JC ROCKWEL BEGINNER'S TUNEBOOK FAMILIAR **FOLKTUNES** ARRANGED **FOR** MOUNTAIN DULCIMER

JC Rockwell Music • Guysville, Ohio

The author:

Jerry Rockwell grew up on Long Island and began a career as a jazz and rock guitarist at fifteen. Hearing the mountain dulcimer on a recording by Richard and Mimi Fariña changed his life. He has been teaching, recording, writing about, composing for, performing with, and building mountain dulcimers since the early 70s.

He graduated in music from The Ohio State University, and continues to develop and encourage mountain dulcimer and guitar students at home and around the US. *Beginner's Tunebook* offers a graded approach to repertoire-building in today's two most popular dulcimer tunings, D-A-A and D-A-D.

Recordings

Mountain Dulcimer and Psaltery Instrumentals (Traditional Records,1979)

Dulcimer Dreams (Traditional Records, 1983)

Little Maggie (J.C. Rockwell Music, 1987)

Into the Fever Rain with Niles Hokkanen (Mandocrucian, 1990)

Favorite American Folktunes (J.C. Rockwell Music, 1991)

Improvisations for Dulcimer, Guitar, and Other Stringed Beings (J.C. Rockwell Music, 1991)

The Blackbird and The Beggarman (Wizmak Productions, 1994; J.C. Rockwell Music 1999)

Publications

Twelve Traditional Tunes, Green Mountain Dulcimer Horizons 1977; Crying Creek 1977 Chordal Explorations, Green Mountain Dulcimer Horizons 1978; Crying Creek 1979 The American Dulcimer, Backyard Music, 1984 The Blackbird and The Beggarman, Mel Bay 1998

Published by J.C. Rockwell Music: Dulcimer Solos, 1986, 1994, 1995 Basic Fingerpicking for Mountain Dulcimer, 1990 Music Theory and Chord Reference for Mountain Dulcimer, 1994, 1995 The Mountain Dulcimer, A short history and buyer's guide, (pamphlet) 1994 Beginner's Tunebook: Familiar Folktunes Arranged for Mountain Dulcimer, 1996 Dulcimer Solos Volume 2, 1997

J.C. Rockwell Music PO Box 79 Guysville, OH 45735-0079

Website: www.jcrmusic.com E-mail: books@jcrmusic.com

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INTRODUCTION: HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This is a collection of mostly familiar American folk melodies arranged in a very simple "melody-with-drone" style for the mountain dulcimer. The numbers are fret numbers on the melody string (or double melody string). The melody string is the string (or course of strings) closest to you as the dulcimer rests on your lap with its peg head on your left and strumming hollow on your right. Use the

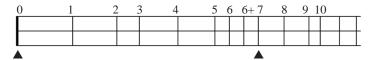
forefinger, middle finger, or ring finger of your left hand to press the string down firmly just behind (just to the left of) each fret. Strum across all 3 or 4 strings with a pick held in your right hand.

DULCIMER FRET PATTERNS

The traditional dulcimer fret pattern is purely diatonic (only seven tones to the octave) and a major scale pattern starts at the 3rd fret and ends at the 10th fret:



Many modern dulcimers (especially those built after 1970) include an extra fret between the 6th and 7th fret. This fret is designated 6 1/2 or 6+. A major scale pattern starts at 0 (open string) and continues up 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6+, and 7th fret. (Or 3rd through 10th fret, skipping 6+):



Take a moment to scan your dulcimer's fret pattern. Do you see a fairly evenly spaced sequence of frets from the 5th fret to the 7th? If so, your dulcimer has a 6+ fret.

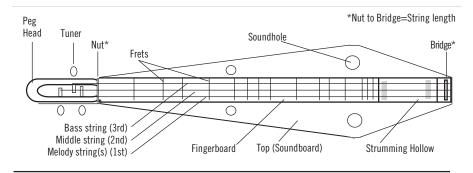
When your dulcimer is tuned to D-A-A, the traditional diatonic pattern is exactly what you need; you would have to skip over the 6+ fret constantly.

For the D-A-D tuning, a 6+ fret is handy to have for playing many D major tunes. However, here are only a few in this book that require the 6+ fret to play: *Red River Valley, Buffalo Gals*, and *Jamie Allen*.

TABLATURE

Tablature is a graphical way of representing the sequence of notes in a tune so that players need not know how to read music. In this book, notes in the tune are shown as a series of fret numbers placed in order left to right on a tab staff—an imaginary line that represents the melody string.

The slashmark above each fret number carries rhythm information: each slashmark is one beat or a fraction of a beat. The fingers of your left hand play the tune along the melody string: your right hand strums across all three strings, making outstrokes or instrokes according to the appropriate rhythm pattern.



For each tune, an open string tuning is given (bass, middle, then melody string), as well as a time signature. The tune is divided into measures; the top number of the time signature tells the number of beats in each measure, and the bottom number tells what kind of note receives one beat. In 4/4 time, each measure equals 4 quarter notes. In 6/8 time, each measure equals 6 eighth notes. See *Rhythm Notation* for a chart that compares the duration of these notes.

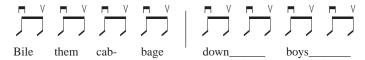
GETTING INTO RHYTHM

Each quarter-note value slash mark indicates an outstroke (\sqcap) with the pick across all strings. Eighth note slash marks indicate an outstroke (\sqcap) followed by an instroke (V). For more information on rhythm, see *Rhythm Notation* and *Strumming Rhythm Workout*.

Once you get comfortable with outstrokes, try doubling up these quarter-note values with eighth notes:

Bile Them Cabbage Down in quarter-note outstrokes, as written in this tunebook, is as follows (see next page):

Now, doubling up these quarter notes to eighth notes, we have an alternating Out/In strum:



You can try this pattern with any tune as soon as you feel comfortable with outstrokes. Speeding things up, we can write *Bile Them Cabbage* as a hoedown in 2/4 time (see example 3 on page 47).



This strumming pattern works especially well for fiddle tunes and other fast tunes (see the list on the *Contents* page).

