

Mountain Dulcimer Chord Chart - By Mark and Jonah Giuliano

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|-------------|-----------|----|--------------|-----------|----|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----|--------------|-----------|
| | D | E | F#/G \flat | G | A | B | C | C#/D \flat | D | | D#/E \flat | B \flat |
| | A | B | C#/D \flat | D | E | F#/G \flat | G | G#/A \flat | A | | E# | F |
| | C | D | E | F | G | A | B \flat | B | C | | | |
| root | C | C# | D | E \flat | E | F | F# | G | A \flat | A | B \flat | B |
| m3 | E \flat | E | F | G \flat | G | A \flat | A | B \flat | C \flat | C | D \flat | D |
| M3 | E | E# | F# | G | G# | A | A# | B | C | C# | D | D# |
| p5 | G | G# | A | B \flat | B | C | C# | D | E \flat | E | F | F# |
| p6 | A | A# | B | C | C# | D | D# | E | F | F# | G | G# |
| d7 | B \flat | B | C | D \flat | D | E \flat | E | F | G \flat | G | A \flat | A |
| M7 | B | B# | C# | D | D# | E | E# | F# | G | G# | A | A# |
| M9 | D | D# | D | F | F# | G | G# | A | B \flat | B | C | C# |

This chart tells you what notes are available on a mountain dulcimer for particular chords given that you are tuned DAD or DAC. This assumes a 6 1/2 fret but no 1 1/2 fret. Notes in Red or Green are unavailable in DAD tuning. Notes in Green are unavailable in DAC tuning. Notes in black are available in either tuning. The first three rows are the first octave of the dulcimer fret board for strings tuned to D, A, and C. The rows labeled root, m3, ...M9 give the root note, minor third, major third, perfect 5th, perfect 6th, dominant 7th, Major 7th, and Major 9th for the particular root. You need to know some music theory to use the chart. You can build a chord selecting the root, a major or minor third, and a 7th or ninth if desired. For example to build a C major chord you select root, M3 and p5 from the column with root C. This gives the notes C, E, G. A C minor chord requires the root, m3, and p5 yielding the notes C, E-flat, and G. As can be seen the E-flat is not available in either DAD or DAC tuning. So a c minor chord can be approximated as C G C or in DAC tuning as C G Bflat (giving a C minor 7th flavor to the chord). Likewise to make an F chord in DAD tuning the root is not available. But the chord can be approximated using the major third and perfect fifth (ACA, or CAC).