

# The Strumbly Songbook

Volume I

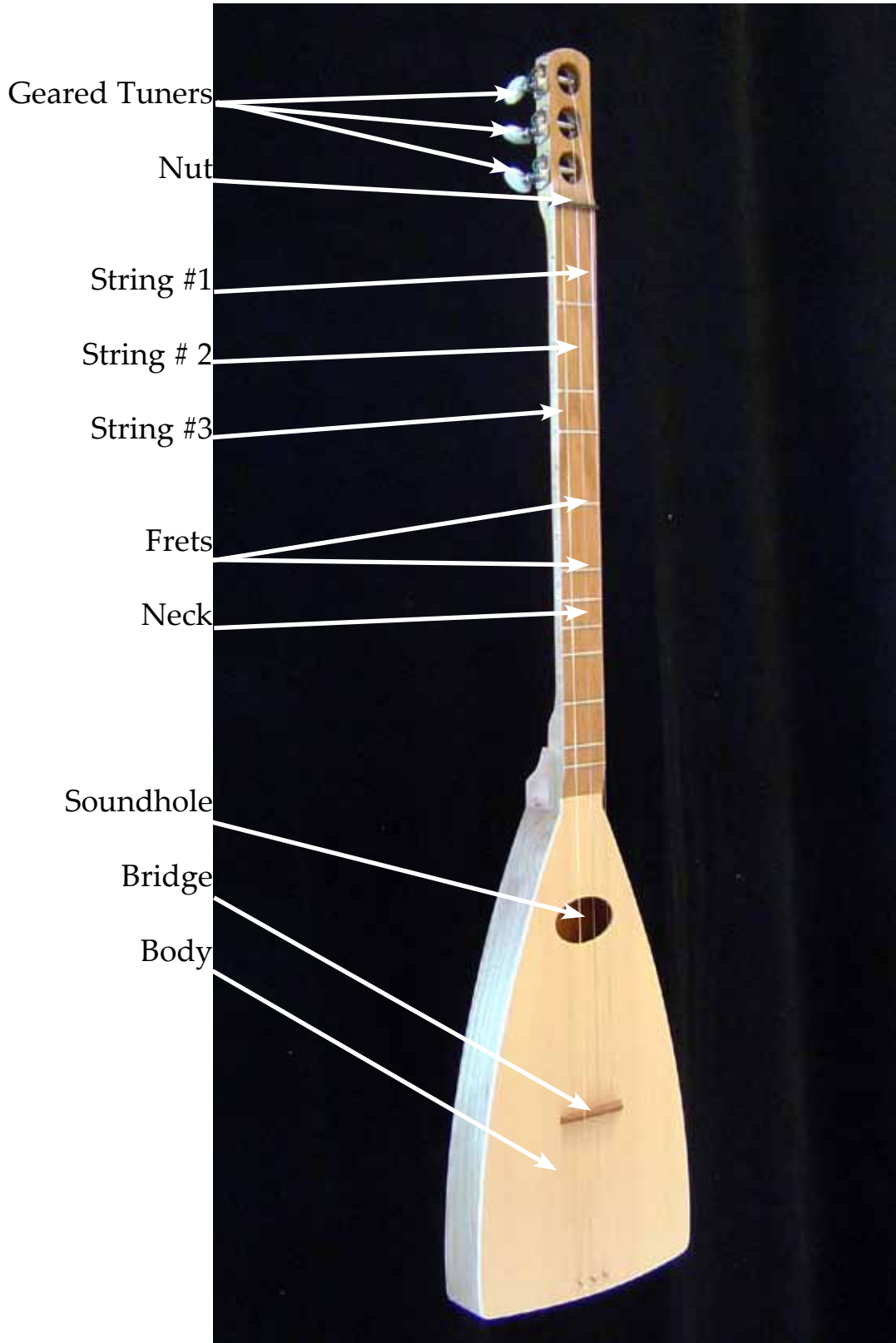


Musicmakers  
PO Box 2117  
Stillwater MN 55082  
web: [www.harokit.com](http://www.harokit.com) phone: 651-439-9120 email: [info@harokit.com](mailto:info@harokit.com)

## Before you begin

It will be helpful to be able to identify and name all of the parts on Strumbly.

You can refer to the following diagram to help you learn all the parts.



**Take your time and study the next two pages and you will be playing songs in 10 minutes!**

There are just 2 simple things you need to learn in order to play songs on Strumbly:

1. How to Fret a string and
2. How to read song notation

## LESSON 1: How To Fret A String

**Fretting a string** is just a fancy way of saying “pinching a string”. Pinching the string at different spots on the neck will make different notes.