PART ONE: ARRANGEMENTS IN D-A-A

Tune your dulcimer to D-A-A (D Ionian)

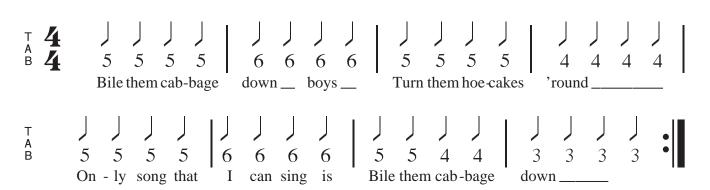
Step 1. Tune the 3rd or bass string of the dulcimer to the D below Middle C (this is the same note as the open 4th string of the guitar).

Step 2. Hold the 3rd or bass string down behind (just to the left of) the 4th fret and pluck this note (A). Tune your middle or 2nd string so it exactly matches this pitch.

Step 3. Tune the melody or 1st string to the same note as the open middle string. Now play the Ionian mode from frets 3 through 10 and back down. Skip 6+!

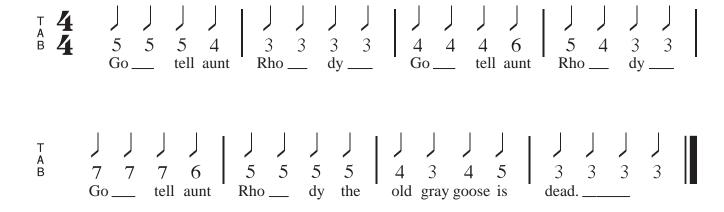
Bile Them Cabbage Down

Tuning: D-A-A Southern U.S.



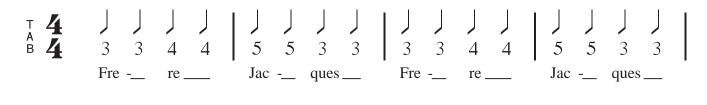
Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Tuning: D-A-A



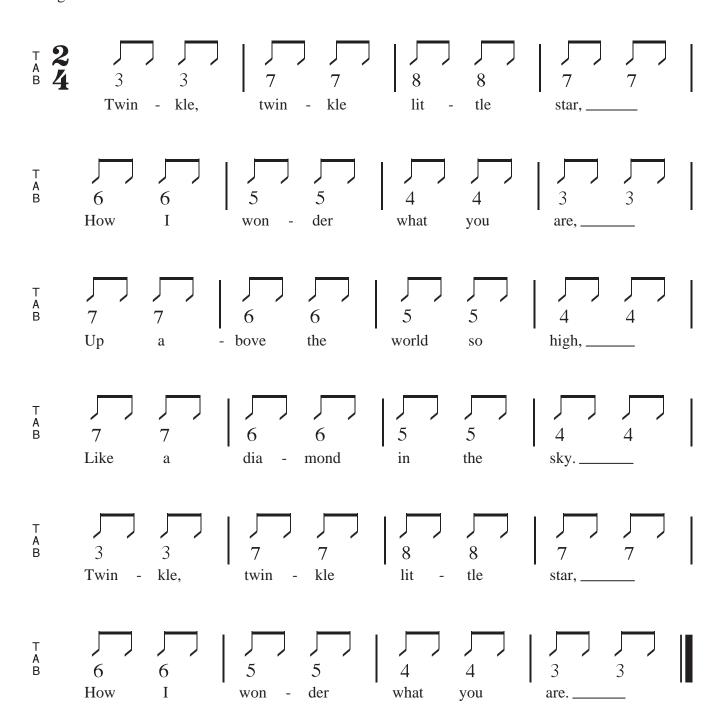
Frere Jacques

Tuning: D-A-A France



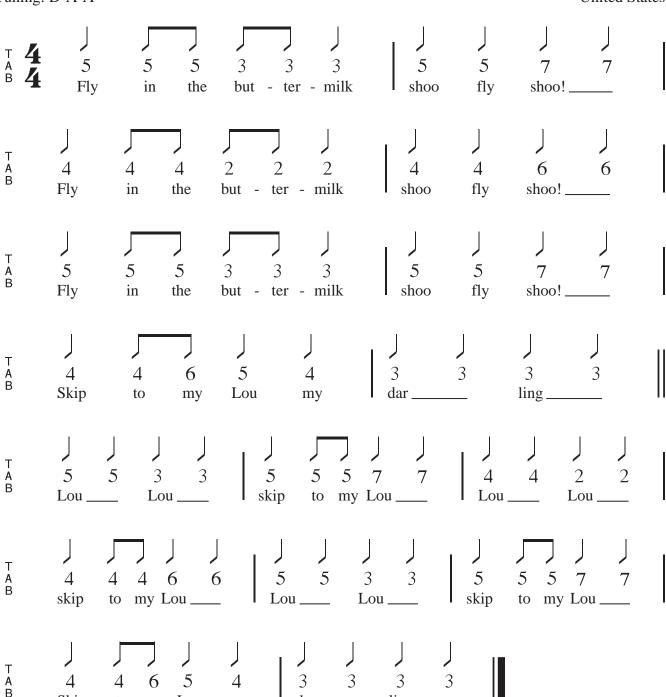
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Tuning: D-A-A France



