

THE BASICS

The Woodrow is an upright Appalachian dulcimer. This type of instrument and style of playing goes back almost 200 years in America and further back in the forms of its ancestors from Europe. Dulcimer music is typically written using a number system. The tablature (music) is written to be played using the most common play style that we will describe. Most of the music is produced by pressing down the highest pitched string, which is commonly a double string, and then strumming all of the strings. This allows the player to play the melody while also creating a beautiful drone from the other strings that are not being pressed down. This is not the only way to play, however, for more information see advanced techniques towards the end of the book. Standard tuning for the Old Timer, Crysta-Cello, and Artist models is D, A, d(d). For the Rambler and Pisgah models it is A, E, a(a). The strings of a Woodrow are steel, ball-end, guitar strings. You can use three high strings (G, B, and E) of a pack of guitar strings. It will require two "E" strings to replace both high strings found on most models. 1 x .023 - 1 x .015 - 2 x .011 Videos on tuning and string replacement can be found on our YouTube channel : WoodrowMusic.

HOW TO READ THE TABLATURE

The numbers correlate to fret positions with the first fret from the head being number "1". First start by just giving the Woodrow a strum without pressing down any of the strings. If you hear all the strings ring out then you're doing it correctly. When you strum without pressing anything down then you are playing "0" also known as "open". As you move up the neck you move up the scale which ranges from number "0" to "7". One of the most traditional ways to play, as previously described, is to place your finger on only the double string, while leaving the other two strings untouched and strum all the strings. If you don't have a Woodrow with a double string you would simply use just the highest pitched string instead. You might realize that you are playing a major scale or Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do as you move from fret "0" to "7". The Woodrow is based off this scale and so is most popular music that you probably know. When you become familiar with the instrument you may find it easy to figure out songs in your head by playing around.

Sometimes in the music you will see the letter "m" before a number. The "m" represents the middle string, which is the "A" string on a DAD tuned Woodrow. An example of this would be "m1" which corresponds to the 1st fret position on the middle string. You can either pick that string individually or press down that position while strumming, it's up to you.

And don't forget to look for patterns in the songs!

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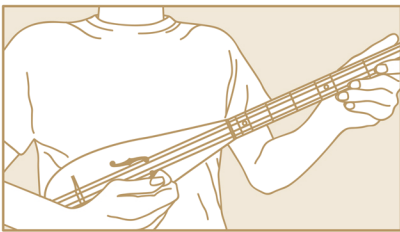
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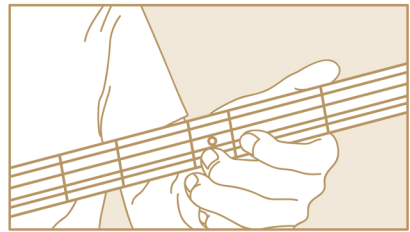
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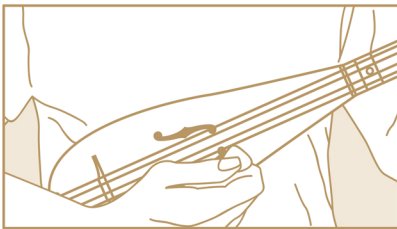
3 STEP GUIDE [HOW TO HOLD & PLAY]



1 Place the Woodrow between your torso and arm. Point the end to the left.
(Keep your arm off the strings between the bridge and head of the instrument.)



2 *pushing down the string set just left of the bar*



3 Strum all the strings. Use a pick for best results!

A. Notice the number sheet along the neck (optional). **B.** Also notice that the bottom two strings are close together. **C.** Place your pointer finger on only the double string (or single string on the Rambler) on the fret space that matches the music and then press down to the wood.