Those 11 metal bars that sit underneath the strings are called **Frets**. So when you **fret a string on the second fret** you are pinching the string just behind the second fret.

### HELPFUL HINT

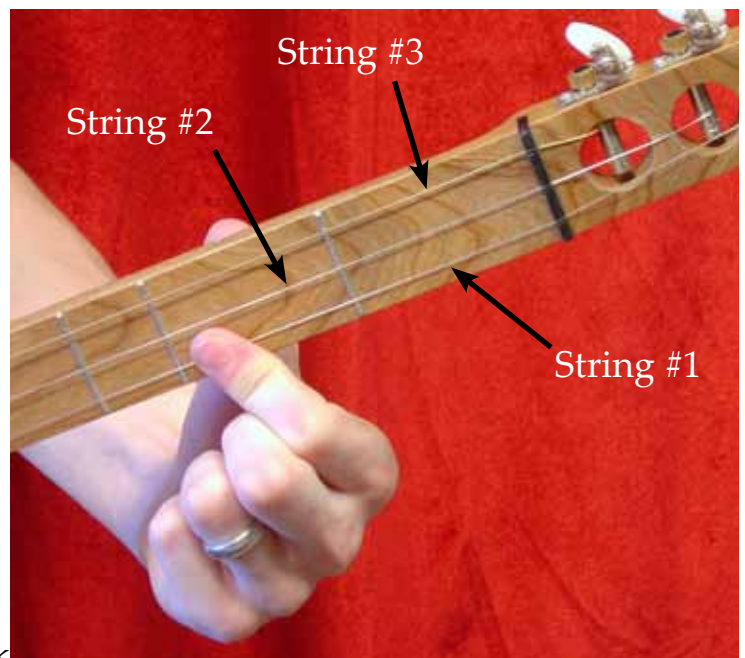
We have stamped numbers on the edge of the neck to make playing Strumbly as simple as possible. Each number corresponds to a fret. If you need to **fret a string on the second fret** - just find the **2** on the neck and pinch the string at that spot.

Use your left hand to try **Fretting the first string on the second fret**. (See picture)  
This means you will pinch the string just behind the second fret.

It is important to get in the habit of pinching the string just behind the fret. This is the easiest way to pinch the string and get a good tone.



Hold the pick between your finger and thumb in your right hand and pluck the string.



If you don't get a nice sound or you hear some buzzing you may need to pinch the string harder.

## LESSON 2: How to Read Notation

The numbers under the lyrics indicate which note (fret) you should play. These numbers correspond with the numbers stamped on the neck.

If you see a **0** - that just means you play the string open (don't pinch the string at all).

If you see a **1** - pinch the string just behind the first fret. If you see a **2** - pinch the string behind the second fret and so on.

**Remember to just play one string for now. That way we don't even need to tune Strumbly**

## LESSON 3: Your First 3 Songs

### Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twin-kle Twin-kle lit-tle star. How I won-der what you are.

3 3 8 8 9 9 8 6 6 5 5 4 4 3

Up a-bove the world so high. Like a dia-mond in the sky.

8 8 6 6 5 5 4 8 8 6 6 5 5 4

Twin-kle Twin-kle lit-tle star. How I won-der what you are.

3 3 8 8 9 9 8 6 6 5 5 4 4 3

### Aunt Rhody

Go tell Aunt Rho-dy, Go tell Aunt Rho-dy. Go tell Aunt Rho-dy the old grey goose is Dead

5 5 4 3 3 4 4 6 5 4 3 8 8 6 5 5 3 4 6 5 4 3

### London Bridge

Lon-don bridge is fal-ling down, fal-ling down, fal-ling down.

8 9 8 6 5 6 8 4 5 6 5 6 8

Lon-don bridge is fal-ling down my fair la-dy.

8 9 8 6 5 6 8 4 8 5 3

Many people are happy just to play simple melodies on one string without worrying about tuning and all that mumbo jumbo.

**ALL of the songs in this book can be played on just one string.**

So if you just want to play the melodies on one string you can skip the next lesson on tuning and just go have fun with the songs.

## LESSON 4: Tuning Strumbly (optional)

When Strumbly is in tune you can strum ALL the strings when you play the songs. You will still only have to play the melody on one string. But by strumming all the strings you will add a lot of richness and depth to the songs.