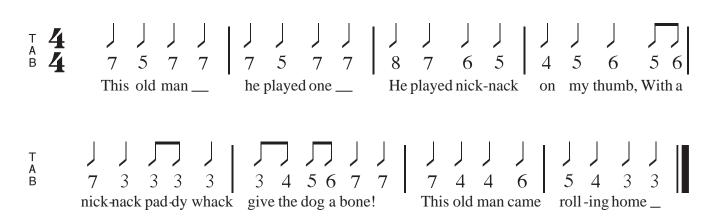
Skip to My Lou

Tuning: D-A-A United States

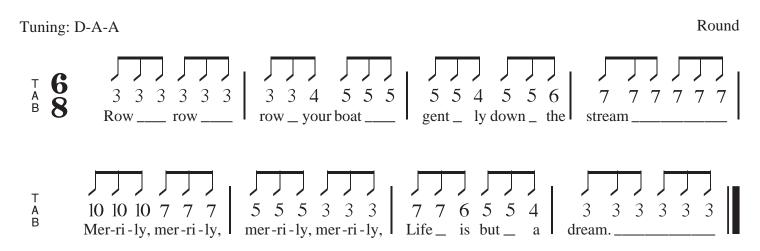


This Old Man

Tuning: D-A-A England

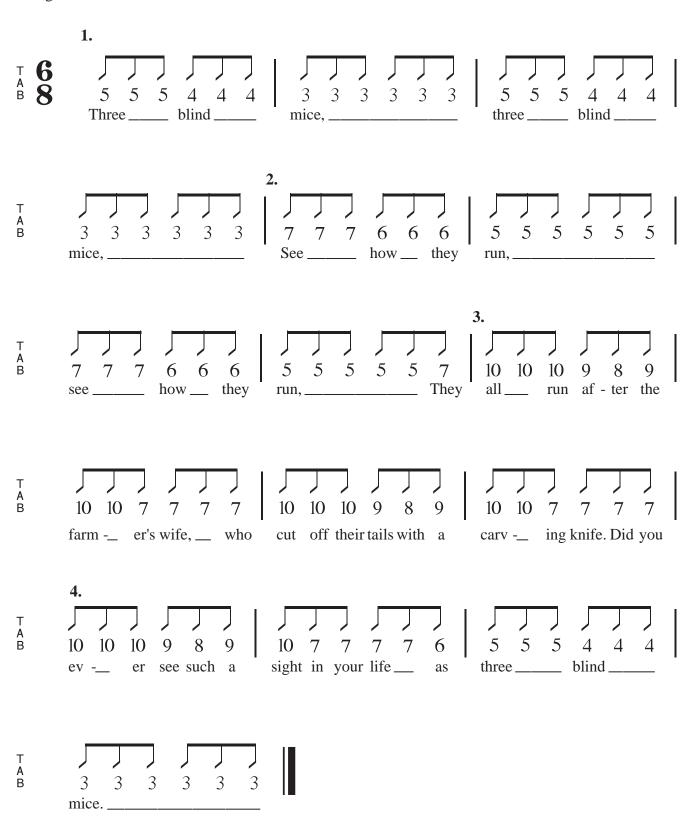


Row, Row, Row Your Boat



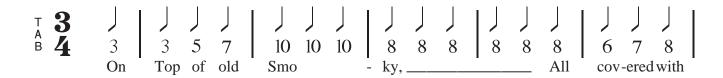
Three Blind Mice

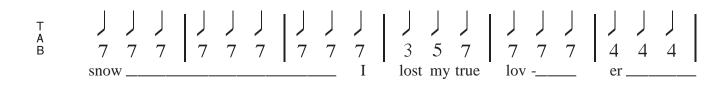
Tuning: D-A-A

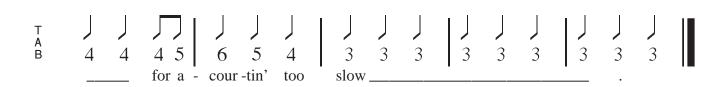


On Top of Old Smoky

Tuning: D-A-A Kentucky





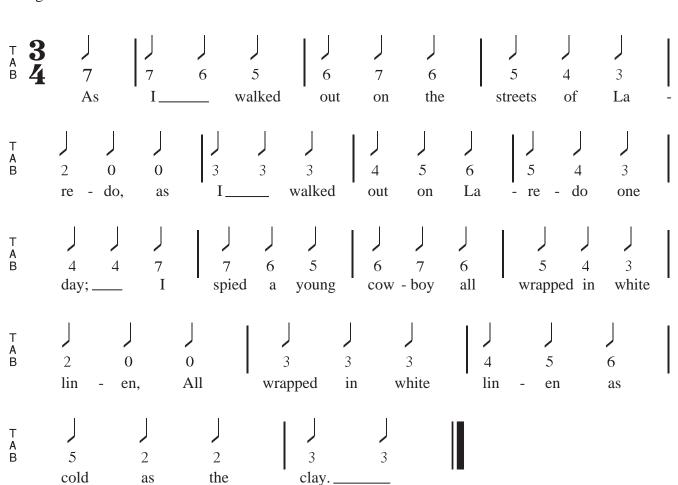


Lovely Evening

Tuning: D-A-A Round

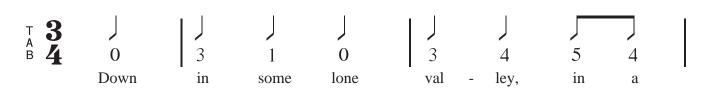
Streets of Laredo

Tuning: D-A-A American



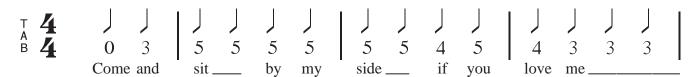
Pretty Saro

Tuning: D-A-A Appalachian



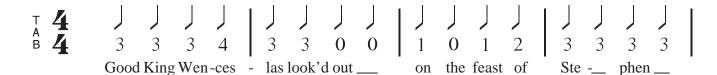
Red River Valley

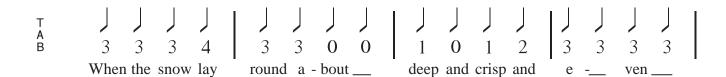
Tuning: D-A-A Cowboy



Good King Wenceslas

Tuning: D-A-A England







Simple Gifts

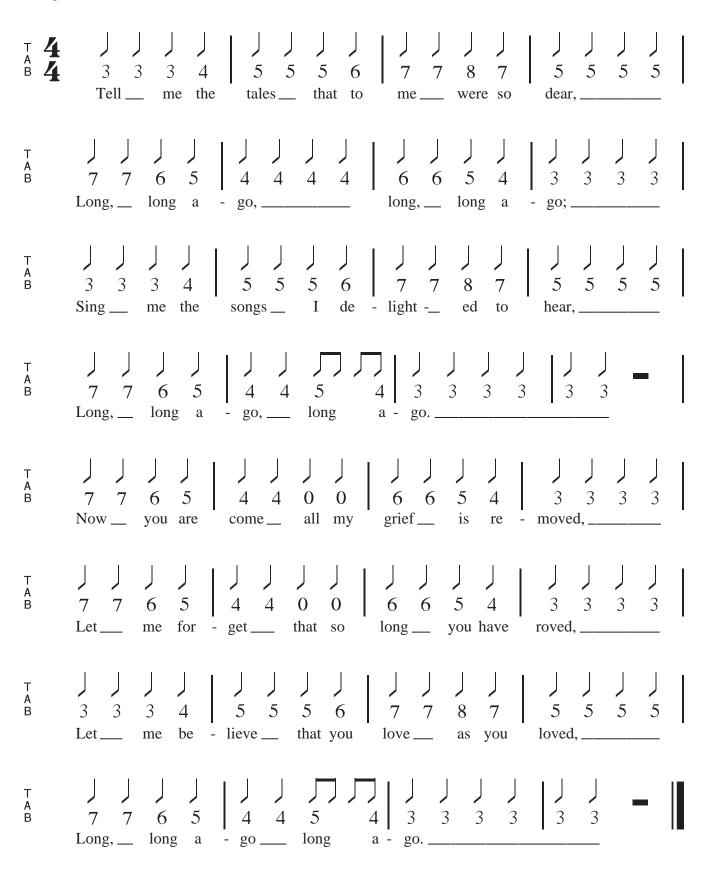
Tuning: D-A-A

Traditional Shaker Melody



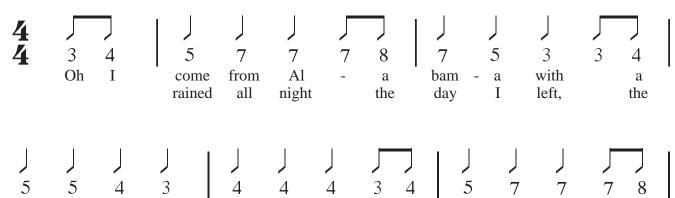
Long, Long Ago

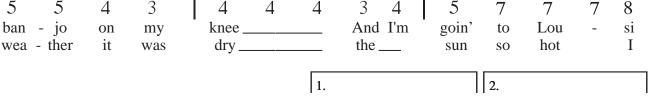
