

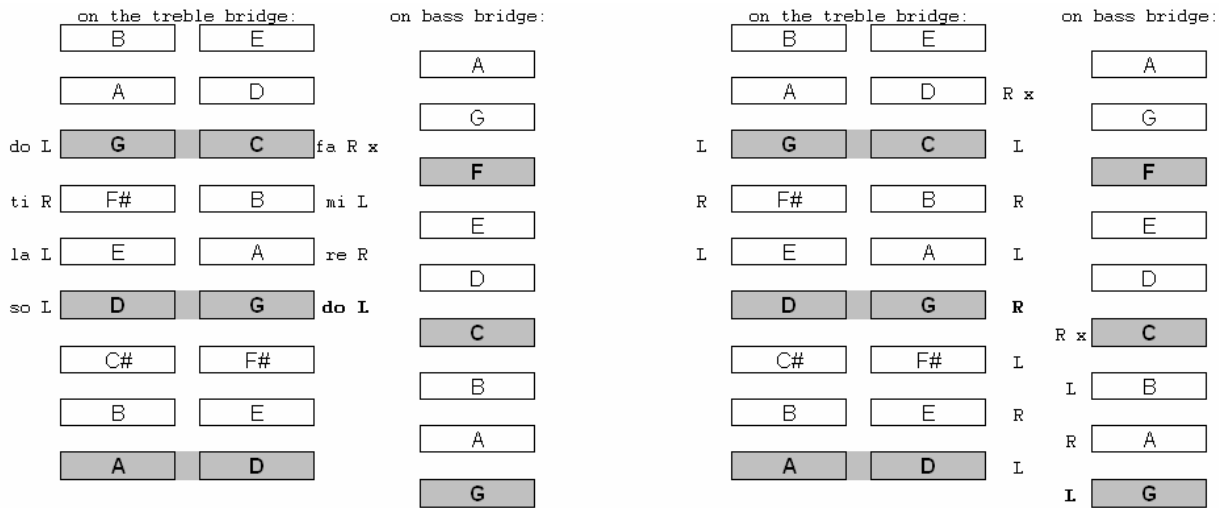
Mapping the Dulcimer with Scales and Chords

Introduction

In this workshop we will discuss the basic map of the hammered dulcimer. The dulcimer is a relatively easy instrument to play because of the repeated notes throughout the soundboard. The trick to playing smoothly is to primarily use alternating left and right hand patterns and understanding where to find the best crossover points over the bridges.

Learning the Four – Four (4-4) and Five –Three (5-3) Patterns

The example below left shows a basic four on one side four on the other side figure (4 – 4.) Start with the left hand on any “marked” note. The example below shows the **Key of G**, but this basic pattern will also work in the key of D, the Key of C, the Key of F and on bigger dulcimer the Key of A; As long as you start on a marked note. A five on one side and three on the other side pattern uses the same “notes” but we start with the right hand and crossover from the D to the E. This will require a demonstration. The example on the right shows a two octave scale that starts in the lower octave with a 4 – 4 pattern and transitions into a 5- 3 pattern in the upper octave.



Basic 4 - 4 figure single octave scale – Start L
Note crossover point from C to D

Two octave scale: 4 – 4 Lower octave; 5 – 3 upper octave
Note: 5 – 3 crossover point from D to E

Exercises:

Single Octave Scale

- 4 – 4: Start → L on the treble bridge low G - Crossover point C to D
 - 5 – 3: Start → R on the treble bridge low G - Crossover point D to E
- Play up and down the scale with out repeating the top or bottom note

Double Octave Scale

- 4 – 4 into 5 - 3: Start → L on the bass bridge low G - Continuous two octave scale; watch the crossover points
- 5 – 3 into 4 - 4: Start → R on the bass bridge low G

Basic Arpeggio Scale Exercise: Intervals one – three – five – eight (one)

- 2 – 2 into 3 - 1: Start → L on the treble bridge low G
- 5 – 3 into 2 - 2: Start → R on the treble bridge low G

More Advanced:

- I-IV-V Exercise single Low Octave** Key of G: use the chords C to G to D
- Start –L (Bass bridge)
- Start - R (bass bridge)

- I-IV-V Exercise Double Octave** Key of G: use the chords C to G to D
- Start – L (Bass bridge)
- Start – R (bass bridge)

About The Author

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Since the age of fifteen Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles. Folk instruments are where the heart is.

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group "DayBreak," which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including "Lost Cave" which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, "Little Steps", and "Autumn Calling," which features many of Cliff's original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD's one named "Unity; Unique Music for Christmas" and a live Holiday concert recorded in December of 2002.

DayBreak's music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff also sometimes plays gigs with his lovely daughter, Emily Rose under the name of "Glass Roses". Emily has a strong, beautiful voice, which blends nicely with the dulcimer and guitar. They released a CD named Falling Wings. The CD feature's Emily's voice and some of her original tunes. Emily is now off to college (Mansfield University) and doesn't have as much time to play gigs with her dad.

Cliff's hammered dulcimer was made by James Jones. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site: <http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a computer hardware test engineer for the Q-Logic Corporation, which is located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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This document can be downloaded from: <http://www.daybreakfolk.com/CliffCole.htm>