

MASTER COPY

**HOW COWBOY ERNIE FINDS HIS YODEL  
SCRIPT AND ACTIONS**

**SOURCE:**

TRK #1 ✓

3:12

**SCRIPT / ACTION:**

**OVERTURE**

QUOTES FROM "HAPPY YODELIN' HOEDOWN" AND  
"HAPPINESS IS LIKE THE WIND". TOTAL RUN TIME WILL  
BE ABOUT 1.5 MINUTES

2:00

ERNIE

(ENTER STAGE LEFT RIDING GOOD HORSE SENSE. RIDE TO  
DOWN STAGE RIGHT)

(RIDE 2 SECONDS, YODEL ONCE)

**"WELL HOWDY CACTUS"**

(RIDE 2 SECONDS, YODEL ANOTHER ONCE)

**"WELL HOWDY SAGEBRUSH"**

(RIDE 2 SECONDS, YODEL ONCE)

**"WELL HOWDY BIG BLUE SKY"**

(RIDE 2 MORE SECONDS, YODEL ½ A TIME, SEES AUDIENCE)

Acc. guitar  
SFX

ERNIE

(ERNIE HAUL BACK ON REINS)

**"WHOA...WHOA...WHOA GOOD HORSE"**

CD

FADE TRACK 1

ERNIE

(LOOKS AT CROWD)

**"WELL HOWDY PARDNERS!"**

(WAITS FOR RESPONSE)

**"LETS TRY THAT AGAIN"...HOWDY PARDNERS!!!"**

(AFTER AUDIENCE RESPONSE, ERNIE YODELS)

**"I'M COWBOY ERNIE, AND I RECKON I'M THE HAPPIEST GUY  
ALIVE...WHY?"**

**WELL I SPEND MY DAYS WHERE CATTLE GRAZE  
MY NIGHTS 'ROUND CAMPFIRE FRIENDS  
WATCH THE DESERT BLOOM, TALK WITH THE MAN IN THE MOON  
ALL THIS WITH MY PAL, GOOD HORSE SENSE"**

**"SAY 'HOWDY' GOOD HORSE SENSE"**

TRACK 2 / GHS

ERNIE

1:05 sec

Lee 1  
"WHINNY UP) HELLO EVERYBODY (WHINNY DOWN)"

"I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HAVE GOTTEN AS FAR AS I HAVE WITHOUT MY GOOD HORSE SENSE"

(PATS HORSE)

(START WORKING WITH ROPE)

"YOU KNOW I FANCY MYSELF A PRETTY GOOD ROPER, BUT SOMETIMES I END UP IN KNOTS"

(TANGLES UP HIMSELF AND GHS)

(MIMIC BULL RIDING)

"WHEN I START TELLIN' STORIES ABOUT MY CHAMPION RODEO ROUGH RIDIN', THEY PRETTY MUCH FIGURE I'M FULL OF BULL."

"ON TOP OF ALL THAT, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY, I'M NOT THE PURDIEST MAN IN THE LAND"

(TAKES OFF HAT AND MAKES A HOMELY FACE)

"BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT I'M THE BEST IN THE WEST  
CHAMPION OF THE UNIVERSE  
THE MAN WITH THE PLAN  
THE DOCTOR OF YODEL-O-LOGY  
FINEST YODELER YOU'LL EVER MEET"

(TURNS TO GHS)

"THAT'S NOT BRAGGIN', THAT'S A FACT, RIGH HORSE?"

(GHS NODS YES, THEN PUTS HIS HOOF TO THE

(HAPPY YODELIN' HOEDOWN SONG)

(SIMPLE DUET DANCE STEP DURING VAMP TO CENTER STAGE. WALK TO STAGE RIGHT DURING SONG)

TRACK 3

ERNIE

TRACK 4

ERNIE

TRACK 5

"YEE HAH...HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT?"