Tuning: D-A-A Thomas H. Bayly

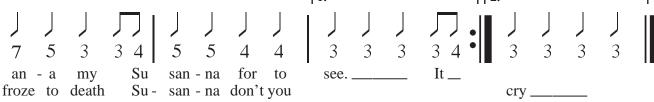


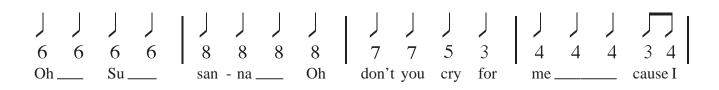
Oh Susanna

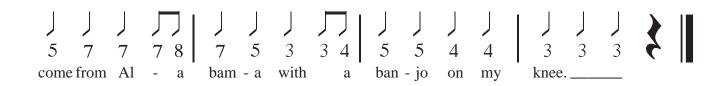






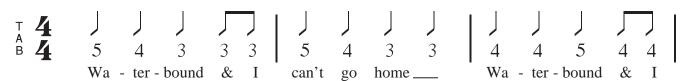






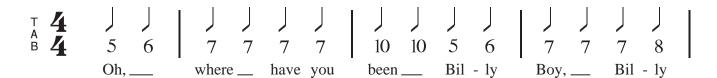
Waterbound

Tuning: D-A-A American



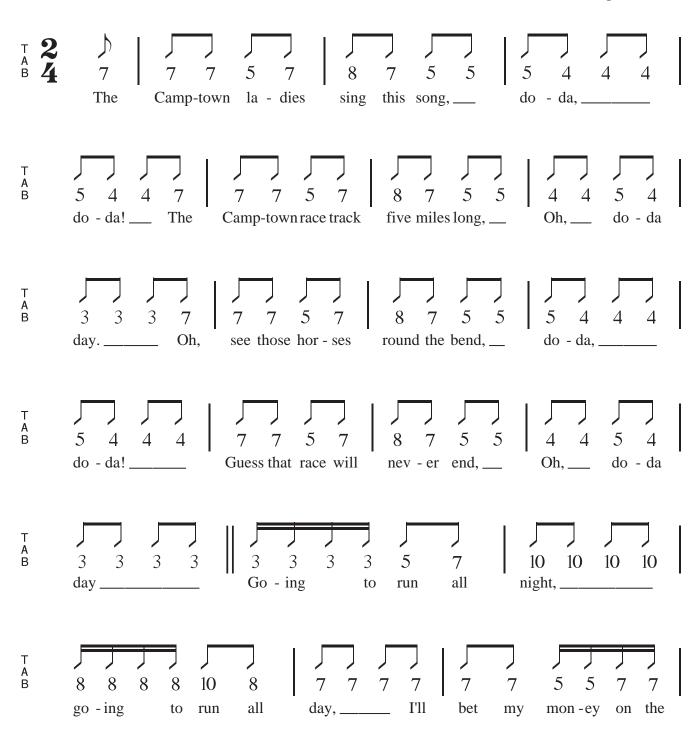
Billy Boy

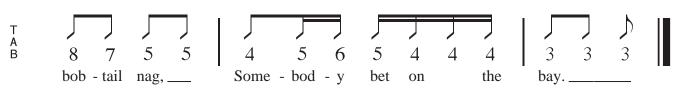
Tuning: D-A-A arr. by J.C. Rockwell



Camptown Races

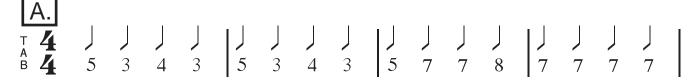
Tuning: D-A-A Stephen Foster

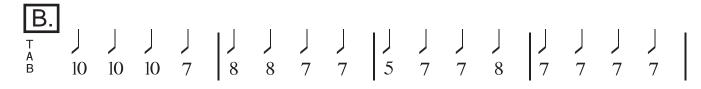




Lil' Liza Jane I

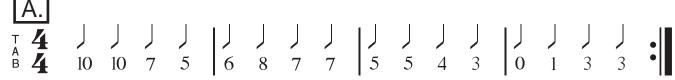
Tuning: D-A-A American

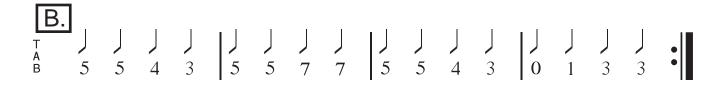




Cripple Creek I

Tuning: D-A-A
American

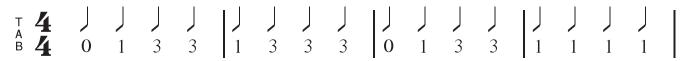




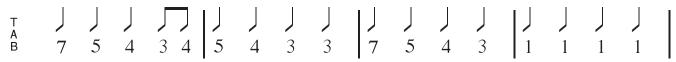
Angeline the Baker I

Tuning: D-A-A American



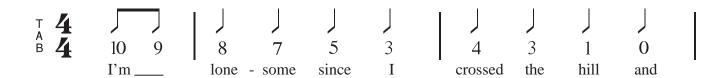






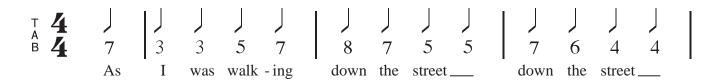
The Girl I Left Behind Me

Tuning: D-A-A British Isles



Buffalo Gals

Tuning: D-A-A Cool White



Jamie Allen

