ba - na - na.

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The musical score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

System 1 (Measures 14-17):

- Measure 14:** Chord A. Lyrics: tal - ly me ba - na - na. Beau - ti - ful ba - na - na. Fingering: 3 3 3 0 2 2.
- Measure 15:** Chord D. Lyrics: Day light come come and and me. Fingering: 3 3 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 16:** Chord A. Lyrics: wan-na go home. wan-na go home. Fingering: 0 3 0 3.
- Measure 17:** Chord D. Lyrics: Six foot. Se - ven foot. Work all night on a. Fingering: 2 5 2 2 5.

System 2 (Measures 18-21):

- Measure 18:** Chord D. Lyrics: Eight foot, bunch! sip of rum. Fingering: 2 5 10 10.
- Measure 19:** Chord D. Lyrics: Day light come come and and me. Fingering: 3 3 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 20:** Chord A. Lyrics: wan-na go home. wan-na go home. Fingering: 0 3 0 2 5.
- Measure 21:** Chord D. Lyrics: Six foot. Se - ven foot. Work all night on a. Fingering: 2 5 2 2 5.

System 3 (Measures 22-26):

- Measure 22:** Chord D. Lyrics: Eight foot, bunch! sip of rum. Fingering: 2 5 10 10.
- Measure 23:** Chord D. Lyrics: Day light come come and and me. Fingering: 3 3 2 2 2 3.
- Measure 24:** Chord A. Lyrics: wan-na go home. wan-na go home. Fingering: 0 3 0 3.
- Measure 25:** Chord A7. Lyrics: (No lyrics). Fingering: 3.
- Measure 26:** Chord D. Lyrics: (No lyrics). Fingering: 3 2 0.

Lessons: Using pinkie on all 4's. Striving toward a Caribbean beat. Clean notes on high frets.

Composer's Corner: Work songs are a tradition in most all music. Here, workers are stacking bananas all night long and are exhausted. What work do you do that feels like drudgery? Write that song.