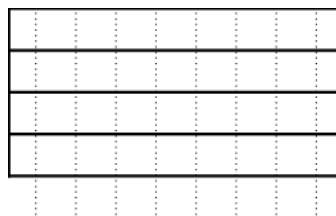
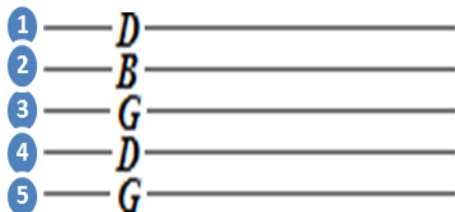




How to Read Banjo Tablature

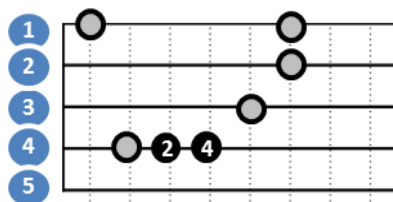
Banjo Tablature is what banjo music looks like when its written down. Not overly complicated, once you figure out what your looking at. It uses staff lines to indicate the five strings, and numbers on those staff lines to indicate the fret each string is played on during the song. Banjo tablature is written on a 5-line staff with each line representing a string on the banjo.

The bottom line corresponds to the high G string or fifth string (top string as your holding) and continues through to the top line which represents the high D string or first string (bottom string as your holding), as the strings count from the bottom to the top as your holding it. See the example below:

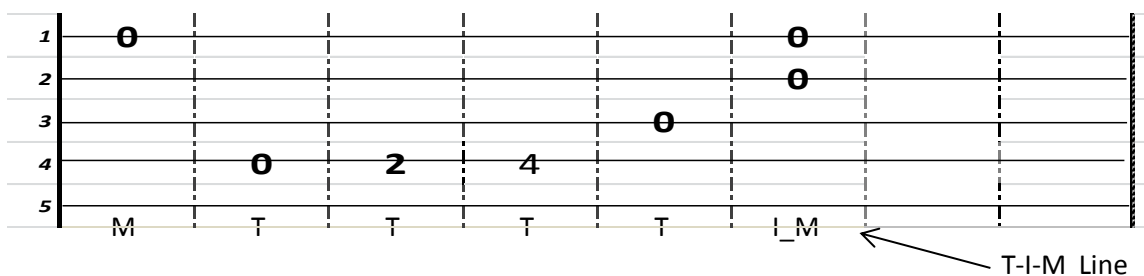


Notice that I use dotted lines to show the pick count per frame.

Numbers are placed on the tab's string staff to indicate frets. In the example below, the first number is a "0", indicating that no fret on the first string (bottom) should be played. This is considered an OPEN lick. Stacked numbers mean that you should play all of the specified notes at the same time. For example, the tablature below is for an open G major chord, striking the first and second sting at the same time open:



This shows a lick using six counts.



Right Hand Finger ID

T THUMB

I INDEX

M MIDDLE

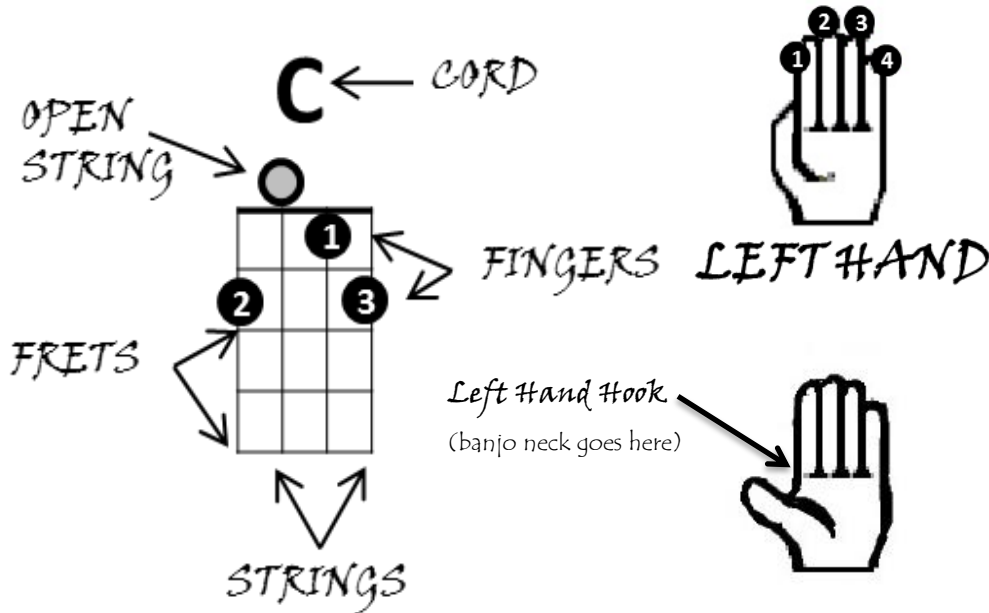
The bottom line of MOST tablature is called the TIM line. This tells you which fingers on the right hand to use for playing the tab.



How to Read Banjo Chord Charts

Banjo chord diagrams are a simple way of representing a specific chord voicing. They consist of a grid with vertical and horizontal lines. These lines correspond to the strings and frets on the banjo. Symbols are added to the diagram to indicate which strings and frets are played, which fingering to use, and the name of the chord.

A chord diagram is shown below with each part labeled:



Chord symbol: indicates the root and type of chord.

Vertical lines: represent the strings of the banjo. Starting with the leftmost line, the lines represent the strings in the following order: low D string, G string, B string, high D string

Horizontal lines: horizontal lines represent frets. If the top line is thick, the diagram starts at the nut of the banjo. If the top line is the same thickness as other lines, a number plus the abbreviation 'fr' will be placed at the top right side of the diagram to indicate the fret where the chord occurs.

Dots: indicate which notes are fretted. Dots are placed on the string and fret where each note occurs.

Circles: placed at the top of the diagram to indicate an open string (i.e., a string that is played, but not fretted).

Fingering: numbers are placed in dots to indicate fingering.

Numbers 1-4 are used to specify which fingers are used:

- 1 indicates the index finger
- 2 indicates the middle finger
- 3 indicates the ring finger
- 4 indicates the pinky



How to Read Buck's Banjo Tablature

Left Hand			1	3				
1	0					0		
2						0		
3					0			
4		0	2	4				
5								
T-I-M	I	T	T	T	T	I_M		
Pickout	1	4	4	4	3	1_2		

As you can see, the five string staff lines are here, and the tablature is also the same. however, I don't believe that tabs are meant for beginner students. You have enough to worry about without wondering if you are reading the tab properly. But I do think that with the proper instruction, tabs can be your friend for sure. So I have added a few rows to my training tab for that purpose.

First, you will notice the grey line above the tab. This line indicates you left hand finger assignments as they are played according to the tab. Next you'll see two tan lines below the tab. The top row is the TIM line, indicating witch finger on the right hand is used to strike that string. And finally the bottom grey line will simply show the pick out strings for the tune for practicing the right hand functions as they are needed...

Anyway you slice it, every banjo song played has four different sets of numbers to keep track of. This is not really possible that I know of, so we need to build these muscles individually first, then work on combining them together to for a complete muscle memory of the tune till we no longer nee the tab to train with.