

Moveable Chords

Root on the G string:

Diagram showing four chords (G, A, B, C) with their root on the G string. Each chord is represented by a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings and a corresponding musical staff. The fret numbers are: G (3, 5), A (3, 5), B (5, 7), and C (5, 7, 9).

Diagram showing four chords (D, E, F, G) with their root on the G string. Each chord is represented by a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings and a corresponding musical staff. The fret numbers are: D (7, 9), E (9, 12), F (12), and G (12).

Root on the D string:

Diagram showing four chords (D, E, F, G) with their root on the D string. Each chord is represented by a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings and a corresponding musical staff. The fret numbers are: D (3, 5), E (3, 5), F (3, 5, 7), and G (5, 7, 9).

Diagram showing four chords (A, B, C, D) with their root on the D string. Each chord is represented by a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings and a corresponding musical staff. The fret numbers are: A (7, 9), B (9, 12), C (12), and D (12).

Moveable Chords

17 Root on the A string:

C	D	E	F	G	A
3 5	3 5	5 7	5 7 9	7 9	9 12
3 2 0	5 4 2	7 6 4	8 7 5	10 9 7	12 11 9

Root on the E string:

G	A	B	C	D	E
3 5	3 5	5 7	5 7 9	7 9	9 12
3 2 0	5 4 2	7 6 4	8 7 5	10 9 7	12 11 9

29 Bluegrass chop chord 1 (root on the E string):

G	A	B	C	D	E
3 5 7	5 7 9	7 9	7 9 12	9 12	12
3 2 5 7	5 4 7 9	7 6 9 11	8 7 10 12	10 9 12 14	12 11 14 16

35 Bluegrass chop chord 2 (root on the A string with no 5th):

C	D	E	F	G	A
3 5	5 7	7 9	7 9	9 12	12
3 2 5	5 4 7	7 6 9	8 7 10	10 9 12	12 11 14

BEGINNER MANDOLIN PRACTICE PLAN – 30 MINUTES

Skill/Technique: 10 min

Right and Left Hand Management- Pick coordination
Left hand strength building and stretching and relaxation
RH Open strings, finger exercises, and building a good clear tone

Playing:

Play through a few of the melodies that you already know 5 min.

Take a quick look at the new piece that you are beginning to learn 5 min

Jammin:

Play some simple open chord songs and sing nice and loud 10min
to loosen up that right arm and feel the groove. Play to some
backing tracks.

As a beginner Mandolin player, never pass up a chance to get your hands on the instrument. Try having a place in your house which is always the same where the instrument is already out of the case and ready to play (either on the wall or on an instrument stand.) It should be calling to you as you walk past it.

Have all the things that you need for your practice time always set up and 'at the ready'. Your chair, music stand, metronome, computer, pencils, books, recording devise. (Whatever you use.) That way there is no set up time. Just walk by and if you only have 30 min., you can sit down and PLAY just for a few moments.

Your **goal** with each practice session should be to get your fingers into shape, play something musical, work on a new piece of music and work on your rhythm and tone.

We build these techniques in very small steps over long periods of time.

What you learn and master now will serve your playing well for many years to come not matter how small the development.

INTERMEDIATE MANDOLIN PRACTICE PLAN – 30 Min. PLAN

Skill/Technique:

5 min

Right and Left Hand Management- Pick coordination
Left hand strength building and stretching and relaxation
RH Open strings, finger exercises, and building a good clear tone
Just feel your instrument. Say hello to it in the most basic of ways.
See how things are working. Are the two hands really lining up?

Slow things WAY down as a way of getting connected to your instrument then gradually work the tempo up but not beyond what you can do.

5 min

Playing:

10 min

Play through a few of the melodies that you already know well
Play what you learned recently and see if you can remember it.

Tone:

5 min

Go for a good clear big sound. Spend some time thinking about your overall sound. Try some different pick angles and pressures. Play at some different dynamic levels. Do some tremolo work.

Jammin:

5 min

Play through some rhythm patterns. Open chords and chops to loosen up that right arm and get a good groove going. Play with some backing tracks.

As an Intermediate Mandolin player, you already know a few tunes. Maybe you are working up a solo for a vocal tune in your band and you are looking for some ideas for some improvisation.