Note: “m” means middle string so “m0” means to pluck the middle string open or just strum open.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

D Mary had a little lamb, **A** little lamb, **D** little lamb
2 1 0 1 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 2 4

Mary had a little lamb whose fleece was white as snow
2 1 0 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 1 0

And everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go

It followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day
It followed her to school one day which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,
Laugh and play, laugh and play,

It made the children laugh and play to see a lamb at school

THREE BLIND MICE

D Three blind mice, three blind mice
2 1 0 2 1 0

See how they run, see how they run
4 3 3 2 4 3 3 2

A They all ran af-ter the far-mer's wife
4 7 7 6 5 6 7 4 4

A Who cut off their tails with a car-ving knife
4 7 7 7 6 5 6 7 4 4

A Did you e-ver see such a sight in your life?
4 7 7 7 6 5 6 7 7 4 4

G D A D
As three blind mice
3 2 1 0

LONDON BRIDGE

D London bridge is falling down, **A** falling down, **D** falling down
4 5 4 3 2 3 4 1 2 3 2 3 4

D London bridge is falling down, **A** my fair lady
4 5 4 3 2 3 4 1 4 2 0

CAMPTOWN RACES

by Stephen Foster

D A
Camp-town la-dies sing this song, Doo-dah, Doo-dah
4 4 2 4 5 4 2 2 1 2 1

D A D
Camp-town race-track's five miles long, Oh, De, Doo-dah, day
4 4 2 4 5 4 2 1 1 2 1 0

D G D
Gon-na run all night, Gon-na run all day
0 0 2 4 7 5 5 7 5 4

A D
I bet my mon-ey on the bob-tailed nag, some-bo-dy bet on the gray
2 4 4 2 2 4 4 5 4 2 1 3 3 2 1 1 0

OH SUSANNA

D A
Oh, I come from A-la-ba-ma with a Banjo on my knee
0 1 2 4 4 5 4 2 0 1 2 2 1 0 1

D A D
I am going to Lou-i-si-an-na, my true love for to see
0 1 2 4 4 5 4 2 0 1 2 2 1 1 0

D A
It rained all night the day I left, The weather it was dry
0 2 4 4 5 4 2 0 1 2 2 1 0 1

D A D
The sun so hot, I froze to death, Susannah, don't you cry
0 2 4 4 5 4 2 0 1 2 2 1 1 0

Chorus:

G D A
Oh, Su-san-nah, Oh, don't you cry for me
3 3 5 5 5 4 4 2 0 1

D A D
For I come to A-la-bam-a with a banjo on my knee
0 1 2 4 4 5 4 2 0 1 2 2 1 1 0

HOME ON THE RANGE

D G
Oh, give me a home where the buf-fa-lo roam
m0 m0 0 1 2 0 m2 m1 3 3 3

D A
Where the deer and the an-te-lope play
2 3 4 0 0 0 m2 0 1

D G
Where sel-dom is heard a dis-cour-ag-ing word
m0 m0 0 1 2 0 m2 m1 3 3 3

D A D
And the skies are not cloudy all day
3 3 2 1 0 m2 0 1 0

Chorus:

A D
Home, home on the range
4 3 2 1 2

A
Where the deer and the an-te-lope play
m0 m0 0 0 0 0 m2 0 1

D G
Where sel-dom is heard a dis-cour-ag-ing word
m0 m0 0 1 2 0 m2 m1 3 3 3

D A D
And the skies are not cloudy all day
3 3 2 1 0 m2 0 1 0

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

D
You are my sun-shine, My only sun-shine
0 0 1 2 2 2 12 0 0

G D
You make me hap-py when skies are grey
0 1 2 3 5 5 4 3 2

G D
You'll nev-er know dear how much I love you
0 1 2 3 5 5 4 3 2 0

A D
Please don't take my sun-shine a-way
0 1 2 3 1 1 2 0

CRIPPLE CREEK

D G D
I got a gal at the head of the creek
7 7 7 4 2 2 3 5 5 4

A D
Goin' up to see her 'bout three times a week
2 2 2 1 0 m0 m0 m1 0

D G D
Kisses on the mouth sweet as any wine
7 7 7 7 4 2 3 5 5 4

D A D
Wraps her arms around me like a sweet po-tato vine
2 2 2 2 1 0 m0 m0 m1 0

Chorus:

