

Understanding Hammer Dulcimer Tablature (rev 2019)

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HD Type: "12/11"
(12 treble, 11 bass
courses of strings)

These pages are an overview intended to help you to understand hammer dulcimer tablature and some basic music theory (melody & rhythm).

The diagram illustrates the mapping between standard musical notation and hammer dulcimer tablature across three string lines:

- Top line:** HIGH strings on HD (top line). It is labeled "standard musical notation".
- Middle line:** MIDDLE strings on HD (middle line). It is labeled "Hammer dulcimer tablature".
- Bottom line:** BASS strings on HD (bottom line).

The diagram shows a treble clef on the top line, a common time signature, and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tablature lines are empty, indicating that the notes on the top line correspond to the string numbers on the bottom two lines.

Common keys and their scales on HD

"D Major" scale

The D Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are: d, e, f#, g, a, b, c#, d. The corresponding string numbers for the hammer dulcimer are: 2, 3, 4, 5, 2, 3, 4, 5.

"G Major" scale

The G Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: g, a, b, c, d, e, f#, g. The corresponding string numbers for the hammer dulcimer are: 5, 6, 7, 8, 5, 6, 7, 8.

"A Major" scale

The A Major scale is shown on a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are: a, b, c#, d, e, f#, g#, a. The corresponding string numbers for the hammer dulcimer are: 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2.