Never pass up a chance to get your hands on the instrument. Try having a place in your house which is always the same, where the instrument is already out of the case and ready to play (either on the wall or on an instrument stand.)
It should be calling to you as you walk past it.

Have a white board with a list of plans, tunes you want to learn, Some keys that need extra work or some chordal concepts and theory that is unclear to you, and general concepts that need a bit of bolstering. Just reading it everyday will help remind you of what your long-term goals are.

Have all the things that you need for your practice time always set up and 'at the ready'. Your chair, music stand, metronome, computer, pencils, books, recording

devise. (Whatever you use.) That way there is no 'set up time' wasted. Just walk by and if you only have 15 min., you can sit down and PLAY just for a that short time.

Your **goal** with each practice session should be to get your hands on the instrument, play something that you already know as well as something new that you are just at the beginning of learning. Always think about your tone and whether you are playing through both pairs of strings and getting the fullest sound that you can from your instrument.

Build these techniques in very small steps over long periods of time. What you learn and master now will serve your playing well for many years to come not matter how small the development.

LEARNING A NEW TUNE

Here is a brief outline of how to go about learning a new tune. I've broken it into 15, 30 and 60 min. practice session times.

Learning a New Tune (15 min.)

LISTENING SESSION 5 min

You only have enough time to take a brief look at this tune so the most important thing is to get it in your head.

MENTAL IMAGINING: 5 min.

Give it a listen. Look at the sheet music (if you are using it).

Trying singing the melody along with the recording.

Without even holding your mandolin, strum the basic groove to the tune on your leg pretending you are strumming the mandolin. Just feel it in your body and understand the shapes of the melodies and the basic rhythm first.

LEARNING THE CHORDS 5min.

Next learn the chords to the tune and strum a basic rhythm pattern so that you get a feeling for where the chords change and the basic shape of the tune. The A part and B part. Don't worry if you only master a tiny piece of the tune at this point

LEARNING THE MELODY: Just the first few notes 5 min.

Then try to find the first few notes. You'll be coming back soon to learn the next piece so don't worry at all if you only get a couple of bars. Try to memorize this tiny little section if you can. Lift your head from the music after one bar and see if you can remember it. Then do two bars and try looking away and playing those without the music.

The key here is to not go too quickly and learn something wrong that gets stuck. Better to learn a tiny snippet correctly than to try to go for the whole piece and miss some critical details.

Learning a New Tune (30 min.)

First listen to the tune. Look at the sheet music (if you are using it). Getting it in your head is the key here. Perhaps singing along. Tap out the rhythms on your mando (or leg) but don't worry about where the notes are. Just feel it in your body and understand the shapes of the melodies and the rhythms first. **5 min.**

Now learn the chords to the tune and play along with Mike's melody at a very

slow tempo.

10 min.

Then try to find the first few notes on your instrument

Think about the pick directions and the string crossing moments based on the rhythms of the melody

15 min

If you only have gotten a little piece of the tune under your fingers, that's fine. You'll be coming back tomorrow or in a few days and building on what you have learned (The key here is to not go too quickly and learn something wrong that gets stuck).

Learning a New Tune (60 min.)

First listen to the tune. Look at the sheet music (if you are using it). Getting it in your head is the key here. Perhaps singing along. Tap out the rhythms on your mando (or leg) but don't worry about where the notes are. Just feel it in your body and understand the shapes of the melodies and the rhythms first.

10 min.

Now learn the chords to the tune and play along with Mike's melody at a very slow tempo then work the tempo up a bit till you are just at your edge. **10 min.**

Then try to find the first few notes on your instrument

Think about the pick directions and the string crossing moments based on the rhythms of the melody.

15 min

The A section:

10 min

Try to master that A section and just repeat it as many times as you wish till you think it is very solid

Play with metronome at a slow tempo and then gradually increase it till it is just at your edge.

The B/A sections:

15 min

Next work only on the B section. Do as above till it feels really comfortable.

Now go back to the A section (try to remember it) and then bring the A and B together. Play with Mike's backing track as a slow tempo then try to faster ones but only go ahead if you are still hitting all the notes.

If you only have gotten a little piece of the tune under your fingers that's absolutely fine. You'll be coming back tomorrow or in a few days and building on what you have learned (The key here is to not go too quickly and learn something wrong that gets stuck). If your time is up and you only have ½ of the A section mastered. That's ok . We'll be back tomorrow.