(ECHO..."HOW'D LIKE THAT?" 3X'S)

(STARTLED BY ECHO)

"I PLUMB FER GOT...ME AND MY GOOD HORSE SENSE DROVE THE HERD ALL THE WAY TO ECHO CANYON"

(ECHO- "ECHO CANYON" 3X'S)

Intro (4)

verse (8)

verse (8)

Yodel (8)

Solo / Intro GHS (8) + (1)

verse (8) GHS

Yodel (8) + (1)

verse (8)

Yodel Bridge (8)

Yodel Final (8)

Form

ERNIE "ECHO CANYON IS BY FAR ONE OF MY  
YODELIN"

(YODELS)

TRACK 6 ✓ 1:05 (YODEL ECHO)

ERNIE (YODELS AGAIN)

REPEAT TRK 6 ✓ (YODEL ECHO)

ERNIE "GOOD HORSE SENSE...GO ON, YOU GIVE I

TRACK 7 / GHS ✓ 1:15 "OK COWBOY ERNIE...DON'T MIND IF I DO"  
(GHS HORSE YODEL, YODEL IS ECHOED)

ERNIE (SPEAKING TO THE AUDIENCE)

"WHAT ABOUT ALL YOU FOLKS? SHALL WE GIVE IT A TRY? GIVE ME A BIG HELLO"

*no - you have to be loud to reach echo canyon, try it a germ  
real loud*

TRACK 8 ✓ 1:00 ("HELLO"- CROWD ECHO 3 X'S)

TRACK 9 / GHS ✓ "HEY LET ME GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY COWBOY ERNIE"  
(HORSE YODEL WAY OVER DONE)

VOICE OF GOD "THAT QUITE ENOUGH HORSE!"  
(SONG REPRISE)

ERNIE "I'M FEELIN' SO HOEDOWN HAPPY TODAY, I'VE JUST GOTTA GIVE THAT YODELIN ONE  
MORE SHOT!"

(YODEL)

TRACK 10 / GHS ✓ 1:00 (GHS POINTS TO WATCH)  
"OH MY ACHIN' SADDLE COWBOY ERNIE. WE'RE LATE GETTING THE CATTLE BACK TO THE  
RANCH. COME ON, WE BEST GET A MOVE ON!"

(HAPPY YODELIN' CHASER SONG WITH CATTLE DRIVE SFX TRAILING OFF)

ERNIE / GHS (GALLOP OFF STAGE, STAGE LEFT. COYOTE, SNAKE AND RABBIT PEAK OUT OF HIDING  
PLACES AS ERNIE AND GHS GO BY)

*Yodel answer, Ernie - ... Ernie*  
**SCENE 2-BUNKHOUSE**

TRACK 11 ✓ 1:59 "if fold"  
(SCENE CHANGE)  
(TRANSITION MUSIC)  
(ERNIE AND GHS ENTER FROM EITHER SIDE OF CENTER PROP AFTER SCENE CHANGE)  
(COW NOISE CONTINUES, ERNIE MIMES TALKING DURING IT. AGRIVATED, ERNIE CLOSES  
SHUTTERS)  
(STOP TRACK ON SHUTTER CLOSE)

ERNIE "AS I WAS TRYING TO SAY:  
WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY WHEN WORK IS LIKE PLAY  
AND PLAY'S SWEET AS BEE'S HONEYCOMB  
WHEN THERE'S GRUB ON THE GRILL, AND WHAT'S BETTER STILL?  
ALL THIS, AND THE COMFORTS OF HOME"

1 Big Intro  
1 Verse  
1 Last Yodel  
End

16005  
TRACK 12 / GHS

(WHINNY) "THAT REMINDS ME OF A SONG"  
"KICK YOUR BOOTS OFF AND SET A SPELL ERNIE MY BOY"

16006

(HOME SONG)  
(COW NOISE... CROSS FADE UP)  
"SOUNDS LIKE THE HERD IS RESTLESS COWBOY ERNIE, WHAT'D YA SAY YOU GIVE'EM ONE  
OF YOUR SMOOTH YODELS... THAT ALWAYS SEEMS TO CALM 'EM RIGHT DOWN!"

