

MB30671M

BASIC MUSIC THEORY FOR BANJO PLAYERS

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLAYING EXERCISES FOR THE 5-STRING BANJO



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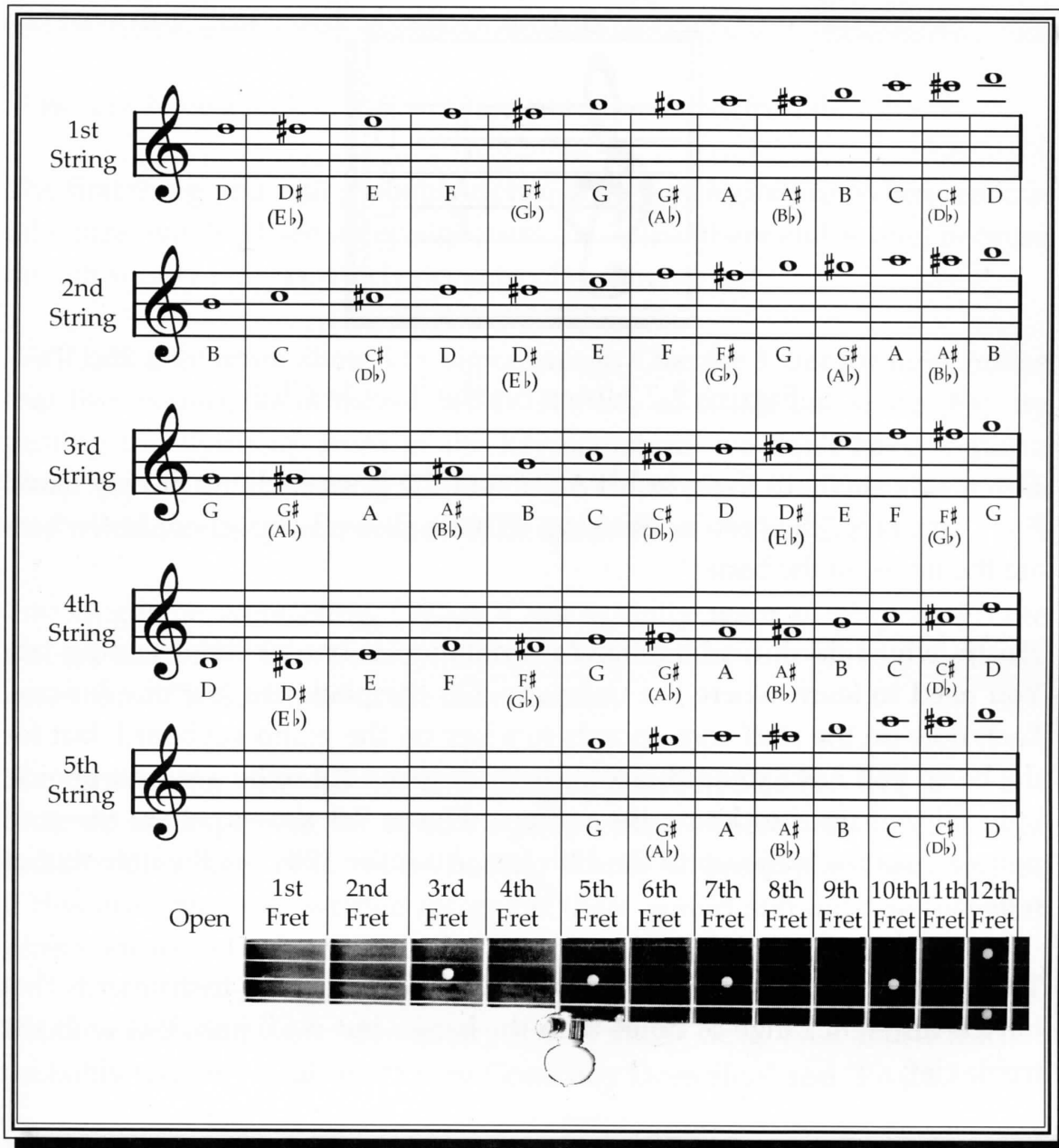


Figure 2.3 Notes on the Banjo

The image displays four banjo roll patterns, each with a melodic line in treble clef (4/4 time) and a corresponding finger chart below. The finger charts use letters T, I, M, A, B for fingers and numbers 1-4 for strings, with ampersands (&) indicating off-beats.

