

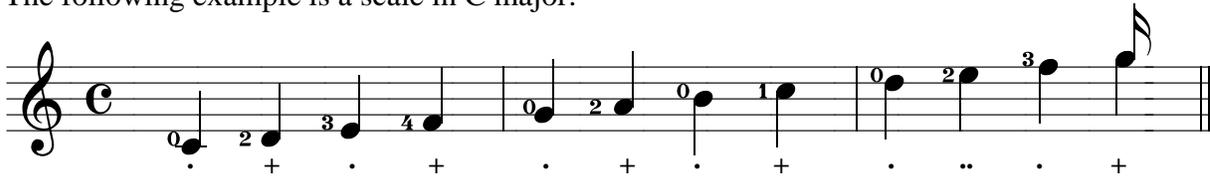
A Brief Primer on Classic Banjo Music Notation

For those of you unacquainted with music notation for the Classic Banjo style, the following should assist you in deciphering the scores presented in this web site.

Left Hand Fingering - Numbers adjacent to the notes indicate which left hand fingers are to be used to fret the notes. The numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 represent the first finger, second finger, third finger, and fourth finger, respectively. Generally, left hand fingering is only shown for difficult passages, or chords in upper positions, the first time the passage, or chord, is played.

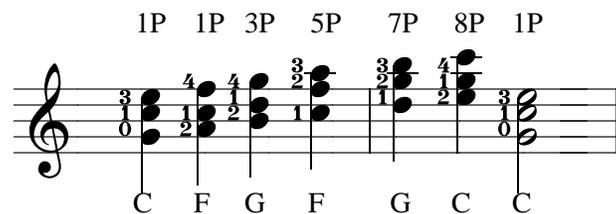
Right Hand Fingering - Right hand fingering is generally shown below the note to be played. The symbols "+", ".", "..", and "..." represent the thumb, first finger, second finger, and third finger, respectively. Generally, right hand fingering is only shown for difficult passages the first time it is played.

The following example is a scale in C major:



In this example you will note that the "G" note in the last measure has an additional flag attached to it. This indicates the note should be played on the 5th string.

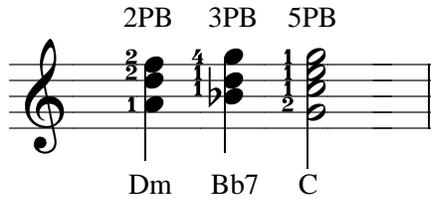
Position means the fret where the first finger of the left hand is placed. Position marks are placed above the staff and they appear as the letter "P" preceded by the fret number where the index finger is placed.



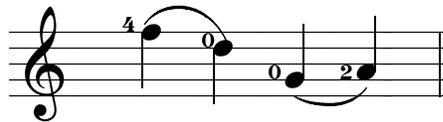
Barre occurs when the index finger simultaneously frets two or more strings. Barre marks are placed above the staff and they appear as the letter "B" preceded by the fret number where the index finger is placed.



A Position Barre occurs when two or more notes of a chord are fretted with one finger while other notes are fretted with other fingers. Position Barre marks are placed above the staff and they appear as the letters "PB" preceded by the fret number where the index finger is placed.

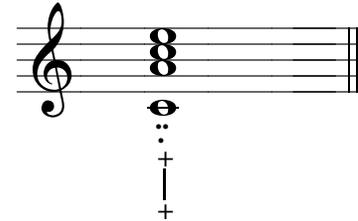


Both the snap (pull-off) and slur (hammer-on) are indicated by a curved line either above or below the notes.

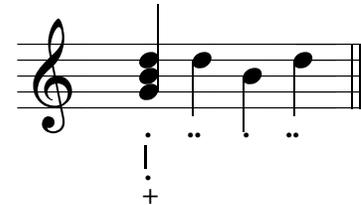


Examples of: Snap & Slur

The thumb glide occurs when the thumb strikes the fourth string followed by the third string in one fluid motion. In the music it is shown as:



The pinch is used to execute three string chords. The thumb strikes the third string while the index finger strikes the first string followed by the second string in a single fluid motion. In the music it is shown as:



The rasp or drum slide is noted by "Rasp" or "Dr. Sl." above the chord. The effect is produced by first lightly clenching the fingers of the right hand and then opening them in quick succession such that the backs of the finger nails strike the strings in this order: 4, 3, 2, 1.