

LAZARUS BOOKS PRESENTS:

**10 tabs**  
*for*  
**TWO FINGER  
OLD TIME BANJO**



BY: AARON AND NICOLE KEIM



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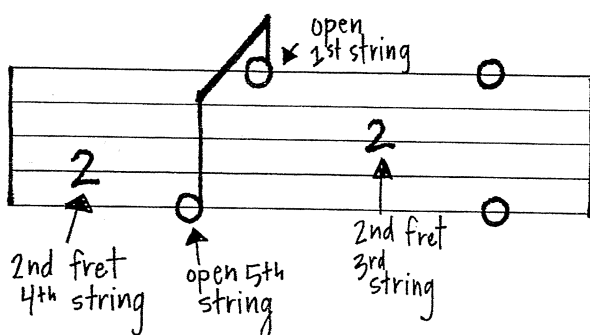
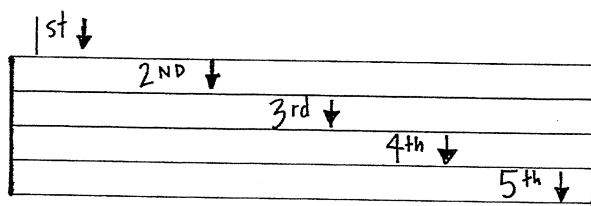
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# INTRODUCTION

Even though clawhammer has become the dominant way to play "old time" banjo, there were many non-bluegrass ways to play the five string banjo pre world war two. Many old time pickers used two finger thumb lead style to play songs and tunes. The purpose of this book is to show you the basic techniques and provide you with tablature for some well-known pieces. Each page has a YouTube video that accompanies it, and you can find the links on the bottom of the page. Here is a playlist for all the videos: [tinyurl.com/2fingerplaylist](https://tinyurl.com/2fingerplaylist)

We use tablature to notate these pieces. Tab is a diagram that shows what fret to press and what string to pluck. We also add rhythms, time signatures, repeat signs, chords, etc... to give you more musical information. Basically, each line on the tab staff represents a string.

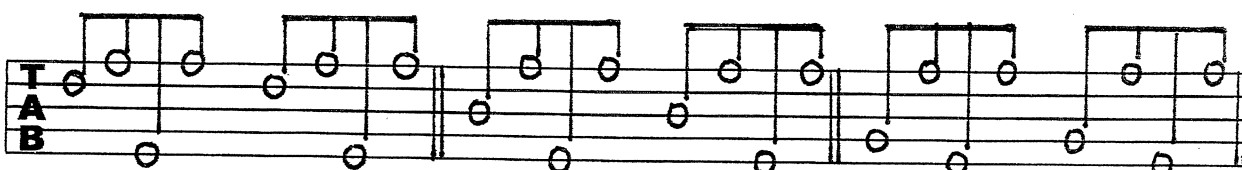


\* A number on a line represents which fret to press on that string

For this style, the right hand thumb plays the melody and also plays the 5<sup>th</sup> string as a drone. The first finger on the right hand picks the first string (usually) as a drone as well. That's why they call it two finger, even though it's really a thumb and a finger. This is in contrast to bluegrass/scruggs style which uses more fingers.

2<sup>ND</sup> STRING MELODY      3<sup>RD</sup> STRING MELODY      4<sup>TH</sup> STRING MELODY

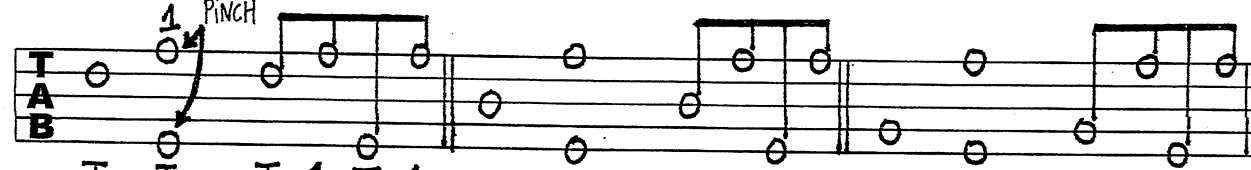
BASIC ROLL



T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1...

\* Sometimes you give a good strong pinch of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> strings

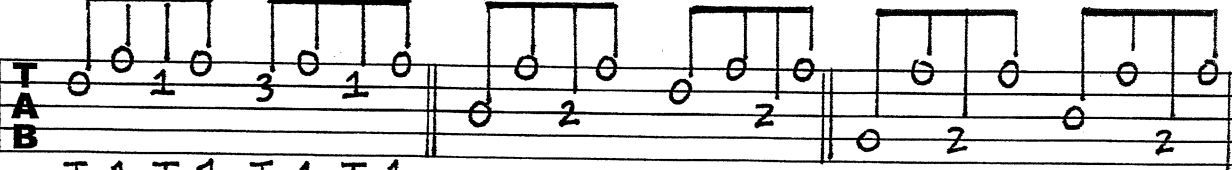
WITH PINCHES



T T T 1 T 1...

