

Fit for the Fiddler I: Fast & Easy Dulcimer Chords

Chord Finder

(Playing pattern with open dot at indicated bridge position will produce the chord in table)

TREBLE BRIDGE

BASS BRIDGE

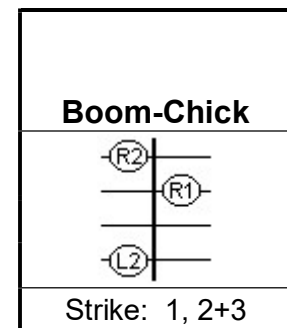
		right half kite	flat top triangle	right triangle	right half kite	flat top triangle	right triangle		
			G			C			
C	F	Dm	F		Gm	Bb		Bb	
		C	Em	Am	F	Am	Dm		
		Bm	D	G	Em	G	C		
G	C	Am	C		Dm	F		F	
		G	Bm	Em	C	Em	Am		
		F#m	A	D	Bm	D	G		
D	G	Em	G		Am	C		C	
		D	F#m	Bm	G	Bm	Em		
		C#m	E	A	F#m	A	D		
A	D	Bm	D		Em	G		G	
		A	C#m	F#m	D	F#m	Bm		
		G#m	B	E	C#m	E	A		
E	A							D	
		(1st inversion)		(2nd inversion)	(1st inversion)		(2nd inversion)		

Standard I-IV-V chord progressions for dulcimer-friendly keys:

(with accompanying minor chords)

key of:	I	IV	V	vi	ii	iii
D	D	G	A	Bm	Em	F#m
G	G	C	D	Em	Am	Bm
A	A	D	E	F#m	Bm	C#m
C	C	F	G	Am	Dm	Em
F	F	Bb	C	Dm	Gm	Am

Striking Chords:



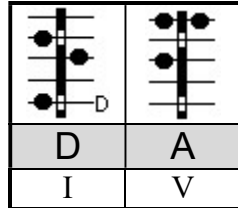
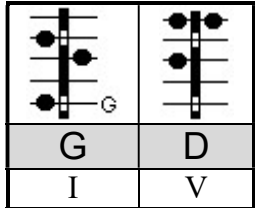
emphasize the CHICK - "snap" it!

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Using Chords in Tunes

Reel de Montreal

//: G G G G D D G G G G G G D D G G ://
 //: D D D D A A D D D D D D A A D D ://



Reel de Montreal

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No-Panic Chord Strategy

1. Look at key signature, then identify all the **I-IV-V** chords & their sequence(s)
2. Any related minor chords?
3. Any other chords? Find the closest/easiest place to play them (use the Chord Finder)

Fisher's Hornpipe

//: D G D G D G D A D G D G D A D D ://
 //: A A D D A A E A G G D D G A D D ://

D	G	D	G	D	G	D	A	D	G	A	D
I	IV	I	IV	I	IV	I	V	I	IV	V	I

repeat 1st 4 chords

A	D	A	E	A	G	D	G	A	D
V	I	V	II	V	IV	I	IV	V	I

Other Common Progressions

1) Addition of a minor vi (6th) chord

G	Em	C	D
I	vi	IV	V

Lady of the Lake (G)	G G Em Em	C C D D	G G Em Em	C C D G
Colored Aristocracy (G)	G G G G	Em..Em	C C G G	A A D D
Flowers of Edinburgh (G)				
B part:	G G D D	C C Em Em	G G C C	G D G G
Temperance Reel (G)	//: G G G G	Em Em D D	G G G G	Em Em D G ://
	//: Em..Em	G G G G	Em..Em	EmEm D G ://
Spootiskerry (G)	G G G D	G Em C D	G G G G	C Am D G

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2) Addition of a minor ii (2nd) chord

D	Em	A
I	ii	V

Swinging on a Gate (G)	G G AmAm	G G D D	G G AmAm	AmAm D G
St. Anne's Reel B part (D)	D D G Em	A A D D	D D G Em	A A D D
Galopede (G)	G D G G	AmAm D D	G D G G	Am D G G
Big John McNeil (A)	A A A A	A A Bm E	A A A A	A D E A
Mason's Apron (A)	A A A A	BmBmBmBm	A A A A	D Bm E A

3) Modal (flatted) 7th

D	C	G	A
I	VII b	IV	V

Over the Waterfall (D)	D A D D	D A D D	D A D D	C C G G
LaBastrange B part (D)	D D C C	D D A D	D D C C	D D A D
Cuckoo's Nest (D)	D D D D	C C C C	D D D G	D A D D
Top of the Hill (A)	A A A A	G G G G	A A A A	E E A A

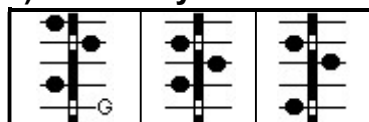
4) Minor key (simple)

Am	G
ii	I

Growling Old Man and Grumbling Old Woman (Am)	AmAm G G	AmAm G Am	AmAm G G	AmAm G Am
Swallowtail Reel (Am)	AmAmAmAm	G G G G	AmAmAmAm	G G Am Am
Old Grey Cat (Em)	EmEmEmEm	D D D D	EmEmEmEm	D B Em Em

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5) Minor key with ii & vi (2nd & 6th minor) chords

		
Am	Em	G
ii	vi	I

Tenpenny Bit (Am)

Swallowtail Jig B part (Em)

Rory O'More B part (F#m)

AmAmEmEm

EmEmEmEm

F#mF#mBmF#m

AmAm G G

D D D D

F#mF#m E E ...

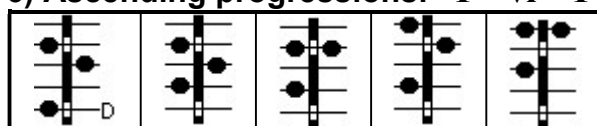
AmAmEmEm

EmEmEmEm

G G Am Am

Bm D Em Em

6) Ascending progressions: I – vi – IV – ii -V (1-6-4-2-5)

				
D	Bm	G	Em	A
G	Em	C	Am	D
I	vi	IV	ii	V

Paddy on the Railroad (D)

D D D D

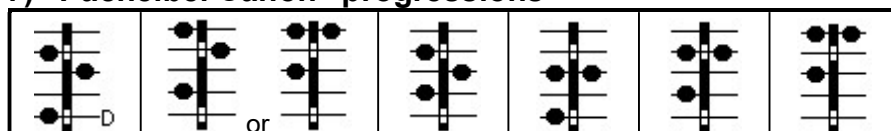
D BmEm A

D D D D

D DA D D

Ascending “vamp” progression: I - ii - iii - IV - V

7) “Pachelbel Canon” progressions

					
D	Em or A	Bm	F#m	G	A
I	ii or V	vi	iii	IV	V

Top of Cork Road B part (D)

D D A A

BmBmF#mF#m

G G D D

G A D D

Bouchard's Hornpipe (D)

//: D G A D

EmEmA A

G G D D

G A D D ://

//: D D EmEm

BmBmF#mF#m

G Em D D

G A D D ://

Pachelbel's Canon (D)

D A Bm F#m G D G A

Other Suggestions:

- ♦ play "on-the beat", not after it!
- ♦ Don't have all 3 notes? – play flammed 2 note pseudo-chord (often for B chord)
- ♦ Just play dragged 1st and 3rd notes together for emphasis (Joys of Quebec)

Other chording resources:

- Captain Fiddle chord books - www.captainfiddle.com/chordencyclop.html
- The Hammered Dulcimer A-Chording to Lucille Reilly - www.dulcimerlady.com