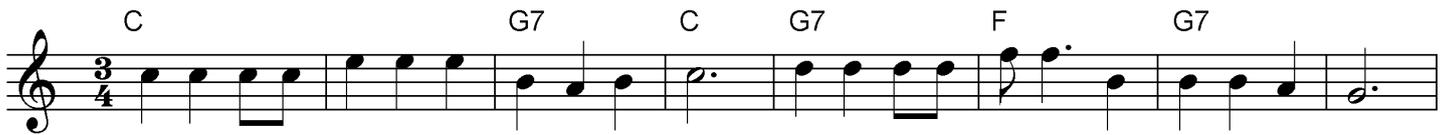


The sailor's alphabet

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A traditional song of the sea, sung aboard ship just for rollicking fun. This version comes from Cyril Tawney's Sea songs for children 'Little Boy Billee'. He was a mariner from the Southwest of England and regularly sang in folk clubs down our way.

A B C D E F G H I J K L N N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



A is for the an-chor that swings at our bow, B is for the bil-lows thro' which we do plough.



C is for the cap-stan that we march a-round, And D is for the dav-it that lower our boat down. Sing



high, sing low as we sail a-long, Give a mat-te-lot 'is tot and there's noth-ing goes wrong.



A B C D E F G H I J K L N N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A is for the anchor that swings at our bow,
B is for the billows through which we do plough.
C is for the capstan that we march around,
And D is for the davit that lowers our boat down.

Chorus: Sing high, sing low as we sail along,
Give a matelot 'is tot and there's nothing goes wrong.

E is for the eagle eye each lookout must keep,
F is for the fo'c'sle where the seamen all sleep.
G for the galley where the cooks hop around,
And H is for the haliards we haul up and down. *Chorus*

I is for the iron hull that makes our ship strong,
J is for the jib that'll carry 'er along.
K is for the keel at the bottom of the ship,
And L is for the lanyards we never let slip. *Chorus*

M is for the mainmast so straight and so strong,
N is for the needle that never points wrong.
O is for the oars that will row the ship's boat,
And P is for the pumps that will keep us afloat. *Chorus*

Q is for the quarterdeck where the officers stand,
R is for the rudder that steers us to land.
S is for the sailors so handsome and brave,
And T is for the tiller that makes ships behave. *Chorus*

U is for the uniforms that we wear so neat,
V is for the vittles that sailors do eat.
W the wheel where we all take our turn,
And X, Y, Z is the name on our stern. *Chorus*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z