

PSALMODIKON



Musicmakers
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THANK YOU!

Thanks for purchasing a Musicmakers Psalmodikon. Please inspect your instrument carefully as you unpack it. Notify us if anything is missing or damaged so we can take care of it right away.

651-439-9120

HOW TO REPLACE A STRING

Luckily, there is only one string on this instrument. Should it happen to break, follow the instructions below to install a new string



This psalmodikon uses a *.016" loop-end acoustic string*. This type of string is often used on a mandolin so you may be able to find one at a local music shop. Otherwise, you may order one directly from Musicmakers.

___1. Put the loop end of the string over the tail pin and tape it in place. (fig. 1)



FIG. 1

___2. Pull the string up to the violin peg and cut it so the end extends about 3" past the peg (fig. 2)

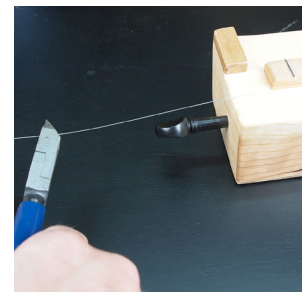


FIG. 2

___3. Thread the string in the hole just far enough that the end goes all the way through the peg but doesn't extend out of the peg (fig. 3)



FIG. 3

___4. Holding the string loosely in position, turn the violin peg 1/2 turn and then pull on the string to "kink" it. Keep tension on the string and continue to wind the peg until there is just enough tension to hold it in place. (fig. 4)



FIG. 4

___5. Insert leather under the string to prevent the string from digging into the wood. (fig 5)



FIG. 5

___6. Insert the bridge. The bridge should sit 28-1/2" away from the first fret. (fig. 6)



FIG. 6

TUNING

Use an electronic tuner, a piano, and tune the string to G3 (G below Middle C)

Note - the violin peg is tapered. If the peg is slipping, push it deeper as you tighten the string.

You can fine tune the position of the bridge to give you the best intonation. To do this - pluck the open string and take a reading on your electronic tuner. Fret the string (push the string down on the fingerboard) just behind the thirteenth fret and take another reading on your tuner. This note should be exactly one octave higher than the open string.

NOTE that the psalmodikon uses a “zero fret” system. This means that the string sits on a fret instead of in a nut when it is open (unfretted). So when you are checking the intonation to locate the bridge you are really fretting it at the 12th fret to get the octave if you count the first fret as zero.

If the fretted note is sharp - slide the bridge toward the tail pin.

If the fretted note is flat - slide the bride toward the fingerboard.

Take another reading and adjust the bridge as necessary until you get a perfect octave.

IF YOU PURCHASED A VIOLIN BOW

Tighten your bow by twisting the screw. (fig. 7) How tight? A good rule of thumb is to tighten the bow until you can fit a pencil between the hair and the stick. (fig. 8)

If you have purchased a brand new bow, you will need to apply rosin to your bow. It is a bit tricky to get rosin on your bow the very first time. We recommend that you scuff the rosin with some low grit sandpaper, a file, or even scissors. Rub your bow hair back and forth over the rosin several times. Try out your bow. You should feel it grip the string and it should produce a tone. If you feel the bow sliding or slipping across the string then you need more rosin.

Once you have an initial coat of rosin on the bow you shouldn't need to scuff the cake of rosin any more.

ALWAYS LOOSEN YOUR BOW BEFORE YOU PUT IT AWAY!

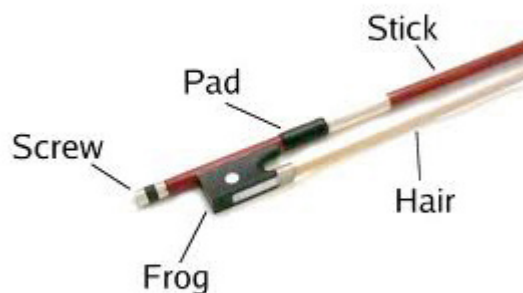


FIG. 7



FIG. 8

HOW TO PLAY YOUR PSALMODIKON

Playing your psalmodikon is simple, though not necessarily easy! Place the psalmodikon on a table so the end with the violin peg is on your left.