D D
Goin' up Cripple Creek, goin' in a run
2 2 1 0 2 2 4

D A D
Goin' up Cripple Creek to have a little fun
2 2 1 0 m0 m1 0

D D
Goin' up Cripple Creek, goin' in a whirl
2 2 1 0 2 2 4

D A D
Goin' up Cripple Creek to see my girl
2 2 1 0 m0 m1 0

MOUNTAIN DEW

D
They call it that good old mountain dew,
m0 m0 m0 0 0 1 0 0 2

G D
And them that refuse it are few.
2 1 0 0 1 0 0 m0

I'll hush up my mug if you'll fill up my jug
m0 m0 m0 0 0 0 0 4 4 5 2

A D
With that good old mountain dew.
0 0 4 5 2 1 0

Wildwood Flower

by the Carter Family

D A D
Oh I'll twine with my mingles and waving black hair
2 3 4 5 4 2 3 2 1 2 1 0
D A D
With the roses so red and the lilies so fair
2 3 4 5 7 2 3 2 1 2 1 0
D G D
And the myrtle so bright with the emerald hue
4 7 2 2 1 0 m0 m0 m1 0 m1 m0
D A D
The pale amanita and eyes look like blue
0 1 2 2 2 4 4 2 1 2 1 0

Same as previous

I will dance I will sing and my laugh shall be gay
I will charm every heart in his crown I will sway
When I woke from my dreaming my idols were clay
All portions of love had all flown away

SHADY GROVE

Capo the 1st fret (1= open strum for a minor key)
The chorus and the verses are the same

E D E
Shady Grove my little darling Shady Grove I say
1 1 1 2 1 m3 1 1 3 4 5
G D E D E
Shady Grove my little darling I'm bound to go away
7 7 5 4 2 m3 1 2 3 4 2 1

Cheeks as red as a blooming rose, Eyes of the deepest brown
She's the darling of my heart, Prettiest girl in town

A kiss from little shady grove, is as sweet as brandy wine
There ain't no girl in this whole world, that's prettier than mine

LEAVING ON A JET PLANE

by John Denver

^D All my bags are packed ^G I'm rea - dy to go
0 2 3 2 0 m0 m1 0 1 1

^D I'm standin' here out - side your door
2 3 2 0 m0 m1 0 1

^D I hate to wake you up to say good-bye
3 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 1

Chorus:

^D So kiss me and smile for me
4 4 2 4 3 2 0

^D Tell me that you'll wait for me
4 4 2 4 3 2 0

^D Hold me like you'll never let me go
4 4 4 4 5 4 3 2 3

^D Cause I'm leavin' on a jet plane
4 4 4 2 5 4 3 4

^D Don't know when I'll be back a - gain
4 2 4 3 4 3 2 0

^D Oh babe, I hate to go
3 3 2 1 0 1

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

by The Beatles

D E G D
Ooh I need your love babe, Guess you know it's true
2 1 0 1 1 m1 m1 0 3 3 2
D E G D
Hope you need my love babe, Just like I need you
2 1 0 1 1 m1 m1 0 3 3 2
Bm G Bm E
Hold me, love me, hold me, love me
2 0 1 m1 2 0 1 m1
D E G D
Ain't got nothin' but love babe, Eight days a week
2 1 0 0 1 1 m1 3 3 3 2
Chorus:

A Bm
Eight days a week, I l - o - o - o - o - ove you
1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 m1
E G A
Eight days a week, is not enough to show I care
1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 3

BROWN EYED GIRL

by Van Morrison

D G D A
Hey where did we go, days when the rains came
4 3 2 3 4 2 1 0 1 2
D G D A
Down in the hollow, playin' a new game,
4 4 4 4 3 2 1 0 1 2
D G
Laughing and a running hey, hey
4 4 4 4 3 4 3
D A
Skipping and a jumping
2 2 1 0 1 1
D G
In the misty morning fog with
4 4 4 4 4 3 4 3
D A G
Our hearts a thumpin' and you
2 1 1 2 2 1 0
A D G A D
My brown eyed girl, you my brown eyed girl.
0 2 2 0 7 5 4 2 1 0

WAGON WHEEL

by Old Crow Medicine Show

The harmony chord progression is the same throughout the chorus and the verse.

