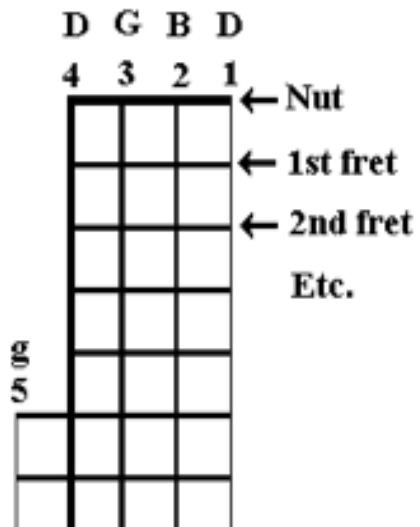
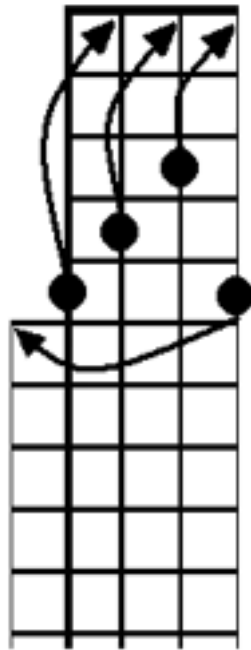


Banjo Handout

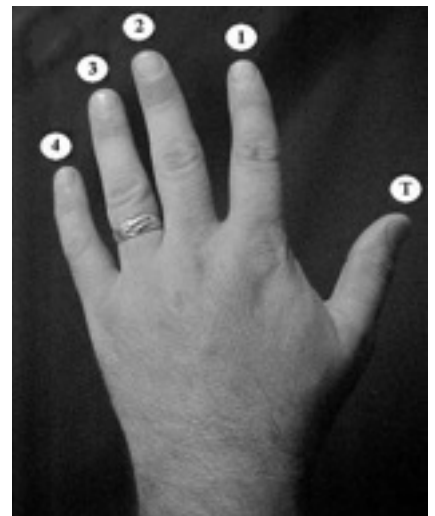
String Numbers and Note Names



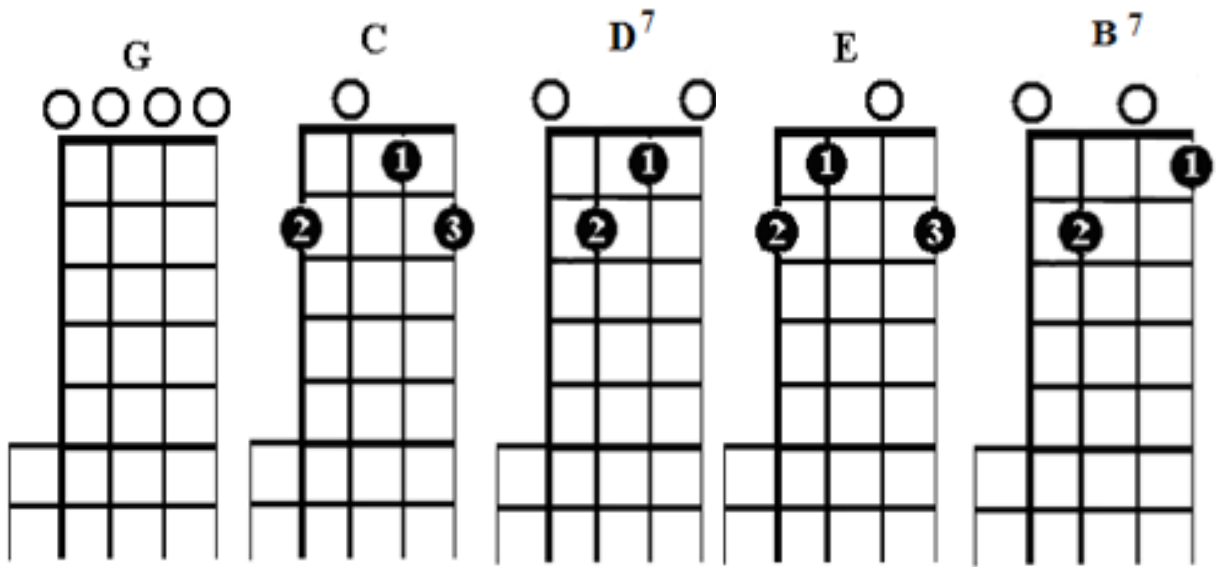
String Match Diagram



Left Hand Finger Numbers



Some Open Chords



Closed Chord Shapes

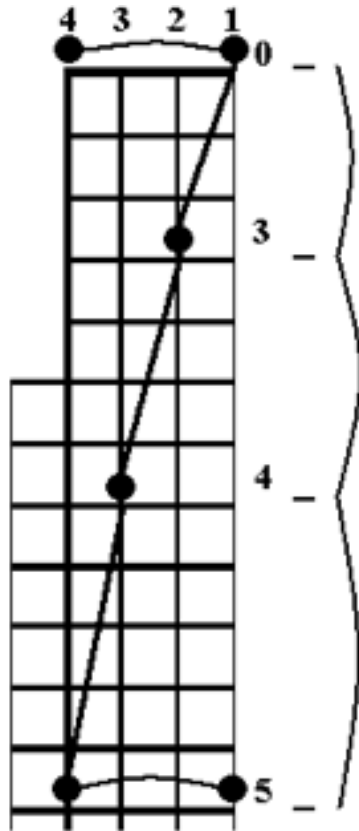
Circled numbers represent the fingers of your fretting hand

- ① = Index
- ② = Middle
- ③ = Ring
- ④ = Little