Tuning: D-A-A

Northumbrian Piping Tune





$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$















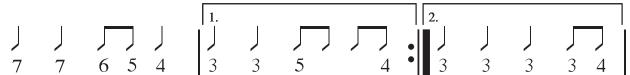








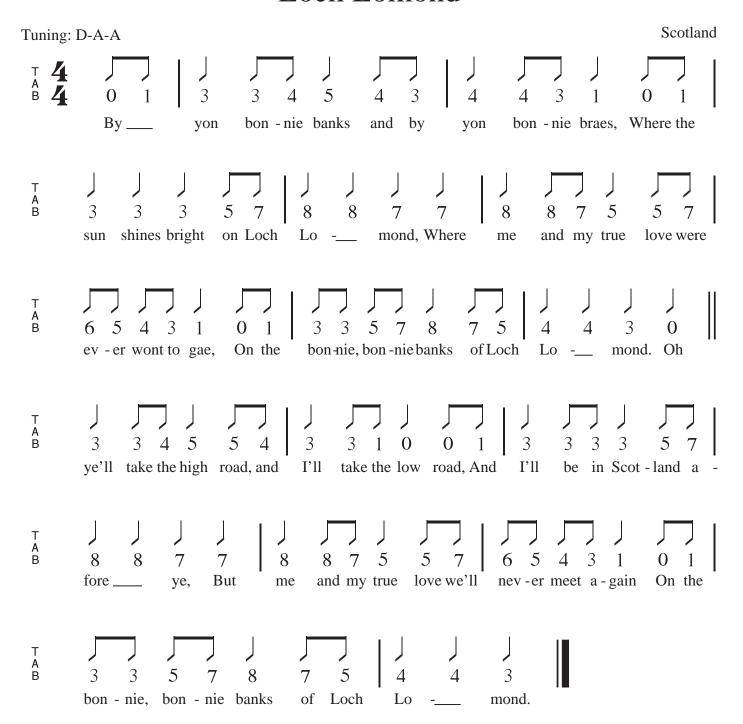








Loch Lomond



PART TWO: ARRANGEMENTS IN D-A-D

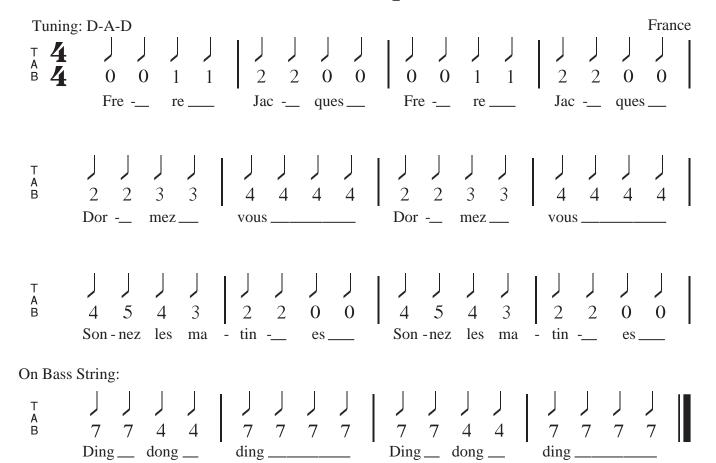
TUNE YOUR DULCIMER TO D-A-D (D MIXOLYDIAN)

Step 1. Tune the 3rd or bass string of the dulcimer to the D below Middle C (this is the same note as the open 4th string of the guitar).

Step 2. Hold the 3rd or bass string down behind (just to the left of) the 4th fret and pluck this note (A). Tune your middle or 2nd string so it exactly matches this pitch.

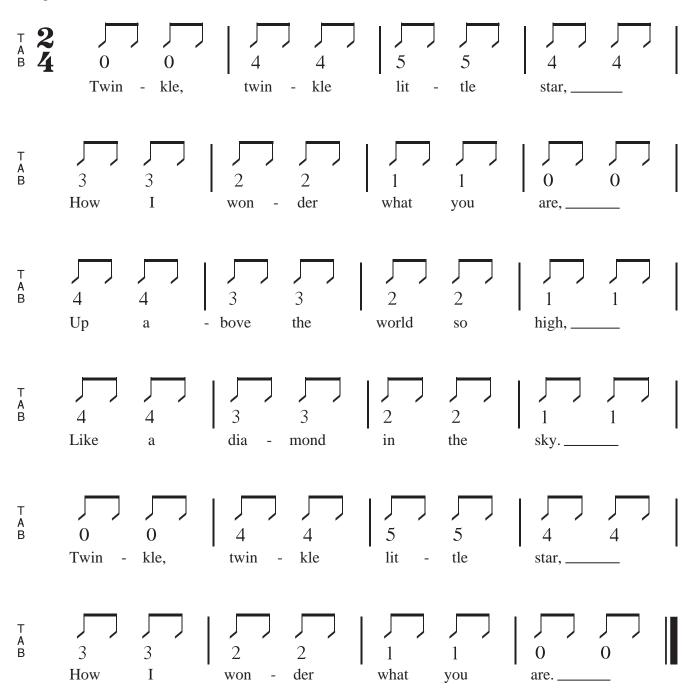
Step 3. Hold the 2nd or middle string down at the 3rd fret and pluck this note (high D, one octave above the open bass string). Tune the melody or 1st string to this note. [Caution: From Ionian D-A-A, you must stretch the melody string considerably to get to D-A-D]. Play the Mixolydian mode on the melody string from the open string to fret 7 and back down. Skip 6+.