Use your left hand to fret the string. You will get the best tone if you fret the string just behind the fret.

You can pluck or bow the string to play. If you are using a bow, bow the string about halfway between the bridge and the soundhole. Getting a good tone with the bow requires some practice. Make sure there is enough rosin on the bow and experiment with the downward pressure until you get a pleasing tone.



SIFFERSKRIFT

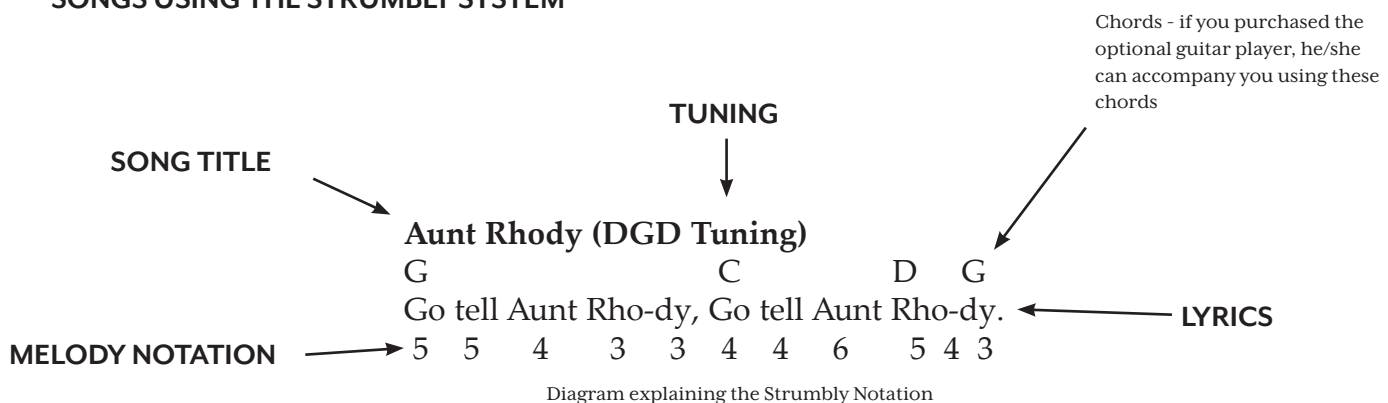
The system of numbering the frets and playing music from numerical notation is quite old with it's use on the Psalmodikon dating back to at least 1825. This numbering system is called Sifferskrift.

Included with your Psalmodikon is a Transposition Stick. You'll find it has numbers along each side. There are four sides and each side has one of the following labels - DGD, DAD, DAA, and Sifferskrift. These labels help you orient the transposition stick so you are using the right numbering system with each song.

We offer 2 songbooks for this instrument. One is titled "Music for Psalmodikon". To play any of the songs from that book, place your transposition stick so that the word "Sifferskrift" is near the violin peg.

The Strumbly songbook uses different tunings. Each song in the book lists the tuning next to the title. Just place the transposition stick so that the label by the violin peg matches the tuning next to the song title.

SONGS USING THE STRUMBLY SYSTEM





Here are several examples of songs written out in Strumbly Notation. All of the songs use the DGD tuning. So make sure you are using the DGD side of your Transposition Stick.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (DGD Tuning)

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

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

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

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

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

Home on the Range (DGD tuning) - Play along online!! - browse to 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

You Are My Sunshine (DGD tuning) Play along online!! - browse to 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

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

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

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

The Psalmodikon is a one string instrument that comes to us from Norway and Sweden. In the early 19th century violins were not allowed in Scandinavian churches because they were used to accompany dancing. Most rural churches couldn't afford a piano or an organ. So this simple instrument, along with a numbered notation system called Sifferskrift, became a popular way to teach hymns to the congregation.

The Musicmakers Psalmodikon is modeled after this instrument that was brought to America in 1860 by Norwegian immigrant Gurina Wikjer.



Gurina Winkjer



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