- ⑤ = Thumb *Not used in this example*



String Numbers	Note Names	Scale note numbers under the chord shapes
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4 3 2 1	D G B D	Shape 1	Shape 2	Shape 3

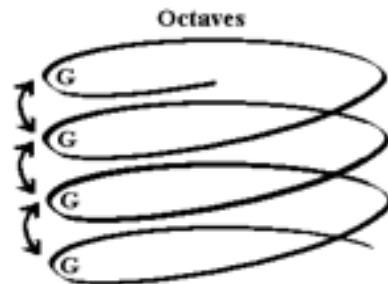


Some Foundational Facts

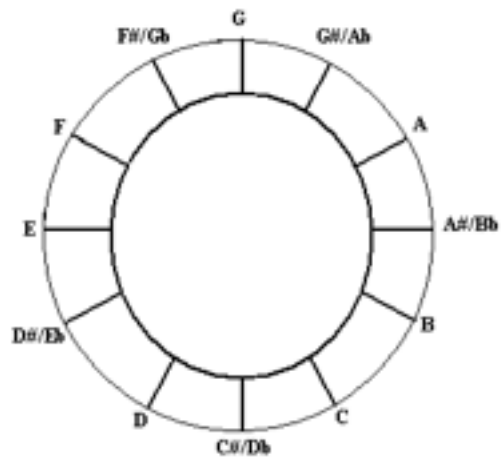
Bad Cats Eat Frogs



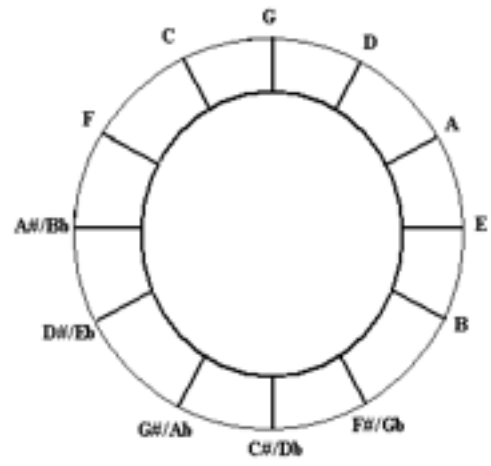
Spiraling Octaves – theoretically infinite- just not in the real world