There are 2 methods to tune Strumbly.

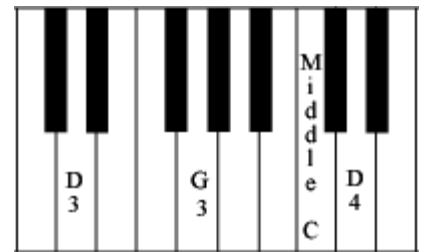
### Method 1

If you would like Strumbly to be in tune with the rest of the world you will need to use a piano or an electronic tuner. Or you can use the free online tuner available at our website - [www.musikit.com/freetuner](http://www.musikit.com/freetuner)

Tune String #1 (the thinnest string) to D4 which is the D above middle C.

Tune String #2 (the middle string) to G3 which is the G below middle C.

Tune String #3 (the fattest string) to D3 which is the D below middle C.

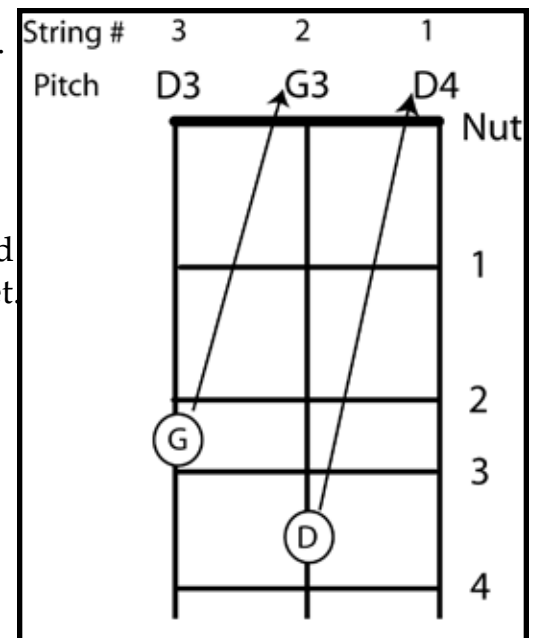


### Method 2

If you don't need to tune Strumbly to the rest of the world you don't need an electronic tuner.

- Begin by pinching the third string just behind the 3rd fret.
- Now play the third string. This will give you the pitch of the second string.
- Next play the second string and adjust the pitch as needed to make it sound like the third string fretted at the third fret.

Once you have the second string tuned to the third string you can tune the first string to the second string. The procedure is basically the same except that you want the first string to sound the same as the second string fretted at the fourth fret.



Note that after each song title you will see “DGD tuning”. This refers to the tuning of Strumbly. All of the songs in this book use DGD tuning. In our more advanced songbook we introduce some different tunings such as DAD, DAA and DAC

## 5. Songs

### Amazing Grace (DGD tuning)

**G C G D**  
A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
0 3 5-3 5 4 3 1 0 0 3 5-3 5 4 8

**G C G D G**  
I once was lost but now am found. Was blind but now I see  
5 8-5 8-5 3 0 1-3 3 0 0 3 5-3 5 4 3

### Auld Lang Syne (DGD tuning)

**D G D G C**  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?  
0 3 2 3 5 4 3 4 5 4 3 3 5 8 9

**G D C G**  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And days of auld lang syne?  
9 8 5 5 3 4 3 4 5 4 3 1 1 0 3

### Bicycle Built for Two (DGD tuning)

**G C G D G C D**  
Daisy, Daisy, Give me your answer do! I'm half crazy all for the love of you!  
8 5 3 0 1 2 3 1 3 0 4 8 5 3 1 2 3 4 5 4

**D G**  
It won't be a stylish marriage  
5 6 5 4 8 5 4 3

**C G D G D G D G**  
I can't afford a carriage But you'll look sweet upon the seat of a bicycle built for two.  
4 5 3 1 3 1 0 0 3 5 4 0 3 5 4 5 6 8 5 3 4 4 3

### Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (DGD tuning)

**G C D G D G G**  
Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella Bring a torch and quickly run. Chirst is born, good folk of the village  
8 3 3 2 3 4 5 6 5 4 8 3 3 2 3 4 5 4 3 8 8 8 6 5 5 4 3 3 2

**C D C D Em D C D Em D C D G**  
Christ is born and Mary's calling. Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the son.  
1 2 3 0 0 6 6 5 4 3 4 5 6 5 4 8 5 4 3 4 5 6 5 4 8 3