Alternating Thumb Roll: The finger chart shows a sequence of T1, I&, T2, M&, T3, I&, T4, M. The melodic line consists of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

Alternating Thumb - Pinch: The finger chart shows T1, I&, T2, M&, T3, TM4. The melodic line consists of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

Forward Roll: The finger chart shows I1, M&, T2, I&, M3, T4, I&, M. The melodic line consists of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

Forward-Reverse Roll: The finger chart shows T1, I&, M2, T&, M3, I&, T4, M. The melodic line consists of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.

Figure 4.14 Banjo Roll Patterns

Minor 2nd	Ascending	Descending
	A Hard Days Night	Joy to the World
	Isn't She Lovely	Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem
	White Christmas	The Lady is a Tramp
	I Left My Heart in San Francisco	Stella by Starlight
Major 2nd	Ascending	Descending
	Are You Sleeping Frère Jacques	Mary Had a Little Lamb
	Happy Birthday to You	Yesterday
	Do-Re-Me (Sound of Music)	Three Blind Mice
	Silent Night	The First Noel
	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Away in a Manger
Minor 3rd	Ascending	Descending
	Greensleeves	Hey Jude
	Lullaby (Brahms)	Frosty the Snowman
	The Impossible Dream	The Star-Spangled Banner
Major 3rd	Ascending	Descending
	Oh, When the Saints	Swing Low Sweet Chariot
	Kumbaya	Summertime
	Michael Row the Boat Ashore	Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me
Perfect 4th	Ascending	Descending
	Amazing Grace	Oh, Come all ye Faithful
	Here Comes the Bride	I've Been Working on the Railroad
	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	Born Free
	Love Me Tender	Shave and a Haircut
	Auld Lang Syne	A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Perfect 5th	Ascending	Descending
	Twinkle Twinkle Little Star	What Do You Do with a Drunken Sailor
	Blackbird	It Don't Mean a Thing
	My Favorite Things	The Way You Look Tonight
	Scarborough Fair	Feelings

Minor 6th	Ascending	Descending
	The Entertainer (Scott Joplin)	Love Story theme
	In My Life (Beatles)	Chega de Saudade
	She's a Woman (Beatles)	
Major 6th	Ascending	Descending
	My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean	Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
	It Came upon a Midnight Clear	The Music of the Night
	Dashing Through the Snow	Down by the Riverside
	Hush Little Baby	Over There
Minor 7th	Ascending	Descending
	Somewhere (West Side Story)	An American in Paris
	The Winner Takes All (ABBA)	Watermelon Man
Major 7th	Ascending	Descending
	Bali Hai (1st & 3rd notes)	I Love You (Cole Porter)
	Over the Rainbow (1st & 3rd notes)	
Octave	Ascending	Descending
	Over the Rainbow	Willow Weep for Me
	The Christmas Song	

Figure 5.5 Popular Songs

5.4 Pitch Names

For note names we only use the letters "A" through "G" and then we start over an octave higher with "A" again. We don't use other letters like "J" or "K."

That's only seven different letter names. So how can we tell which "C" we are talking about?

Because the piano has such a wide range of notes (with 88 keys) we relate the letter names to the different octaves covered by the piano keyboard.

music is a diminished run moving up the neck. Try the following and see if you can hear the train coming.

I only show one position because as you move the form up the neck, they overlap. Simply put the bar where your pinky used to be.

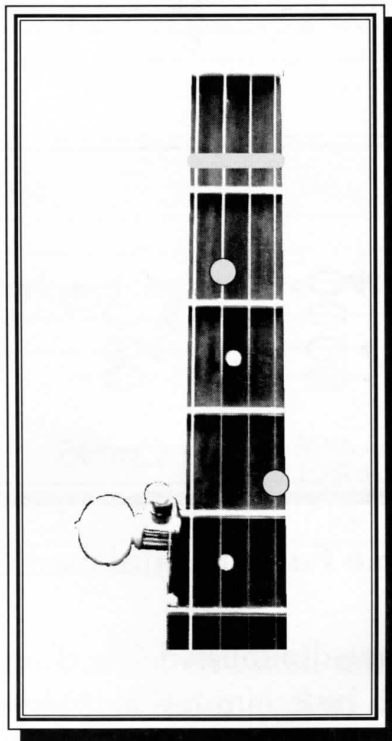


Figure 6.7 Diminished Run

6.8.6 Walking the Root Down

Listen to the interesting sounds you get as you walk the root down the first string. We are going to walk the root note of a G major chord down one fret at a time and listen to the character of each chord as it changes. Start with the G note on the first string, 5th fret and walk it down one fret at a time.

