



The Care and Feeding of Your Hammered Dulcimer

Topics:

1. Tuning Tips
2. Keeping it in tune
3. How to clean the hard to get places
4. Fixing a broken String

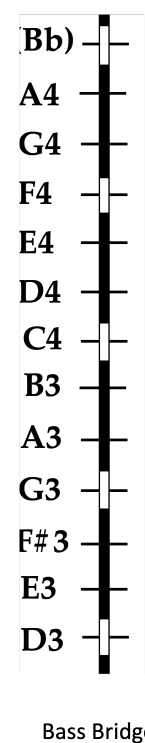
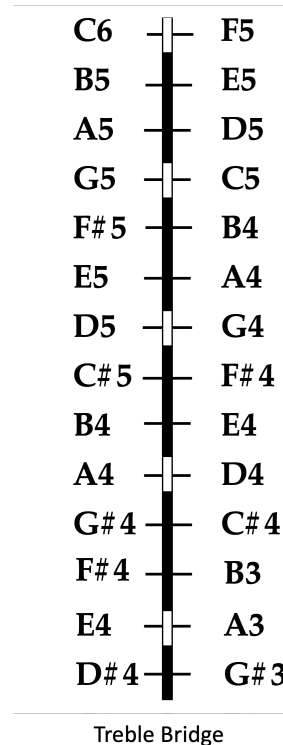
This material and other workshops are available on
 “Cliff’s Dulcimer Page”

<http://daybreakfolk.com/cliffs-hammered-dulcimer/>
cliffcole@daybreakfolk.com

Also, Please Visit: Tachyonmetry.com

Tuning Tips

- Use an electronic tuner
 - Korg CA-1 is suggested
 - Clip on pickups helps in noisy environs
 - Guitar tuners don’t work as well on HD
- Always tune a note up to the pitch
- On treble bridge tune the lower note first, then the fifth note on left
- Match the two strings
- Start on the bottom treble bridge
- Move up one course at a time
- Tune the correct string...
- Tune bass notes from top to bottom



Korg CA-1 or CA-2



Clip on Pickup



Cliff prefers “T” Tuning wrenches

How to keep it in tune? (Good luck 😊)

- Cover it when not in use! Thick Towel
- Keep it away from heat and the sun
 - In the winter away from wood heat
- Keep in case for longer periods of non use



Nix to canned air; bad for the environment



Ted Yoder' Fuzzy floss dulcimer cleaner
<https://tedyodermusic.com/products/fuzzyfloss?variant=37260455873>



OTAO Electric Cordless Compressed Air Duster
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B6FNFLSD?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details

Microfiber Detail Duster Sticks
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09FYWG3HC?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details&th=1

Cleaning your dulcimer

- They call it “dusty strings” for a reason...
- These are a few products that can help you clean those hard to get places
- Don't use wood cleaners like Pledge
- Accept that it is hard to keep clean...
 - Dust does not affect the sound ☺

Tips for Fixing a Broken String

- Carry spare strings and a tuning chart with a string gauge
- Carefully remove broken string and properly discard
- Remember to loosen the tuning peg (“zither pin”)
 - The amount to loosen depends on the thickness of string
- Having somebody to help you is good
- Make sure you feed the string correctly
- Don't cross over another string
- Allow slack but keep it taught when tightening
 - Use “3 finger” rule (different for all strings)
 - This is the tricky part, its takes practice

Cliff recommends using steel strings; PB strings break more

Places to purchase strings:

Dusty Strings:

<https://manufacturing.dustystings.com/hammered-dulcimers/strings>

Just Strings: Harder to order from, they have everything
<https://juststrings.com/>

Great Video by Dan Landrum: Changing an HD String

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj0kv8ExUZw>

Cliff Cole

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