ERNIE

"WE'LL I'LL JUST DO THAT"

(WALKS OVER TO THE SHUTTERS AND OPENS THEM)  
(TRIES TO YODELS AND CHOKES)

16007  
"SOMETHIN'S REALLY WRONG!...MY YODEL'S GONE! IT'S JUST UP AND DISAPPEARED"  
(SINKS SLOWLY DOWN TO THE GROUND)

TRACK 13 / GHS

"THERE, THERE ERNIE. I'LL HELP YA FIND IT. NOW LET'S SEE.  
IS IT IN YOUR POCKET?"

ERNIE

(LOOKS)  
"NOPE"

GHS

"IS IT BEHIND YOUR EAR?"

ERNIE

(FEELS)  
"NOPE"

GHS

"IS IT OVER THERE?"

ERNIE

"I DON'T SEE IT!"

GHS

"IS IT OVER HERE?"

ERNIE

"THAT CAN'T BE IT"

GHS

"WELL ERNIE, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE IT COULD BE. IT MUST JUST BE LOST!"

ERNIE

(DEJECTED)  
"WHY WITHOUT MY YODEL...  
I'M LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER  
I'M LIKE A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE  
I'M LIKE A WITCH WITHOUT A WART...!"

GHS

(LOOKS FUNNY AT HIM)

ERNIE

"I NEED TO FIND MY YODEL, I MUST FIND MY YODEL, I ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY HAVE TO  
FIND MY YODEL!"

(ERNIE AND GHS WALK OFF STAGE RIGHT OF CENTER PROP. GHS HAS HIS ARM AROUND  
ERNIE COMFORTING HIM. AS THEY EXIT, ERNIE UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTS TO YODEL  
AGAIN)

16008

SCENE 3-DESERT DAY

TRACK 14

(TRANSITION MUSIC)

ERNIE / GHS

(ENTER STAGE RIGHT OF CENTER PROP)

(TRACK CROSS FADES INTO RABBIT CHASE MUSIC. RABBIT ENTERS STAGE LEFT. HOPS AROUND LOOKING SKITTISH)

ERNIE

"HOLD ON THERE, RABBIT. I GOTTA ASK YOU SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT. HAVE YOU SEEN MY YODEL?"

TRACK 15 / RABBIT

"N-N-N-NO! I'VE SEEN COYOTES AND BEARS AND SNAKES EVERYWHERE...BUT I CANT RIGHTLY SAY I'VE SEEN YODELS" (LAUGH AND MUNCHING SOUNDS)

ERNIE

"OH I WAS SOOOO HOPING YOU HAD SEEN MY YODEL, 'CAUSE WITHOUT IT...I'M JUST NOT HAPPY!"

TRACK 16 / RABBIT

"WELL, HHHHHHAPPY? I KNOW WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY. IT'S MY HHHHHHOP."  
(HOP SONG)

"GO AHEAD. YOU CAN BORROW MY HOP...THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY"

ERNIE

(TRIES TO HOP...UN-COORDINATED)

"THIS HOP'S HAPPENIN' FOR HARES, BUT IT'S HOPELESS FOR HUMANS. THANKS RABBIT, BUT I GOT TO FIND MY YODEL"

TRACK 17

(TRANSITION MUSIC)

RABBIT

(EXIT STAGE RIGHT)

COYOTE

(ENTERS STAGE LEFT CHASING RABBIT)

ERNIE / GHS

(MOVE TO CENTER STAGE TO STOP COYOTE)

ERNIE

"HOLD YOUR HORSES THERE COYOTE...BEFORE YOU GO CHASIN' MY FRIEND THERE...COULD YOU HELP ME? I'M LOOKING FOR MY YODEL. HAVE YOU SEEN IT AROUND THESE HERE PARTS?"

