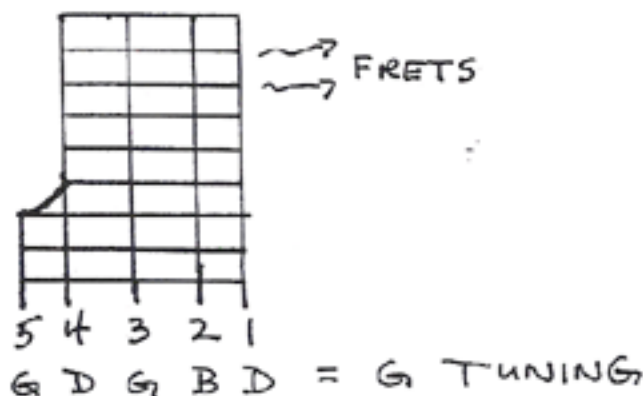


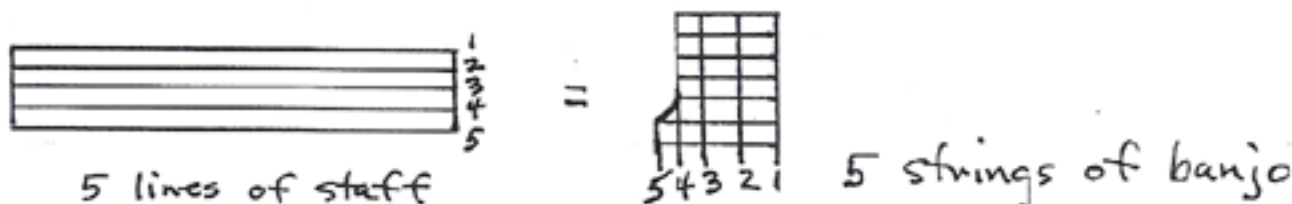
BEGINNING BLUEGRASS BANJO

The purpose of this information sheet is to give you a general idea about how to begin learning about the banjo and how to play it. It includes tuning, reading banjo tablature, left and right hand development, how to practice and suggested resource materials.

TUNING: The most common tuning for the 5 string banjo is "open G tuning," whereby the instrument is tuned to a G chord. The diagram below indicates to what note each string is tuned. Note that the short string is the fifth string, not the first string. When tuning the banjo to a piano, the first string D note is the D next to middle C. The second, third and fourth strings of the banjo are the same as those same strings of the guitar (B, G and D). The fifth string is a G note one octave higher than the third string G note. Other tunings used in bluegrass music are open D tuning, C tuning, D minor tuning and G modal tuning.



HOW TO READ BANJO TABLATURE: The most important thing to remember is that the five lines of the staff (the lines across music composition paper) are the same as the five strings of the banjo turned on its side:



An "0" above a line of the staff means the string is played open (not fingered). A number above a staff line indicates at what fret the string is to be fingered. Some tablature includes right hand fingering, usually written below the staff: T = thumb, I = index finger, M = middle finger. Banjo tablature also indicates various left hand techniques: SL = slide, usually from one fret to another; P = pull-off or push-off; H = hammer-on.