### Down In The Valley (DGD tuning)

**G** **D** **D** **G**  
Down in the valley, valley so low. Hang your head over hear the wind blow.  
0 3 4 5 3 5 4 3 4 0 4 5 6 4 4 3 2 3

**G** **D** **D** **G**  
Hear the wind blow dear, hear the wind blow. Hang your head over hear the wind blow.  
0 3 4 5 3 5 4 3 4 0 4 5 6 4 4 3 2 3

### The Farmer in the Dell (DGD tuning)

**G** **G** **D**  
The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell. Hi Ho the Der-i-o, the farmer in the dell.  
0 3 3 3 3 3 4 5 5 5 5 5 8 8 9 8 5 3 4 5 5 4 4 3

### Home on the Range (DGD tuning) - Play along online!! - browse to [www.harpkit.com/play](http://www.harpkit.com/play) and scroll toward the bottom of the page

**G** **C** **G** **D**  
O give me a home where the buffalo roam where the deer and the antelope play.  
0 0 3 4 5 3 2 1 6 6 6 5 6 8 3 3 3 2 3 4

**G** **C** **G** **D** **G**  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy all day.  
0 0 3 4 5 3 2 1 6 6 6 6 6 5 4 3 2 3 4 3

**G** **C** **G** **D**  
Home, home on the range where the deer and the antelope play.  
8 6 5 4 5 0 0 3 3 3 3 2 3 4

**G** **C** **G** **D** **G**  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy all day.  
0 0 3 4 5 3 2 1 6 6 6 6 6 5 4 3 2 3 4 3

### If You're Happy And You Know It (DGD tuning)

**G** **D** **G**  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands. If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.  
0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 3 4 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 5

**C** **G**  
If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it.  
4 5 6 6 6 6 1 1 6 6 5 5 5 4 3 3

**D** **G**  
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.  
3 3 4 4 4 3 2 0 1 2 3

**Ode to Joy (Beethoven's 9th) (DGD tuning)**

5 5 6 8 8 6 5 4 3 3 4 5 5 4 4  
5 5 6 8 8 6 5 4 3 3 4 5 4 3 3  
4 4 5 3 4 5 6 5 3 4 5 6 5 4 3 4 0  
5 5 6 8 8 6 5 4 3 3 4 5 4 3 3

**Oh Shenandoah (DGD tuning)**

**D G C G**  
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you, away, you rolling river  
0 3 3 3 4 5 6 9 8 11 10 9 8 9 8 5 8

**C Em G D G**  
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you away, I'm bound away, cross the wide Missouri.  
8 9 9 9 5 8 5 4 3 0 3 0 3 9 8 3 4 5 3 4 3

**Red River Valley (DGD tuning)**

**G C G D**  
Come and sit by my side if you love me. Do not hasten to bid me adieu.  
0 3 5 5 5 5 4 5 4 3 0 3 5 3 5 8 6 5 4

**D G C G D G**  
But remember the Red River Valley and the one who has loved you so true.  
8 6 5 5 4 3 4 5 8 6 1 1 0 2 3 4 5 4 3

**Simple Gifts (DGD tuning)**

**D G D**  
'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.  
0 0 3 3 4 5 3 5 6 8 8 6 5 4 3 4 4 4 3 4 5 4 2 0

**D G D G**  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
0 3 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 8 6 5 3 4 4 4 5 4 4 3 3 3 3

**Skip To My Lou (DGD tuning)**

**G D**  
Skip, skip, skip to my Lou, Skip, skip, skip to my Lou,  
5 3 5 5 5 8 4 2 4 4 4 6

**G D G**  
Skip, skip, skip to my Lou, Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.  
5 3 5 5 5 8 4 5 6 5 4 3 3



**This Land is Your Land (DGD tuning)**

**G**                      **C**                      **G**                      **D**                      **G**  
This land is your land, this land is my land. From California to the New York Island  
3 4 5 6 6 6 3 4 5 5 5 3 5 4 4 4 4 3 4 5 5

**G**                      **C**                      **G**                      **D**                      **G**  
From the Redwood Forests to the Gulf Stream Waters. This land was made for you and me.  
3 3 4 5 6 6 6 6 3 4 5 5 4 4 4 2 0 2 4 3

**The Wheels On The Bus (DGD tuning)**

**G**                      **D**                      **G**  
The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round.  
0 3 3 3 3 5 8 5 3 4 2 0 8 5 3

**G**                      **D**                      **G**  
The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.  
0 3 3 3 3 5 8 5 3 4 0 0 3