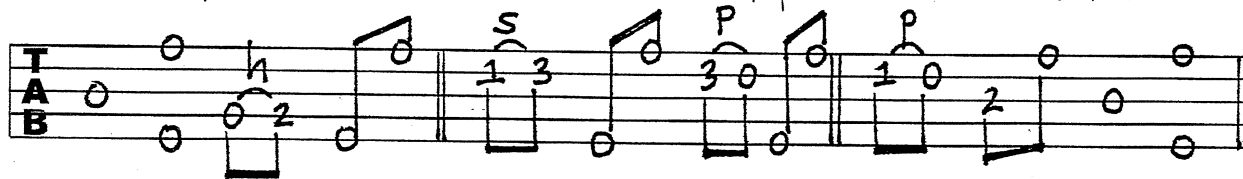
\* Also, you can fit in more melody notes if you cut out the 5<sup>th</sup> string

MORE MELODY NOTES



T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1...

\* Of course, we can also add hammer ons, pull offs and slides



Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerintro](http://tinyurl.com/2fingerintro)

②

# HOT CORN COLD CORN

## SIMPLE VERSION

**GDGBD**  
TUNING

Handwritten guitar tablature for "HOT CORN COLD CORN" in GDGBD tuning. The piece is in 2/4 time. The first staff (G) has a 4-measure phrase: T, T, T, 2, T, T 1, T, T. The second staff (D) has a 4-measure phrase: T 1, T 1, T, T 1, T, T 1, T, T etc... The third staff (G) has a 4-measure phrase: T, T, T, 2, T, T, T, T. The fourth staff (D) has a 4-measure phrase: T, T, T, T, T, T, T, T. The fifth staff (G) has a 4-measure phrase: T, T, T, T, T, T, T, T. The piece ends with a double bar line.

$\frac{2}{4}$  and  $\frac{4}{4}$  are time signatures. They tell us how many beats there are per measure; 2 or 4 in this case.

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerhot](http://tinyurl.com/2fingerhot)

## \* DECORATED VERSION

## \* DECORATED VERSION

# GDGBD TUNING

\* Now we can add some slides, hammer ons and pull offs to decorate the melody.