TRACK 18 / COYOTE

"NO...I'VE SEEN VULTURES AND BOARS AND VERMIN SENIOR, BUT I CANT RIGHTLY SAY I'VE SEEN YODELS"

ERNIE

"OH I WAS REALLY, REALLY HOPING THAT YOU HAD SEEN MY YODEL, CAUSE WITHOUT IT I'M JUST NOT HAPPY"

TRACK 19 / COYOTE

"HAPPY? OH NO SENIOR. YOU DON'T NEED NO YODEL, I GOT YOUR HAPPY RIGHT HERE. ALLS YOU HAVE TO DO, I LIKE I DO, JUST HOWL...  
(COYOTE SONG)

"IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY, YOU CAN HAVE MY HOWL SENIOR. TRY IT"

ERNIE (TRIES TO HOWL UNSUCCESSFULLY)  
 "THIS HOWL'S COOL FOR COYOTES, BUT NOT FOR THIS COWBOY, IT HASN'T HELPED MY HAPPINESS AT ALL. GRACIAS COYOTE, BUT I STILL NEED TO FIND MY YODEL"

TRACK 20 / SNAKE (TRANSITION MUSIC)  
 (COYOTE EXIT STAGE RIGHT)  
 (ERNIE AND GHS PROCEED UPSTAGE CENT PAST PROP)  
 (MUSIC STOPS)  
 (RATTLE SFX)  
 "PSST!...PSST!...HEY YOU... WHATSSSSSSSUP?" YOU SSSSSSEEM TO BE SSSSSO SSSAD"

ERNIE "I'M IN DESPERATE NEED OF FINDING MY LOST YODEL. HAVE YOU SEEN IT?"

TRACK 21 / SNAKE "LETSSSSSS SSSSEE. I'VE SSSSSEEN SSSSAND AND SSSSAND, AND SSSSAND, AND MORE SSSSAND, BUT I CANT SSSSAY IV'E SSSEEN YOUR... YODEL"

ERNIE "OH I WAS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HOPING THAT YOU HAD SEEN MY YODEL, BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, I'M JUST NOT HAPPY"

TRACK 22 / SNAKE "SSSO YOUR SSSAD. I'VE GOT SSSOMETHING THAT WILL SSSSAVE THE SITUATION. CHECK OUT MY RATTLE"  
 (SNAKE SONG)  
 "SSSSIMPLY PUT...THE RATTLE REINS SSSSUPREME. GO AHEAD...SSSSSHAKE IT"

ERNIE (TRIES SHAKING HIS BUTT TO RATTLE UNSUCCESSFULLY)  
 "THIS RATTLE'S RIGHT FOR SNAKES THAT BITE, BUT WRONG FOR THIS OL' WRANGLER. MUCH OBLIGED SNAKE...SEE YA 'ROUND. I MUST KEEP SEARCHING 'TILL MY YODELS FOUND"

SNAKE (DROPS DOWN)

TRACK 23 (TRANSITION MUSIC-SADDEST VERSION OF YODEL HOEDOWN)  
 (ERNIE GOES DOWNSTAGE LEFT. GOOD HORSE SENSE EXITS STAGE LEFT)

### SCENE 3-DESERT NIGHT

ERNIE (TELLS COWBOY POETRY ABOUT SEARCHING AND END OF THE TRAIL IF POSSIBLE)  
 (END WITH)"...WELL, TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY. IF LUCK SMILES DOWN ON THIS OL' BUCK-A-ROO, I'LL FIND MY YODEL AND BE GOOD AS NEW"

(ERNIE WALKS TO CAMPFIRE. GHS ENTERS FROM BEHIND THE PROP WITH BLANKETS. ERNIE AND GHS LAYDOWN TO SLEEP) *start rattle when they go down*

TRACK 24 / SPIRIT (SFX DESERT NIGHT AMBIENCE, WIND RIZES AND FALLS)  
 (SHE APPROACHES ERNIE, WHISPERS "ERNIE...ERNIE...ERNIE! WAKE UP!")

