

Beginning
Mandolin
Instruction Course



with Audio Tracks, Tablature
and Chord Diagrams

by Bradley Laird

www.bradleylaird.com

MANDOLIN INSTRUCTION COURSE

Lessons for Beginning Mandolin Students

Written and Illustrated by Brad Laird

©2003, Revised 2014

www.bradleylaird.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON 1 - Getting Started	3	Exercise 15-C	21
Parts of the Mandolin.	3	Exercise 15 - D - <i>Sally Goodin</i>	22
Introduction	4	Practice Tips	22
Included Metronome Tracks	5	LESSON 6 - Basic Chords & Backup	23
Supplements to this Course	5	How Chords Are Created.	23
How to Hold the Mandolin	6	The A Major Chord.	24
How to Hold the Pick	6	Basic Bluegrass Backup	25
About the Mandolin and the Strings	7	The A Major & D Major Chord	25
Layout of the Frets.	8	Moving Chord Shapes	26
How to Tune the Mandolin.	9	What Is The Offbeat?	27
The Tuning Track.	9	Playing Offbeats	28
Electronic Tuning Machines.	9	Some Real World Information	28
Unisons	9	Tips for Chopping Chords	29
LESSON 2 - Reading Tablature & Basics	10	Rhythm Tips.	29
Exercise 1 - Quarter Notes	10	LESSON 7 - How to Practice Effectively	30
Exercise 2 - 8th Notes	11	The Metronome - The Cruel Master	32
Exercise 3 - Steady 8th Notes	11	Metronome Settings for Practice	33
Exercise 4 - String Changing.	11	LESSON 8 - A New Tune	34
Exercise 5 - Combining Quarters & 8ths	12	<i>Old Joe Clark</i>	34
Exercise 6 - Rests	12	Chords Used in the Key of A	35
Exercise 7 - Repeat Signs.	13	Small Hands Chords for Old Joe Clark	36
Exercise 8 - First and Second Endings	14	LESSON 9 - Logic of the Mandolin	37
LESSON 3 - Fretted Notes	15	A, D & G Major Scale	37
Exercise 9 - Fretted Notes.	15	D & D# Major Scale	37
Exercise 10 - Names of the Natural Notes	16	Transposing.	38
Exercise 11 - Flats and Sharps	16	<i>Boil 'Em Cabbage Down in A</i>	38
Chromatic Scale	17	<i>Boil 'Em Cabbage Down in Bb</i>	38
Tablature -vs- Standard Notation.	18	<i>Whiskey Before Breakfast in D</i>	39
LESSON 4 - First Song	19	Transposition Exercise	39
Ex. 12 - <i>Easy Boil 'Em Cabbage Down</i>	19	Chords for Whiskey Before Breakfast	40
Ex. 13 - <i>Intermediate Boil 'Em Cabbage</i>	20	LESSON 10 - More Tunes	41
Ex. 14 - <i>Boil 'Em with Double Stops</i>	20	<i>Long Island Train</i>	41
LESSON 5 - Exercises & Sally Goodin	21	<i>Salt Creek</i>	42
Exercises in the Key of A.	21	Closing Thoughts.	43
Exercise 15-A	21		
Exercise 15-B	21		