Frere Jacques

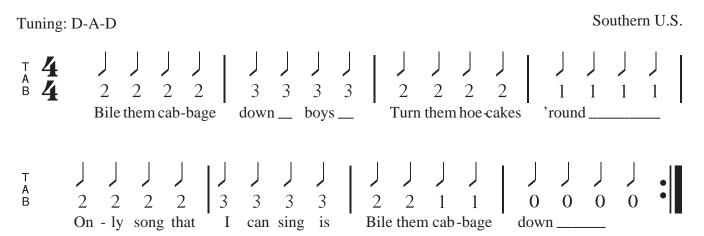


Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Tuning: D-A-D

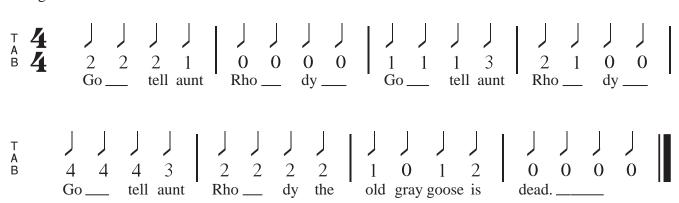


Bile Them Cabbage Down



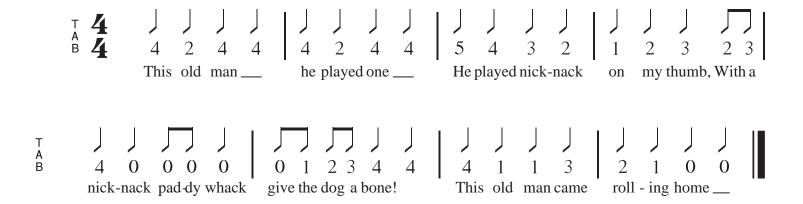
Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Tuning: D-A-D

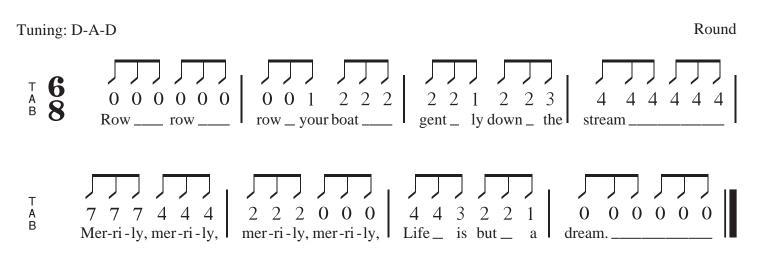


This Old Man

Tuning: D-A-D

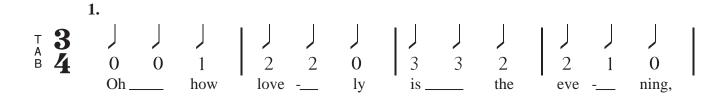


Row, Row, Row Your Boat



Lovely Evening

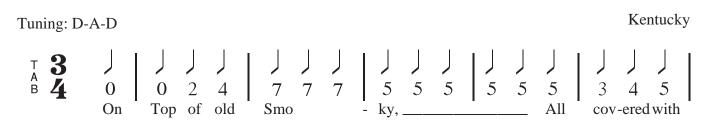
Tuning: D-A-D Round



Pretty Saro

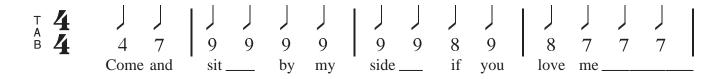
Tuning: D-A-D Appalachian

On Top of Old Smoky

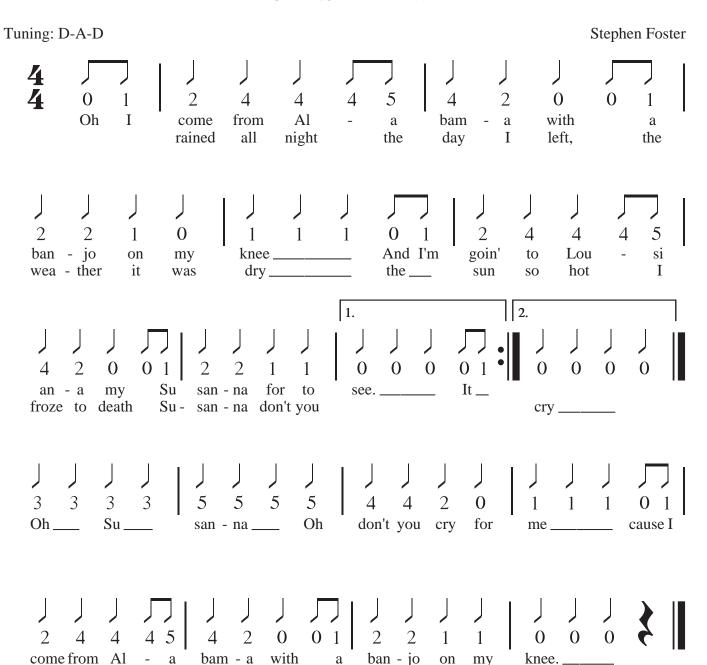


Red River Valley

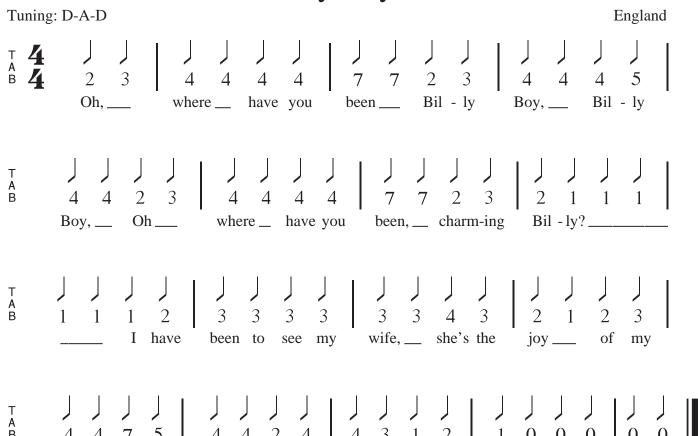
Tuning: D-A-D Cowboy



Oh Susanna



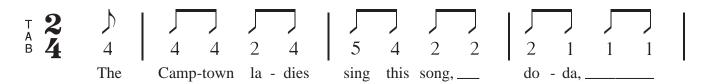
Billy Boy

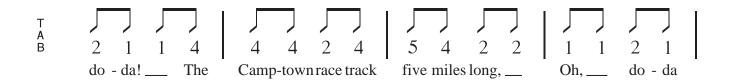


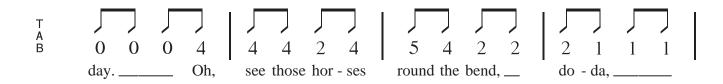
life ___ She's a ___young __ thing and ___ can-not leave her ___ moth-er. __

