

Chord Charts for Tunes in the Book “New Techniques for 5 String Banjo Volume 1 Beginner”



As noted in Appendix A of my book “New Techniques for 5 String Banjo” chord charts for all of the songs listed below are included in this download.

The charts are written in standard rhythm guitar notation. Each slash line (/) represents one beat of a measure where either a single note is picked, or multiple strings are strummed (for banjo, two-string plucks). In the first measure of the very first song (“Fretting Fingers Workout”) you are shown what the guitar and the banjo are doing to play these accompaniments.

The songs are arranged in two sections. Section One contains songs with four beats per measure and Section Two, songs with three beats per measure. It’s highly recommended that you try to play *all* of these accompaniments on your banjo. It’s a skill you will need when you sit in to jam with others.

Section 1: Tunes with Four Beats per Measure

Page # Song Title

22	Fretting Fingers Workout
29	“Ode to Joy”
30	“Long, Long Ago”
31; 32	“Can Can”; “Simple Gifts”
33; 37	“Camptown Races”; Higher Notes
45	Banjo Exercise I
49-50	How to Use Banjo Imitato
54-55	“Oh! Susanna”
56	Banjo Exercise II
58	“Shortnin’ Bread”
59	Banjo Rocking Exercise
60-61	“Red River Valley”
73	Look Ma No Left Hand
70-71	Final Exam
72	“Cripple Creek”

Section 2: Tunes with Three Beats per Measure

38-39	“The Irish Washerwoman”
63	“Garry Owen”
51-52	“Home on the Range”

Section 1 - Tunes with 4 beats per measure

FRETTING FINGERS WORKOUT (This Chord chart works for both versions - Stage 1 & Stage 2.)

Guitar-
Pick- Strum- Pick- Strum, (etc.) D*
G G D

Banjo: 3rd- pluck- 4th pluck, etc. (*D7 can be substituted for D)

(Strums)
G C G D G C G

D G D G

C G D G D G
(strum - strum - strum)

(*Quarter Rest = R)

ODE TO JOY

C G C G

The first line of guitar tablature consists of four measures. Each measure contains a single chord: C, G, C, and G. The notes are represented by diagonal slashes on the strings. The letters 'T', 'A', and 'B' are stacked vertically on the left side of the first measure, indicating the strings used for the first chord.

C G C G C

The second line of guitar tablature consists of four measures. The chords are C, G, C, G, and C. The notes are represented by diagonal slashes on the strings. The letters 'T', 'A', and 'B' are stacked vertically on the left side of the first measure.

G C G C G E (Strum) (Strum)
Am D G

The third line of guitar tablature consists of four measures. The chords are G, C, G, C, G, E, Am, D, and G. The notes are represented by diagonal slashes on the strings. The letters 'T', 'A', and 'B' are stacked vertically on the left side of the first measure. The words '(Strum)' are written above the Am and D chords.

C G C G C (Strum)
(To Top)

The fourth line of guitar tablature consists of four measures. The chords are C, G, C, G, and C. The notes are represented by diagonal slashes on the strings. The letters 'T', 'A', and 'B' are stacked vertically on the left side of the first measure. The word '(Strum)' is written above the final C chord, and '(To Top)' is written below it. The line ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

LONG LONG AGO

Notation for guitarists: ⑥⁰ ⑥² (Circled number is String; Little number is Fret)
 Therefore, in this example, 6th String Open and 6th String 2nd Fret.

G G G G

D D C D G

(Notes)
 ⑥⁰ ⑥²

G G G G

D D G G

(Notes)
 ⑥⁰ ⑥²

D D C D G

D D C D G

⑥⁰ ⑥²

G G G G

D D G C D G

(Strum) (Strum) (Strum and Hold)

CAN CAN

G D G D (Strum) G (Strum) D

A TAB notation for the first line of 'CAN CAN'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains two pairs of slashes, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a strummed chord. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: G, D, G, D, (Strum) G, (Strum) D.

G D G D (Strum) (Strum) G D G

A TAB notation for the second line of 'CAN CAN'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains three pairs of slashes, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a strummed chord. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: G, D, G, D, (Strum) (Strum) G, D, G.

SIMPLE GIFTS (Two 8th-Note pick-ups)

C Am C G (Str. = Strum) (Str.) (Str.) G Am G

A TAB notation for the first line of 'SIMPLE GIFTS'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord, followed by two pairs of slashes representing eighth-note pick-ups. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: C, Am, C, G, (Str. = Strum) (Str.) (Str.) G, Am, G.

C Am C G (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) Am G C Dm C

A TAB notation for the second line of 'SIMPLE GIFTS'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord, followed by two pairs of slashes representing eighth-note pick-ups. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: C, Am, C, G, (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) Am, G, C, Dm, C.

C G C C G

A TAB notation for the third line of 'SIMPLE GIFTS'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: C, G, C, C, G.

C Am C G (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) Am G C Dm C

A TAB notation for the fourth line of 'SIMPLE GIFTS'. It consists of four measures. The first three measures each contain a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord. The fourth measure contains a pair of slashes representing a strummed chord, followed by two pairs of slashes representing eighth-note pick-ups. Above the staff, the chords are labeled: C, Am, C, G, (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) (Str.) Am, G, C, Dm, C.