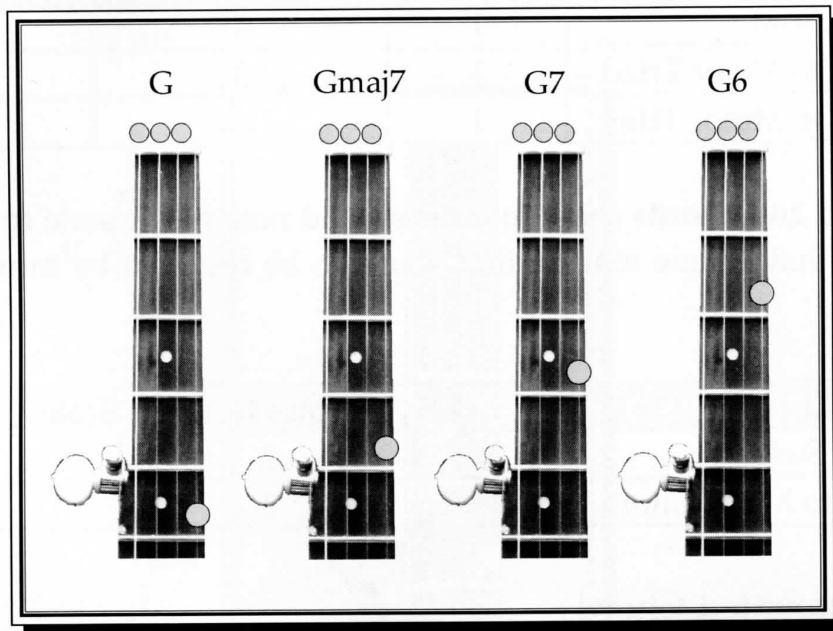


Figure 6.8 Walking the Root Down

Now, is that amazing or what! Can you hear the sound of Gmaj7, G7 and G6? Play this several times and start thinking about variations. I know you will come up with something interesting!