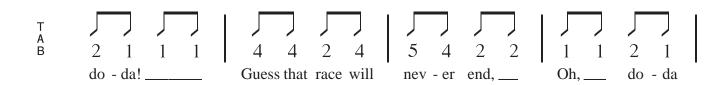
Camptown Races

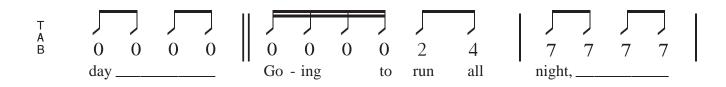
Tuning: D-A-D Stephen Foster

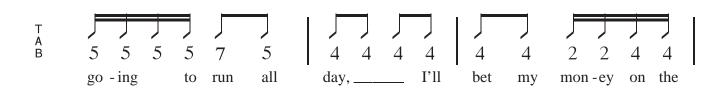






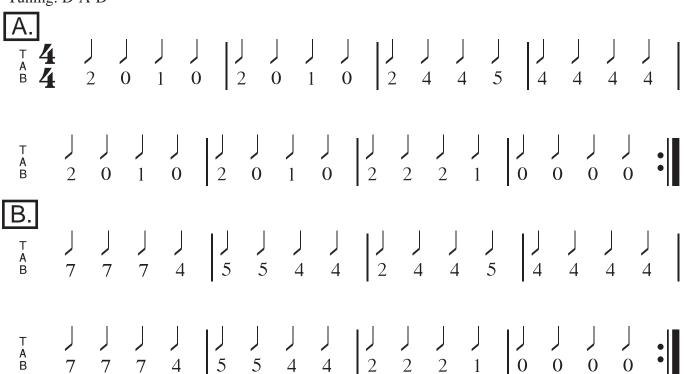




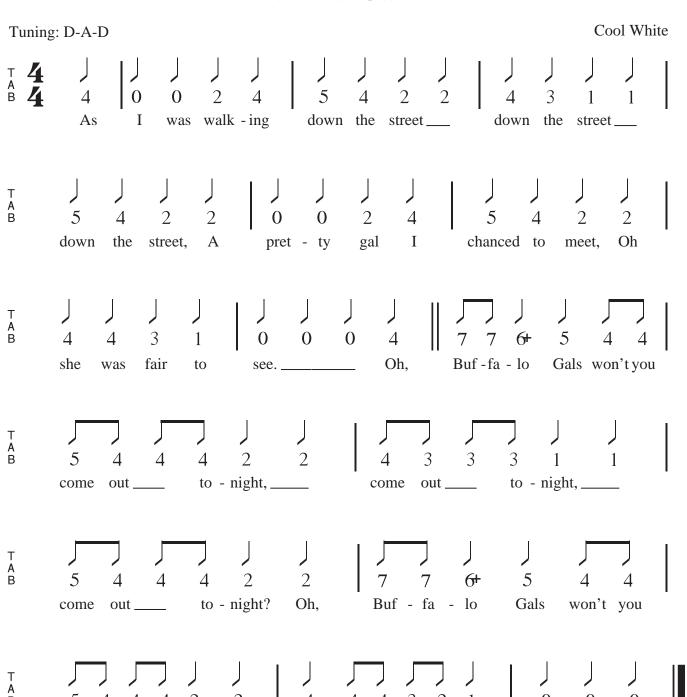


Lil' Liza Jane

Tuning: D-A-D



Buffalo Gals



come out ___ to-night, and dance by the light of the moon? ____

Jamie Allen

Tuning: D-A-D

Northumbrian Piping Tune







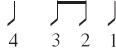


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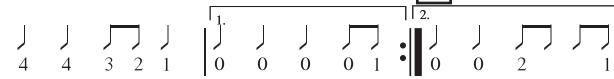
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$