CAMPTOWN RACES (This Chord chart is good for both the Basic Version & Banjo Solo Version)

G G D D

G G D G

G G C G

G G D G (To Top)

HIGHER NOTES AND BARRING EXCERCISE

A (strums) G G D G D G

(strums) G G D G D G

B (strums) C G D G D (strums) G C G

(strums) C G D G D G

BANJO EXERCISE I

TAB: G G C C

TAB: G G (Notes) D D

(Notes) ④⁴ ④²

TAB: G G C C

TAB: G D G G (Notes) ⑥⁰ ⑥²

(Notes)

(To Top)

(Ending) G/B (Notes: C B C C# D C B A G D) (strum) G

G/B ⑤³ ⑤² ⑤³ ⑤⁴ ④⁰ ⑤³ ⑤² ⑤⁰ ⑥³ ④⁰ G

Pick ⑤

HOW TO USE BANJO IMITATO


The Guitar will play the chords 8X thru, to give the Banjo the opportunity to try the Rhythm part and Solo part a couple of times.

G G C C



A musical staff with four measures. Each measure contains five diagonal lines representing a rhythmic pattern. Above the first measure is the letter 'G', above the second is 'G', above the third is 'C', and above the fourth is 'C'. The staff is labeled 'TAB' on the left side.

D D G G



A musical staff with four measures. Each measure contains five diagonal lines representing a rhythmic pattern. Above the first measure is the letter 'D', above the second is 'D', above the third is 'G', and above the fourth is 'G'. The staff is labeled 'TAB' on the left side.

OH SUSANNA

G G G D
pick strum - strum (Rest)

G G G D G ⑤⁰ ⑤²

C C G D
pick strum - strum (Rest)

G G G D G
pick strum - strum (Rest)

Ending: G D G
Strum

BANJO EXERCISE II

G
G
G
D
G

T
A
B

G
D
G
G
D
G

T
A
B

G
D
G
G
D
G

T
A
B

G
D
G
G
G
(To Top)

T
A
B

strum
(strums)

G
D
G

T
A
B

SHORTNIN' BREAD

TAB: G G G D G

TAB: G G G D G

TAB: G G G D G

TAB: G G G D G (To Top)

strum G (strums) D G

BANJO ROCKING EXCERCISE

G G G G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /

(strums-----)

G D7 G D7 G (strums-----) G D C D G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /

C C G G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /

D D G G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /

C C G G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /

D D G D (strums-----) G D G

TAB: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / }

Ending: G C (etc...) G D G D G

strum strum (etc...)

TAB: / } / } | / } / } | / / / / } | / } / / }

RED RIVER VALLEY

strum
G G G G

G G G D

D G G C

C G D G

(strums -----)
C D G D G

LOOK MA, NO LEFT HAND (Repeat entire format, AA - BB, 2X thru)

A

G G G G D

T
A
B

G G G D (strum) G (To A)

T
A
B

B

D G D G

T
A
B

D G D G (To B)

T
A
B

FINAL EXAM

TAB: G G C C

TAB: G G D7 D7

TAB: G G C C

TAB: G C D7 G

Repeat to Top
Total of 8X

Ending: (Strum) G (Strums) D G

CRIPPLE CREEK (Total of 3X thru - The Guitar will play a solo the 2nd time thru, while the Banjo plays chords, then the Banjo goes back to the melody the 3rd time thru.)

[A] G C G (G) D G

[B] G (G) (G) D G

Section 2 - Tunes with 3 Beats per measure

(some are in 3/8 time and some are in 3/4 time)

IRISH WASHER WOMAN (2 Pick-up Notes)

A
 (Guitar: Pick Strum Strum) G G G
 3 T
 8 A
 B
 (Banjo: Pick pluck pluck)

D7 D7 D7 D7

G G G G

D7 D7 G strum G (To A)

B G G G G

D7 D7 D7 D7

(Strums -----)
 C G/B * Am G (cont...)

*

 mute

Irish Washer Woman - cont.

D7 D7 G G (To B)

This section of guitar tablature consists of four measures. The first three measures are marked with a D7 chord and contain three diagonal slashes on the strings, representing strums. The fourth measure is marked with a G chord and contains two 'x' marks on the strings, representing muted strums. The tablature is written on a six-string staff with the strings labeled T (top), A, and B (bottom) on the left side. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of the fourth measure.

Ending (Single strums out to the end)

C G/B Am G

This section of guitar tablature consists of four measures. Each measure contains two 'x' marks on the strings, representing muted strums. The chords for each measure are C, G/B, Am, and G. The tablature is written on a six-string staff with the strings labeled T, A, and B on the left side.

D7 D7 G G

This section of guitar tablature consists of four measures. Each measure contains two 'x' marks on the strings, representing muted strums. The chords for each measure are D7, D7, G, and G. The tablature is written on a six-string staff with the strings labeled T, A, and B on the left side. A double bar line is at the end of the fourth measure.

GARRY OWEN (2 Pick-up Notes)

A

G G G G

G G D D

G G G G

G G D D (To A)

B

G (pick) (Up-strum) G (pick) strum G

C (pick) (str. up) C (pick) strum C

G G G G

G G D D (To B)

1. strum D

2. strum G strum G strum *G (higher voicing) strum G



HOME ON THE RANGE (One Pick-up Note)

3 T
4 A B

G G C C

T A B

G A (Or A7) D D

T A B

G G C C

T A B

G D G G

T A B

G D G G

T A B

G A (Or A7) D D

T A B

G G C C

T A B

G D G C

T A B

D G (strum)