

'The Gauger' performed by the Folk Five

*So what contrivance can we make,
Or what contrivance can we take?
What contrivance can we make?
For to beguile your mammy?
What contrivance can we make?
For to beguile your mammy?*

*Oh you'll cast off your trousers blue
And it's on wi' the garb o' the gauger true
It's on wi' the garb o' the gauger true
And you'll come to our town a gauger.
It's on wi' the garb o' the gauger true
And you'll come to our town a gauger.*

*And when he came into our town
Blythe and merry came he in
Saying "Have you any malt or gin?
For here am I, the gauger."
Have you any malt or gin?
For here am I, the gauger.*

*"Oh", says the bonnie lassie, "come awa'
Maybe we have a cask or twa.
Maybe we have a cask or twa.
Gin ye be the new-come gauger."
Maybe we have a cask or twa.
Gin ye be the new-come gauger.*

*"A come awa', lassie, and let me see
Where that cask o' gin may be
If I don't get the gin, lassie, I'll get thee
For the guiling o' the gauger."
If I don't get the gin, lassie, I'll get thee
For the guiling o' the gauger.*

Recorded by John Gomer at the Recreation Hotel, Colchester, in 1964. The Folk Five were led by Don Budd and the song is a traditional Scottish tune, telling the story of a sailor who dresses as a 'gauger' – an exciseman – to convince his lover's mother to allow them to marry. Read more about the recording on Essex Archives Online: [SA 30/1/37/1](#)