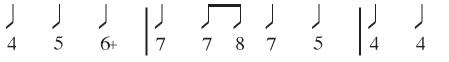












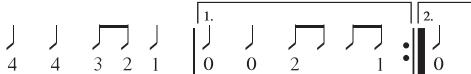


















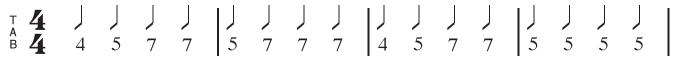




Angeline the Baker

Tuning: D-A-D American



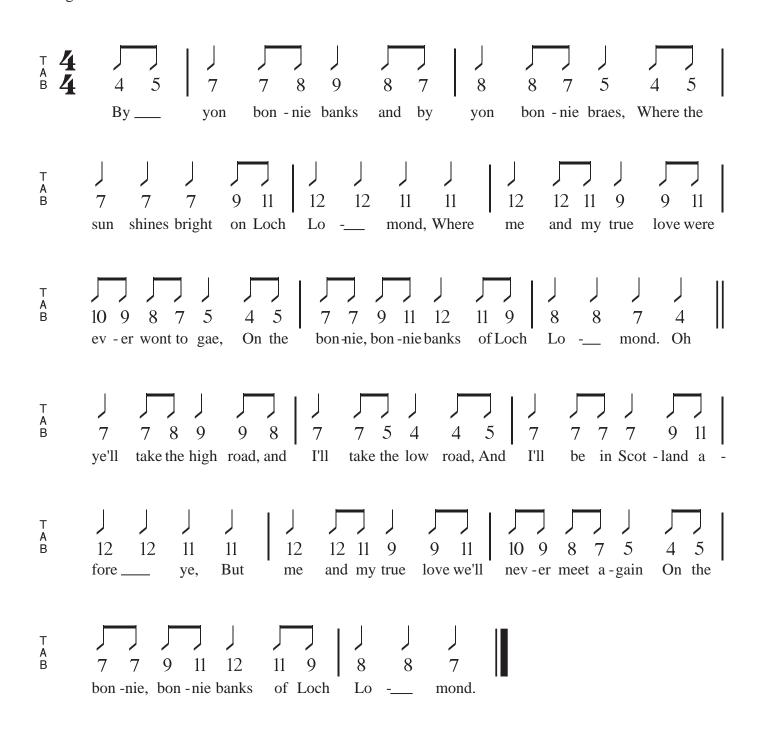






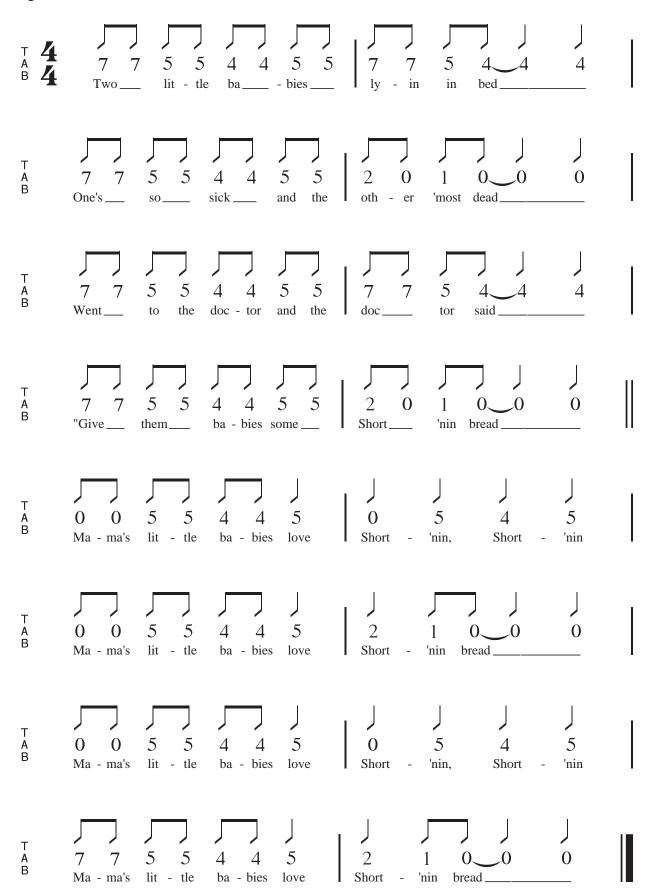
Loch Lomond

Tuning: D-A-D Scotland



Shortnin' Bread

Tuning: D-A-D



Shortnin' Bread (in 12/8)

Tuning: D-A-D

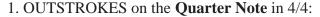


Strumming Rhythm Workout

■ OUT stroke (strum away from yourself)

v = IN stroke (strum toward yourself)

> = Accent (strum louder)



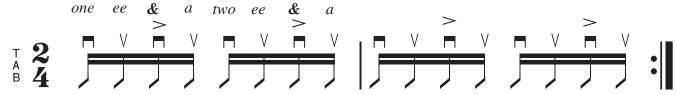
Count: one two three four one two three four



2. Alternating OUT-IN on the **Eighth Note** in 4/4:



3. The HOEDOWN STRUM—Alternating OUT-IN on the Sixteenth Note in 2/4:



4. STRAIGHT- EIGHTHS in 4/4 (each beat subdivided into 2):



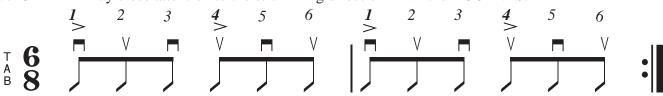
5. **Eighth Note** TRIPLETS in 4/4 (each beat subdivided into 3):



6. SWING EIGHTHS or SHUFFLE in 12/8 (often written in 4/4):



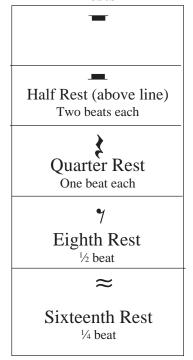
7. JIG TIME—Pay close attention to the strumming direction AND the ACCENTS:



Rhythm Notation

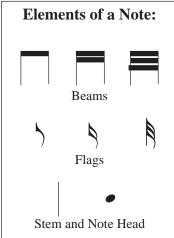
The entire system of music notation in use today is based on a whole note **①**, which normally occupies a whole measure of four beats. By adding various devices to that note, we can halve its duration, resulting in smaller note values.

Rests



Note Values

One Whole Note Four beats	1	2	3	4
Two Half Notes Two beats each	1	2	3	4
Four Quarter Notes One beat each	1	2	3	4
Eight Eighth Notes ½ beat each	1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
Sixteen Sixteenth Notes 1/4 beat each	1 ee & a	2 ee & a	3 ee & a	4 ee & a



Either **flags** or **beams** can be used for eighth notes and shorter notes, with each flag or beam cutting the value of the note in half. Three flags make a thirty-second note, four flags a sixty-fourth note, etc. To make sight reading easier, beams are used instead of flags to link the notes into a unit equaling a beat or a measure.

Rests are signs for silence, with each rest equal in duration to its corresponding note.

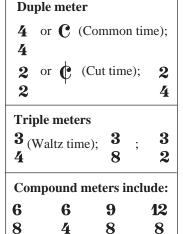
A **dot** placed after a note increases its time value by half.

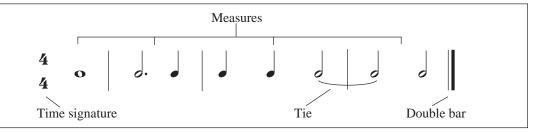
A **measure** or **bar** is the basic time unit or metric group. Measures are separated by bar lines. In common time (the meter which is the basis for the system) a whole note fills a measure of four beats, but any combination of notes which equals four beats can be used in a measure.

Dotted Note Values			
Quarter	Dotted		
Note	Quarter Note		
1 beat	1½ beat		
	<i>d</i> .		
Half	Dotted		
Note	Half Note		
2 beats	3 beats		

Meters

Time Signature and Measures





The meter of a piece can be indicated by a **time signature**. This appears on the staff at the beginning of a piece of music, and has two numbers, one above the other. The top number tells the number of beats in a measure, and the bottom number tells what kind of note receives one beat.

A **tie** is used to connect two notes of the same pitch across a bar line. The notes are sounded continuously, as though they were one note. A **double bar** indicates the end of a piece or section.

Repeat a piece ending with a **repeat sign**

or a part enclosed by repeat signs.

