

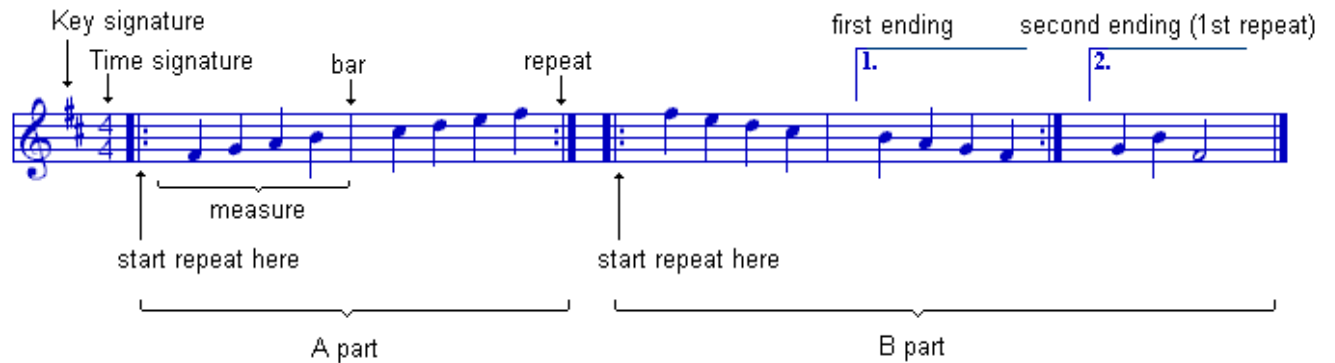
Goals

- learning by yourself from music notation
- playing fluidly from memory

Elements of a learning/playing a tune






- determine where to begin playing
- rhythm (timing of each note and groups of notes)
- find the melody notes on the dulcimer (which courses to hit)
- which hand to use for each note (hint: use rhythm)

Music Notation

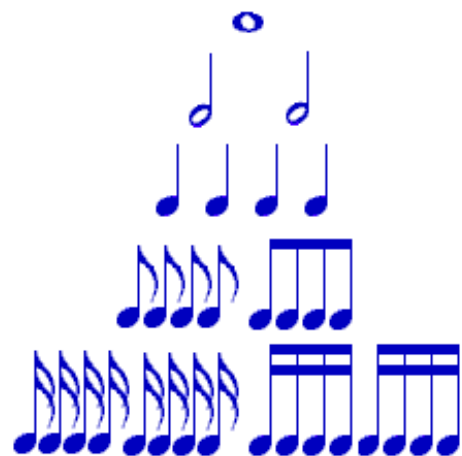


- music staff lines = E G B D F (Every Good Boy Deserves a Favor)

Note Timing Basics:

Name	Note	4/4 Count
Whole note		4 beats
Half note		2 beats
Quarter note		1 beat
Eighth note		1/2 beat
Sixteenth note		1/4 beat


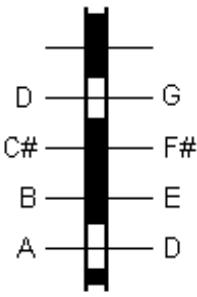
Equal Time Pyramid:








Key Signature

- determines where on the dulcimer the notes will be found

Key of D

Popular keys for the Hammered Dulcimer (in order of popularity):




Key Signature	Major Key	Minor Key	Comments
	D	Bm	
	G	Em	
	A	F#m	usually not playable on 11/12 instruments
	C	Am	
	F	Dm	bass bridge only

Time Signature

4 = Beats per measure

4 = Note value that receives 1 beat

Popular time signatures for traditional music:

Time Signature	Music Pulse (accented beat(s) underlined)	Beats per Measure	Used for:
4 / 4		4	Reels, Marches, Hornpipes, Set Dances
3 / 4		3	Waltzes
6 / 8		6	Jigs

Rhythm

- play the rhythm on your legs
- determines which hand for which notes
- accent 1st beat of each measure - use/lead with your strong hand

Figuring out which bridge and courses/notes to play

- 1) ignore the octave - use the key signature!
- 2) avoid hand crosses
- 3) the easiest transition to the next note or hand
- 4) play horizontally if easier

Learning tips

- use music to find notes on the dulcimer, then memorize visual / hammering patterns - look at the dulcimer
- look for repeating / similar phrases
- recognize patterns from other songs you know
- work slowly, increase speed only after you can play it well slowly
- if too many mistakes, slow down until you've "got it"
- the more you learn the faster learning will become

Jigs

R=right, L=left hand

Tr = Treble bridge, right side
Tl = Treble bridge, left side
B = Bass bridge

Hullichan's (G)

Tr Tl Tr Tl Tr Tl

R L R | L R L R L R | L R L L L

Off She Goes (D)

Tr Tl Tr

R R | L L R L R | L L R R | L L R L R | L

Jefferson and Liberty (Am)

Tr B Tr

R R | L R L R R | L R L

Memorization hints

- memorize visual patterns
- small parts at a time
- tackle a phrase at a time, then play it with the phrases already learned
- repetition - over time (10 minutes/day...)
- use muscle memory - relax!

Arranging

- learn melody & rhythm first
- then add embellishments