ERNIE (WAKES UP STARTLED, LOOKS AROUND, SITS UP, RUBS HIS EYES AND SEES THE WIND)

SPIRIT "I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE LOST SOMETHING VERY, VERY DEAR. YOUR YODELS NOT WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY...IT'S YOU BEING HAPPY THAT'S MAKE YOU YODEL" SO IT'S VERY SIMPLE. WHEN YOU GIVE HAPPINESS, YOU GET HAPPINESS. WHEN YOU GET HAPPINESS, YOU'LL GET BACK YOUR YODEL"



(HAPPINESS SONG)  
(FLOATS AWAY)

ERNIE

(STANDS UP, TALKS TO AUDIENCE)

"WELL DAG NAB IT, IT'S ALL BECOME CLEAR! MY YODEL WAS NEVER FAR, IT WAS VERY NEAR. IT ALL HAD TO DO WITH THIS THING CALLED HAPPINESS. IN ALL MY QUANDRY, I FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...IT'S IN GIVING THAT YOU RECEIVE! WELL..LETS PUT IT TO THE TEST. LET ME GIVE YOU ONE BIG DOSE OF COWBOY ERNIE'S HOMEGROWN, SUPER SMILIN, GO THE MILE'EN, HEART FULL OF HAPPINESS!"

(ERNIE WINDS UP, TAKES HIS HAT OFF AND LETS LOSE WITH A BIG GRINNIN' HAPPY SMILE)

"WAS THAT A BIG ENOUGH BUNCH OF HAPPINESS FOR Y'ALL?"

(CROWD RESPONSE)

"DOES ANYBODY KNOW, WHERE I NEED TO GO, TO GET BACK MY YODEL?!"

(CROWD RESPONSE WITH "ECHO CANYON")

"HOLLY JUMPIN' JUNIPER..."

(SHAKES GHS AWAKE)

Loc 8

"WAKE UP OLD BUDDY...I THINK I KNOW WHERE MY YODEL IS"

TRACK 25 / GHS

"WELL WHERE ARE WE GOING COWBOY ERNIE?"  
(PAUSE ON TRACK BEFORE MUSIC STARTS FOR ERNIE TO ANSWER)

ERNIE

"WE'RE OFF TO ECHO CANYON"

(RIDE OFF STAGE RIGHT OF CENTER PROP)

#### SCENE 4-ECHO CANYON

TRACK 26

(TRANSITION-HAPPY MUSIC WITH CLIP CLOPS FADE DOWN FOR EXIT FROM LAST SCENE, FADE UP FOR ENTRANCE INTO THIS SCENE)

ERNIE

(ERNIE AND GHS ENTER STAGE LEFT OF CENTER PROP AND GO TO DOWNSTAGE LEFT EDGE, THEN CROSS TO DOWNSTAGE RIGHT)

Loc 9

"GOOD HORSE SENSE...THANKS TO ALL THE FOLKS WHO WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LET ME GIVE 'EM HAPPINESS, I THINK WE FOUND WHERE I LOST MY YODEL!"

TRACK 27 / GHS

"WELL I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU CAN FIND OUT FOR SURE...GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT"

ERNIE

"YODEL...WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU THERE?" *Are you there!!?*

TRACK 28

(ECHO "ARE YOU THERE" 3X'S. THEN YODEL ANSWERS BACK)

ERNIE

(GETS EXCITED, YODELS AGAIN)

TRACK 29

GHS

(ECHO BACK 3X'S)

"LET ME TRY THAT!"  
(GHS DOES CRAZY YODEL)  
(VOG "THAT'S ENOUGH")

Total Track

Total cut 1

Stage clear 1:40

(HAPPY YODEL REPRIZE 3XS. THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TIME ALL CHARACTORS JOIN ON STAGE,  
SIMPLE DANCE)

Thank you for being here today, and wishing you had yodel

ALL

END BOWS TO INSTRUMENTAL VERSION OF HAPPY YODELIN SONG, CROSS FADE TO FULL  
VERSION OF HAPPINESS IS LIKE THE WIND. ALL EXIT AND GO OUT TO AUDIENCE)

THE END

Intro (2)

1 verse

1 verse

YODEL Bridge

Yodel out / End