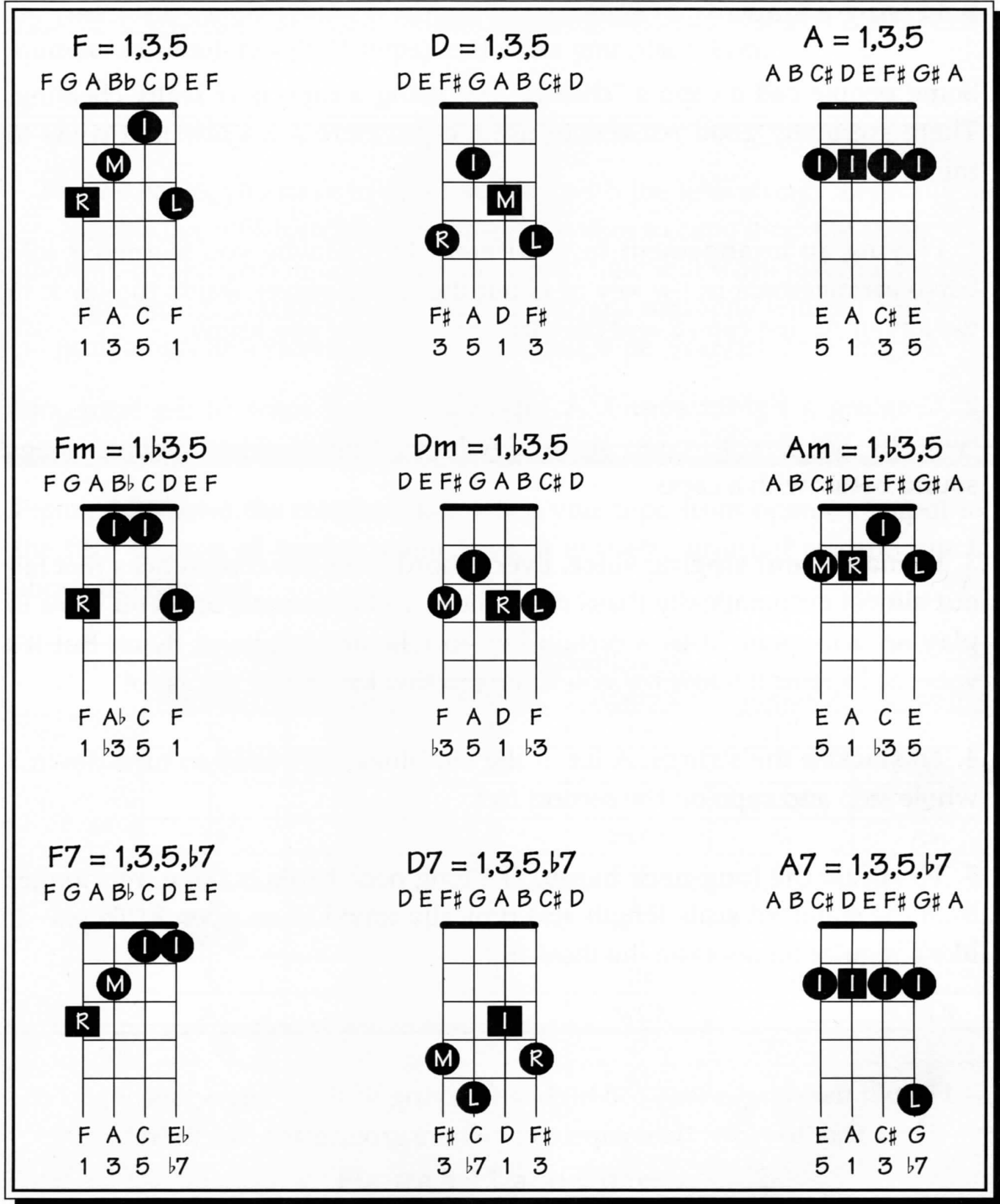


Figure 8.1 Movable Chords

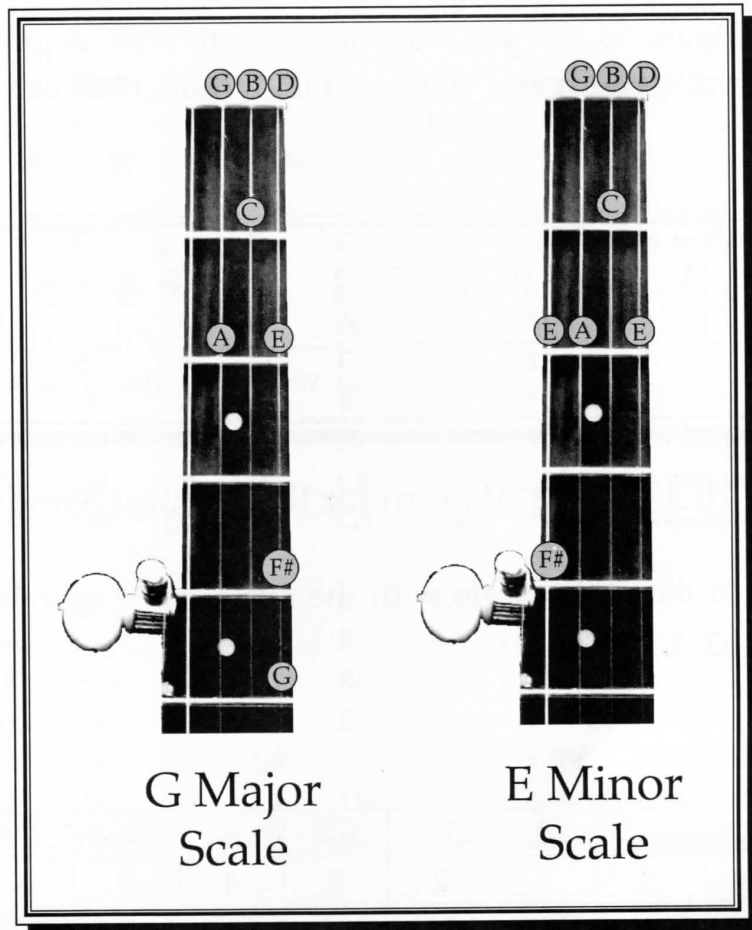


Figure 10.1 The G Major and E Minor Scales

You probably noticed that E is the 6th scale degree of the G major scale. That's the way it is with all major scales and their relative minors. The relative minor scale always starts and ends on the 6th scale degree of its relative major. Figure 10.2 shows another way of looking at it:

G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
					E	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E		

