

BANJO CHORDS

CHORDS FOR COMMON KEYS

OPEN G TUNING • G-DGBD

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NOTES ABOUT THE CHORD CHART FOR COMMON KEYS:

This chord chart provides the most common banjo chords used for each of the natural (non sharp or flat) keys.

All chords are written to be played within the first 5 frets, and the top line of each chord diagram is the first fret for all chords.

○ within a chord indicates that chord may be played with or without that fretted note.

○ on the 5th string indicates the 5th string may be played as part of that chord.

NOTES ABOUT THE TUNING:

Open G tuning is used.

Chart A shows the notes for each string. The third string G is pitched the same as the G below middle C on a piano; the fifth string G is pitched the same as the G above middle C

Chart B shows how to tune a banjo in open G using the first string as the primary string, and then tuning the other strings to match it. Steps are as follows:

1. Second string, 3rd fret, tunes to first string, open (unfretted)
2. Third string, 4th fret, tunes to second string, open (unfretted)
3. Fourth string, 5th fret, tunes to third string, open (unfretted)
4. Fifth string, open (unfretted), tunes to first string, 5th fret