Chromatic Wheel



Basic Circle of 5ths



Whole Steps and Half Steps

A whole step = 2 frets
A half step = 1 fret

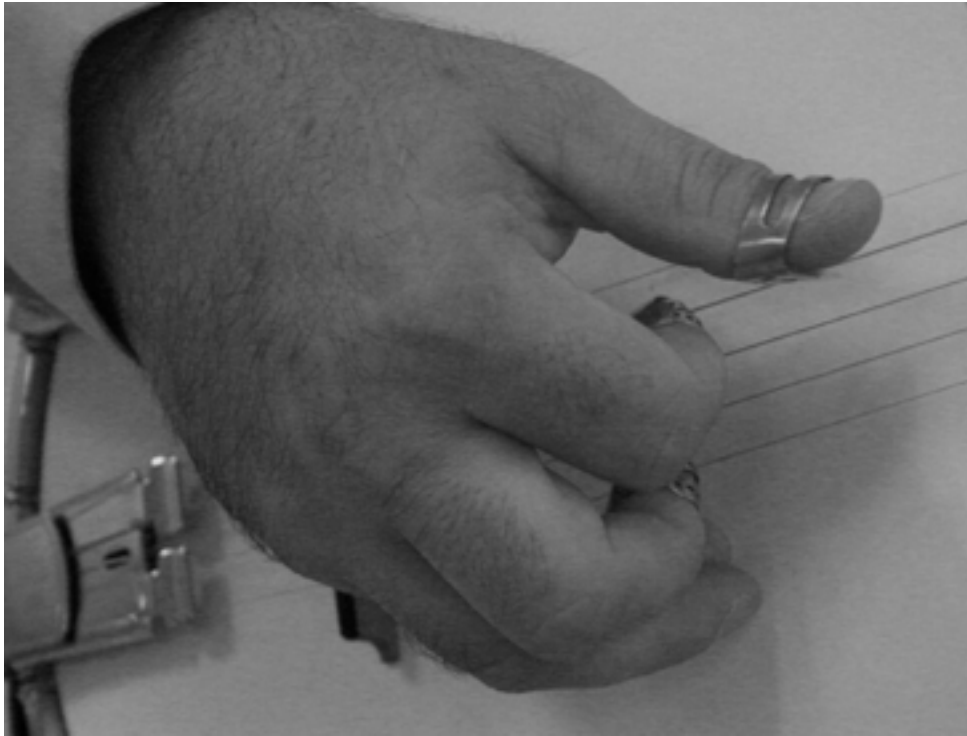
The Major Scale Formula

Root + Whole Step + Whole Step + Half Step + Whole Step + Whole Step + Whole Step + Half Step

1	C	G	D			
2	D	A				
3	E	B				
4	F	C				
5	G	D				
6	A	E				
7	B	F [#] /G ^b				
8	C	G				

Getting to know your notes

Right Hand Stance



Anchoring the right hand and training it to remain relatively still while the fingers do the work is important for accuracy and good tone. Although the hand can move as a whole, either closer to the bridge or to the neck, the stance will remain mostly unchanged.

Of equal or perhaps greater importance, is that the thumb of the right hand be trained to be away from the index and the middle fingers. This allows each of the three digits of the right hand to have their own perpendicular space for a clean, unobstructed path to pluck the strings. If your thumb is always on the same perpendicular plane as the index finger, they will not be able to play adjacent strings (say the 3rd and 2nd) at the same time in the form of a pinch. This stance also helps the thumb to attack the strings so that the blade of the thumb pick strikes flat against the strings. This promotes good, clean tone.

<i>How long does it take an average person to learn to play the banjo?</i>				
<i>Average Hours it takes to learn to play the Banjo</i>		<i>How Many Minutes is that?</i>		
<i>2,000</i>		<i>120,000</i>		
<i>Average Daily Minutes of Practice</i>	<i>Days Per Week</i>	<i>Total Minutes of Practice per Week</i>	<i>Per Year Minutes Invested</i>	<i><u>Years</u> to Goal</i>
5	7	35	1,820	65.9
15	7	105	5,460	22
30	7	210	10,920	11
45	7	315	16,380	7.3
60	7	420	21,840	5.5
75	7	525	27,300	4.4
90	7	630	32,760	3.7
105	7	735	38,220	3.1
120	7	840	43,680	2.7
135	7	945	49,140	2.4
150	7	1050	54,600	2.2
165	7	1155	60,060	2
180	7	1260	65,520	1.8
195	7	1365	70,980	1.7
210	7	1470	76,440	1.6
225	7	1575	81,900	1.5
240	7	1680	87,360	1.4

Quality – not *necessarily* quantity

You are what you eat – and this means musically, too! Immersing in a steady stream of good music, played by professional musicians who are playing in time and with good taste is hugely important! A person in the beginner stages will most often have difficulty telling the difference between beginners, intermediate and professional level musicians, but I would like to encourage you to hang out with and

get exposure to live music as often as you can. Playing with other people is the only ... ONLY way to actually learn to play your banjo. Get the basics down, then go forth and pick! Jam, get together with friends who play or get to know other beginners and play with them. As soon as you can hang with better musicians – do it!

Always hang out with musicians who are better than you, not that you wouldn't hang out with people who aren't, but just like learning to cook or build a house – you want the best you can find to influence you, not necessarily someone who knows as little as you. This isn't much good for your ego, but it will gain you a lot of good experience!