D A
Headed down south to the land of the pines
2 1 2 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

Bm G
I'm thumbin' my way into North Caroline
0 2 1 2 2 1 0 1 0 0

D
Starin' up the road
2 1 2 1 2

A G
And pray to God I see headlights
0 1 0 1 1 2 1 0

Chorus:

D A
So rock me mama like a wagon wheel
2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 1

Bm G
Rock me mama any way you feel
2 2 2 1 2 1 1 0 0

D A G
Hey ma - ma rock me
0 m2 m2 m2 m1

D A
Rock me mama like the wind and the rain
0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1

Bm G
Rock me mama like a south-bound train
2 2 2 2 2 2 1 0 0

D A G
Hey ma - ma rock me
0 m2 m2 m2 m1

HEY, SOUL SISTER

by Train

D A Bm G
Heey heeey heey heeey

D A Bm G
Your lipstick stains on the front lobe of my left side brains
0 2 2 2 1 2 3 2 1 0 2 2 2

D
I knew I wouldn't for-get you
0 3 2 1 0 2 0

A Bm G A
And so I went and let you blow my mind
0 3 2 1 0 m2 m0 m2 1 0

D A
Your sweet moonbeam
0 2 0 m0

Bm G
The smell of you in every single dream I dream
1 1 2 3 2 1 0 2 0 0 1 1

D A
I knew when we col-lid-ed you're the one I have de-cid-ed
0 3 2 1 0 2 0 0 1 3 2 1 0 m2 m0

Bm G A
Who's one of my kind
m0 m2 1 1 0

Chorus:

G A D A G
Hey soul sister, ain't that mister mister on the radio, stereo
4 2 1 0 4 4 2 2 1 0 0 1 2 0 0 2 0 0

A D A
The way you move ain't fair you know
0 2 2 2 3 2 0 1

G A D A G A D
Hey soul sister, I don't wanna miss a single thing you do, to-night
4 2 1 0 4 4 2 2 1 0 0 1 2 0 0 1 1

A Bm G
He-ey h-e-e-e-ey h-e-e-e-ey
2 1 0 1 2 1 0 0 1 2 1 m1

SUMMERTIME

by George Gershwin

Capo the 1st fret ("1" = open string / "m1" = middle string open)

Em A Em
 Summertime and the living is ea-sy
 5 3 5 4 3 4 5 3 1 m1

Am B
 Fish are jumping and the cotton is high
 5 3 4 4 3 1 3 1 3 2

Em Am Em
 Your Daddy's rich and your Mama's good looking
 5 5 3 5 4 3 4 5 3 1 m1

G Am Bm Em
 So hush - lit - tle baby and don't you cry
 m1 m3 m1 m3 1 3 3 5 4 3 1

One of these days you're going to wake up singing
 Then you'll spread your wings and fly to the sky
 But until that day nobody will harm you
 With Mammie and Daddy Standing nearby

OVER THE RAINBOW

D F#m G D
 Somewhere over the rainbow way up high,
 0 7 6 4 5 6 7 0 5 4

G D A D
 There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby.
 0 3 2 0 1 2 3 1 0 0 1 2 0

D
 Someday I'll wish upon a star
 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2

G
 and wake up where the clouds are far
 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3

Bm G
 behind me.
 4 5 5

D
 Where troubles melt like lemon drops
 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 2

G
 away above the chimney tops
 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3

Bm G D
 that's where you'll find me.
 4 5 5 7 4



ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

Melody and Harmony

(music anatomy)

The melody of a song is usually the words of the song, the part you would hum. The way that the tune moves up and down the scale is the melody. By following along with the numbers of the song you are playing the melody.

The harmony is usually going to be the part of the song that accompanies the melody. Playing the chords will produce the harmony. Think of a guitar player/singer. Most of the time while they sing they are playing chords on the guitar while their voice sings the tune. The guitar is playing the harmony and their voice is singing the melody. So if you're more inclined to sing the words you might want to just follow the chords which are the letter above the music. The chord pattern chart is located in the back of the book.

The nice thing about playing the Woodrow in the traditional manner is that you play the melody (numbers) while the drone of the untouched strings create a harmony so you get the best of both worlds!

If you have one person playing the melody (numbers) while the other person plays the harmony (chords) it can sound really awesome. The harmony sounds great with another Woodrow but can also be played using any other instrument such as a guitar.

PERFORMING TECHNIQUE

If you're getting familiar with your Woodrow then just place your finger along the double string and follow the numbers to the song. This is the best way to really get that traditional Appalacia sound and style. The one thing that the music doesn't show you is the rhythm of the song so if you want to become familiar with a tune then try and find a recording to become acquainted.

You can sing along while you follow the tablature (numbers) but if you don't want your voice to clash with the instrument then play the chords while you sing. Then when you're ready to take a break from singing play some of the melody instead of singing that particular verse or chorus. This mixture should add some variety. 🍷