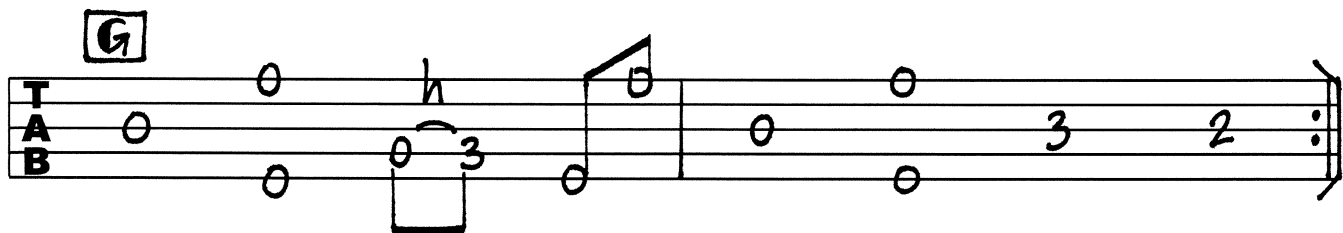
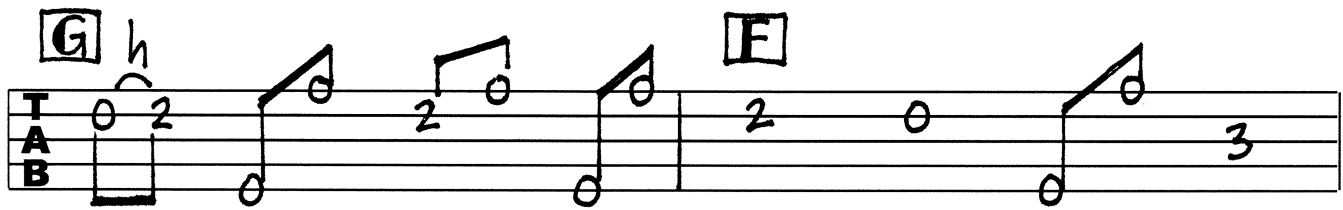
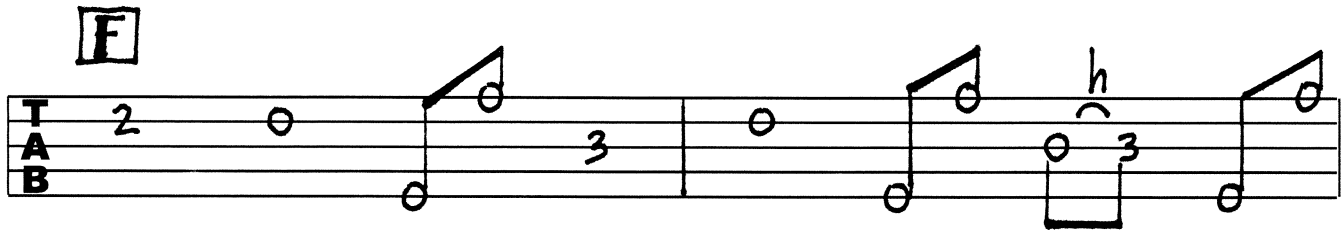
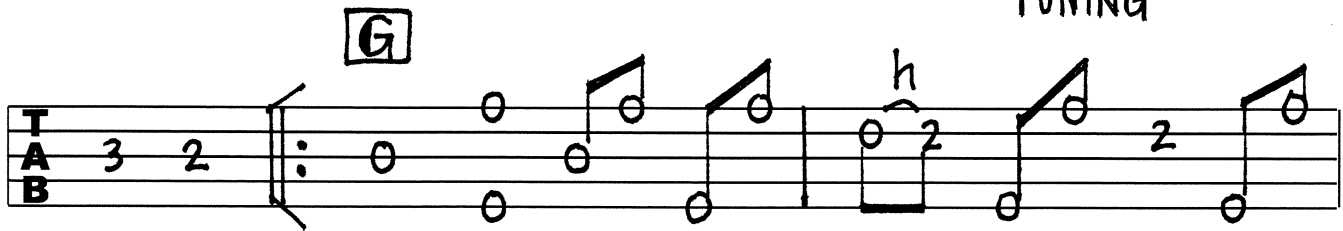
**GDGBD**  
TVNING

⑤

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerplank](https://tinyurl.com/2fingerplank)

# LITTLE MAGGIE

GDGCD  
TUNING



Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingermaggie](https://tinyurl.com/2fingermaggie)

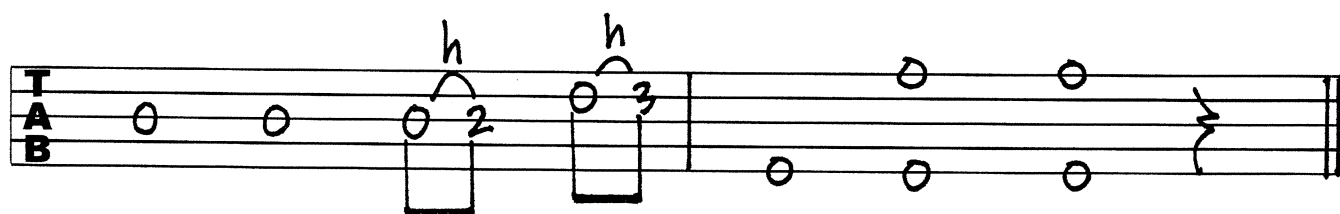
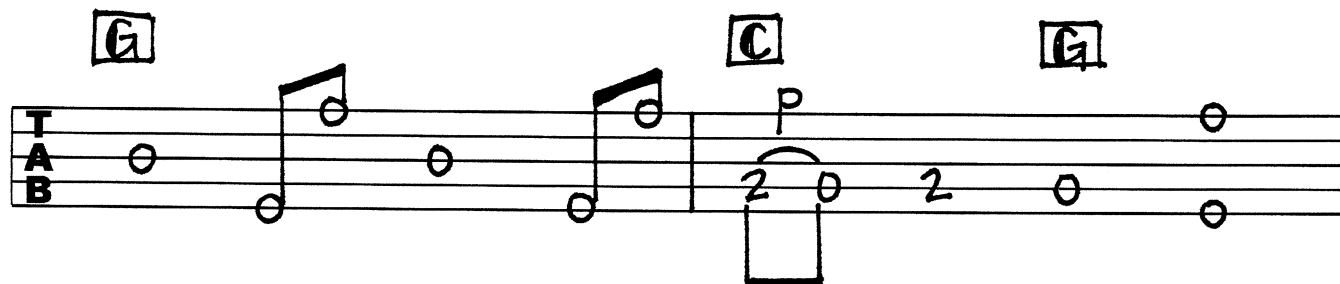
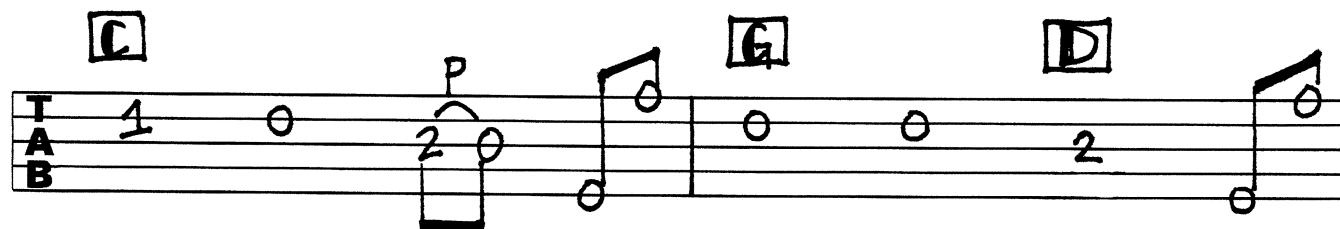
# KING KONG KITCHIE KITCHIE Ki-ME-O