**The Water is Wide (DGD tuning)**

**G**                      **C**                      **G**                      **Em**                      **D**  
The water is wide, I cannot cross over and neither have I wings to fly.  
0 3 3 4 5 4 4 3 1 0 0 3 3 2 3 5 6-5 4

**G**   **C**                      **Em**   **C**                      **G**   **D**   **G**  
Build me a boat that can carry two and both shall row my love and I.  
4 5 6 8 6 6 5-4 5 4 3 1 0 0 1 3 3

**You Are My Sunshine (DGD tuning) Play along online!! - browse to [www.harppkit.com/play](http://www.harppkit.com/play) and scroll toward the bottom of the page**

**G**                      **C**                      **G**  
You are my sunshine, my only sunshine You make me happy when skies are gray.  
0 3 4 5 5 5 4 5 3 3 3 4 5 6 9 9 8 6 5

**C**                      **G**                      **D**                      **G**  
You'll never know dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away  
3 4 5 6 9 9 8 6 5 3 3 4 5 6 4 4 5 3

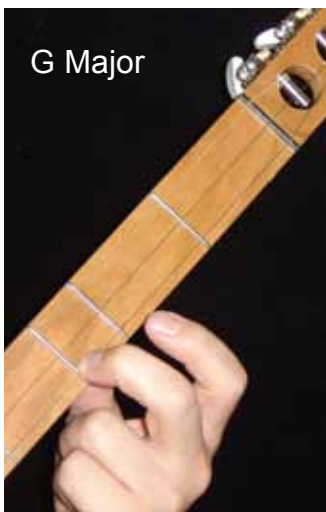
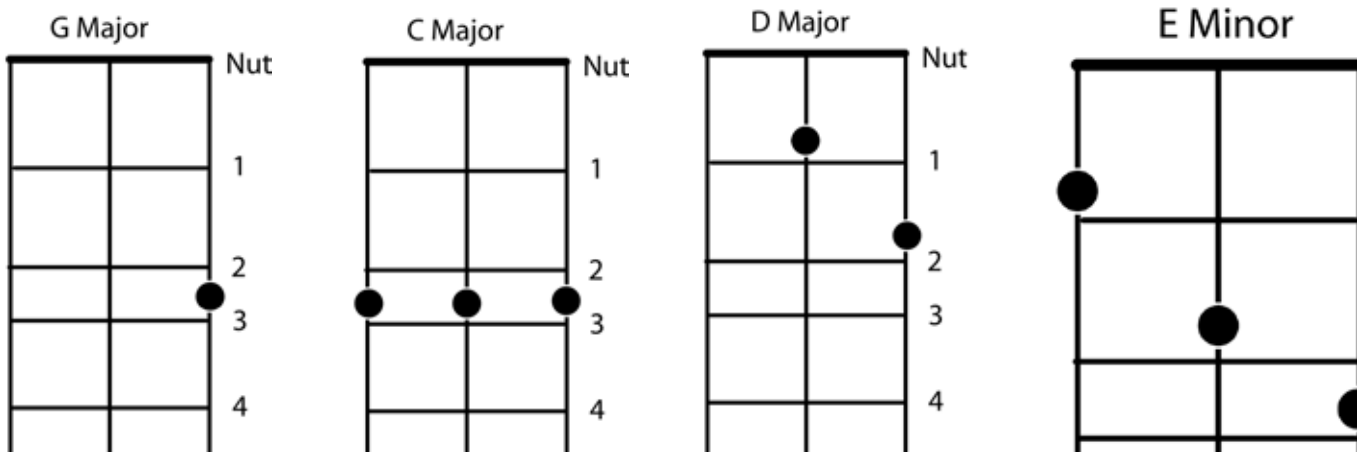
## LESSON 6: - Chords for DGD tuning.

You may have noticed some letters in **bold** above the lyrics in the songs. The letters refer to **chords**.

**A Chord is simply 2 or more notes played at the same time.**

Shown below are all of the chords needed to play the songs in this book. Instead of playing the melody on each song you can strum the chords while you sing the melody. (Please note - Strumbly must be tuned to play chords - see Lesson 4)

Another fun idea is to play the melody on Strumbly and have a second instrument (guitar, banjo, dulcimer, or another Strumbly) strum the chords.



We hope you have enjoyed making music with Strumbly. Once you have mastered the lessons in this songbook you might be interested in the 125-Song Strumbly Songbook. In that book we introduce some new tunings, more chords, a lesson on strumming, and lots of new songs.