Figure 10.2 The Em Scale Starts on 6th Scale Degree of G

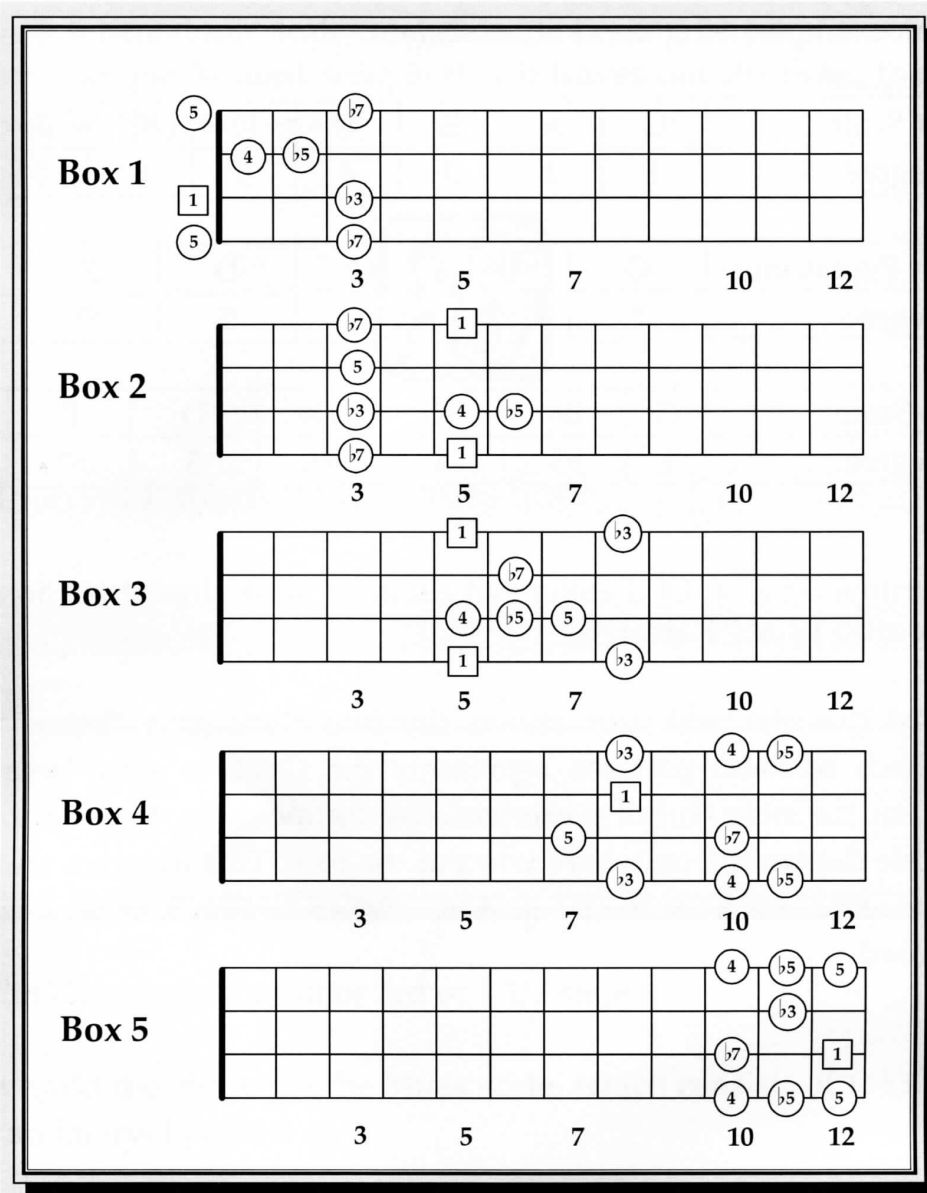


Figure 10.5 Five Blues Scale "Boxes" for Banjo

Figure 10.6 summarizes the various modes by scale degree.

Imaj7 (Ionian = Major Scale)							
Scale Degrees:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IIIm7 (Dorian minor)							
Scale Degrees:	1	2	b3	4	5	6	b7
IIIIm7 (Phrygian minor)							
Scale Degrees:	1	b2	b3	4	5	b6	b7
IVmaj7 (Lydian)							
Scale Degrees:	1	2	3	#4	5	6	7
V7 (Mixolydian)							
Scale Degrees:	1	2	3	4	5	6	b7
VIIm7 (Aeolian = Natural Minor)							
Scale Degrees:	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	b7
VIIIm7b5 (Locrian minor)							
Scale Degrees:	1	b2	b3	4	b5	b6	b7

Figure 10.6 Modes of a Major Key