**G D G B D**  
TUNING

The tablature is written on four lines, each labeled 'TAB' on the left. Above each line is a key signature box: **G**, **C**, **G**, **D**, and **G**. The notation includes notes, rests, and fingerings (2, 0, 2). A 'P' (pick) symbol is placed above the first note of the second measure in each line. A small square box is drawn under the first measure of each line.

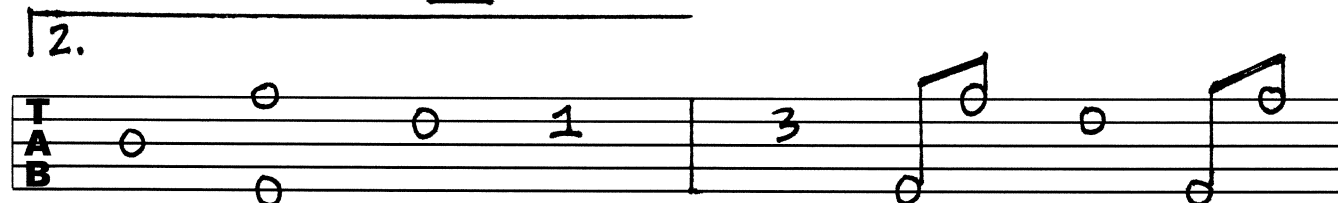
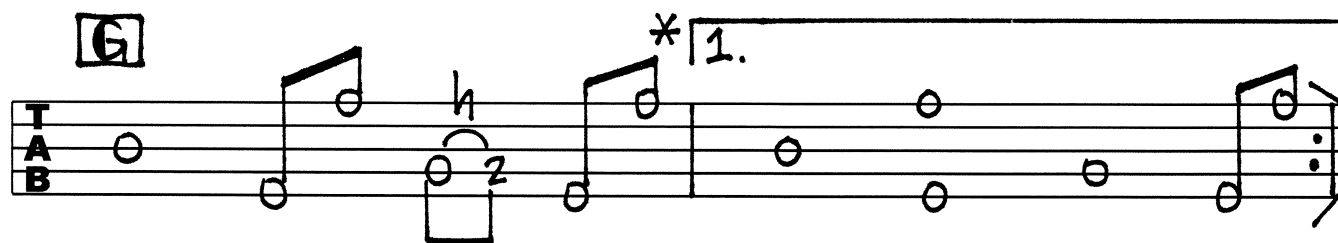
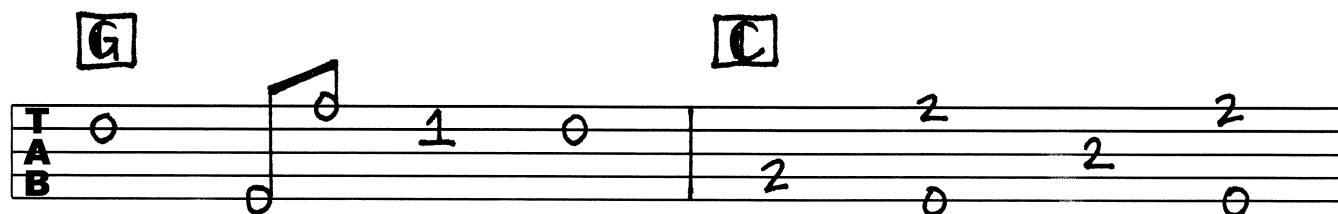
Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerking](http://tinyurl.com/2fingerking)

# Ki-ME-O (CONT'D)



# GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK

G D G B D  
TUNING



\* 1. and 2. are called 1st and 2nd endings.

