

First Notes

Here is a simple exercise to help you to get to know the first four notes on each string. Each exercise gives the musical notation with the tablature underneath. Practise these a few times playing down-strokes only for the moment. When you are comfortable with this try to play them using alternating down and upstrokes. This co-ordination will be necessary in the faster dance tunes later on. Remember to start slowly at first.

E STRING

Ex2.

0 2 3 5 3 2 0

A STRING

Ex3.

0 2 4 5 4 2 0

D STRING

Ex4.

0 2 4 5 4 2 0

G STRING

Ex5.

0 2 4 5 4 2 0

THE D SCALE

A major scale is a series of eight notes with semitones (half tones) placed between the third and fourth, seventh and eighth degrees of the scale. Below is an example of a D major scale. For the moment play every note with a down-stroke.

Ex6.

0 2 4 5 0 2 4 5

EX. 7.

The musical score for Molly Malone is presented in six systems. Each system includes a guitar fretboard diagram and a musical staff. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first five systems are in 4/4 time, and the sixth system is in 3/4 time. The fretboard diagrams show fingerings for the right hand, and the musical staves show the melody.

Here is a simple Dublin ballad to start with in the key of D.
It is played entirely on the E and A strings and doesn't
involve much string crossing.

Molly Malone