The first time through, play the 1st ending and repeat back to the beginning. Second time through, skip the 1st ending, play the 2nd and continue through the next part!

# GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Handwritten guitar tablature for the song "Grandfather" (continued). The piece consists of six lines of music, each with a treble (T), alto (A), and bass (B) staff. Chords G, D, and C are indicated in boxes above the staves. Fingerings (1-4) and a hammer-on (h) are shown. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2finger-clock](https://tinyurl.com/2finger-clock)

# LITTLE SADIE

# GDGD TUNING

TAB

4 4

Gm

h

P

2 2 3

TUNING

[illegible]

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingersadie](https://tinyurl.com/2fingersadie)

# COLD FROSTY MORN

GDGCD

TUNING CAPO 2

The following table summarizes the guitar tablature for 'Cold Frosty Morn' across 8 measures:

| Measure | Chord | Tab 1 (Frets) | Tab 2 (Frets) | Notes                                |
|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1       | Am    | 3 5           | 3 0           | Strum (S), Pick (P), Hammer-on (h) 2 |
| 2       | G     | 2             | 2 0           | Strum (S), Pick (P)                  |
| 3       | Am    | 3 5           | 3 0           | Strum (S), Pick (P), Hammer-on (h) 2 |
| 4       | G     | 2             | 3 5           | Strum (S), Pick (P)                  |
| 5       | Am    | 0 5           | 5 7           | Strum (S), Hammer-on (h) 5           |
| 6       | G     | 0 3           | 3 0           | Strum (S), Pick (P), Hammer-on (h) 3 |
| 7       | Am    | 0             | 0 2           | Strum (S), Hammer-on (h) 2           |
| 8       | G     | 2             | 3 5           | Strum (S), Pick (P)                  |

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingercold](http://tinyurl.com/2fingercold)

# DRY AND DUSTY

\* **G C G C D**  
TUNING **CAPO 2**

Handwritten guitar tablature for the song "Dry and Dusty". The piece consists of 8 lines of music. The first line starts with a **D** chord box. The second line has a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The third line has a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The fourth line starts with an **A** chord box, followed by a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The fifth line has a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The sixth line has a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The seventh line has a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5). The eighth line starts with an **A** chord box, followed by a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a measure with a half note on the 2nd string (fret 2), a half note on the 1st string (fret 2), and a half note on the 1st string (fret 5).

\* This tuning, called "double c" is almost never used for two finger style. Notice the first finger often uses the second string for the drone to accommodate the new tuning.

⑬

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerdry](http://tinyurl.com/2fingerdry)

# SOLDIER'S JOY

GCGCD  
TUNING CAPO 2

Handwritten guitar tablature for the song "Soldier's Joy". The piece is written in GCGCD tuning with a capo at the 2nd fret. The notation includes standard guitar symbols such as fret numbers, accidentals, and dynamic markings. Chords are indicated by letters in boxes: D, A, and G. The piece features several repeat signs and a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the final section.

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingersoldier](http://tinyurl.com/2fingersoldier)

# LITTLE LIZA JANE

6D6BD  
TUNING CAPO 2

The tablature is written on eight staves, each labeled 'TAB' on the left. The notes and chords are as follows:

- Measure 1:** Chord A (5, 2, 0, 0). Notes: 5, 2, 0, 0. Chord A.
- Measure 2:** Chord D (2, 0, 2, 1). Notes: 2, 0, 2, 1. Chord D.
- Measure 3:** Chord A (2, 5, 2, 0). Notes: 2, 5, 2, 0. Chord A.
- Measure 4:** Chord A (2, 4, 2, 0). Notes: 2, 4, 2, 0. Chord A.
- Measure 5:** Chord A (2, 4, 2, 0). Notes: 2, 4, 2, 0. Chord A.
- Measure 6:** Chord D (2, 0, 2, 0). Notes: 2, 0, 2, 0. Chord D.
- Measure 7:** Chord E (0, 2, 2, 2). Notes: 0, 2, 2, 2. Chord E.
- Measure 8:** Chord A (2, 0, 2, 0). Notes: 2, 0, 2, 0. Chord A.

\* To accomplish this, I sweep my right thumb across these three strings.

(15)

Video Link: [tinyurl.com/2fingerliza](http://tinyurl.com/2fingerliza)