

Fretbow

Dance to Your Daddy

*An instrumental version of a
traditional English children's song.*

arranged for Fretted Dulcimer by Theo Elsey

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 1) | Introduction | Pages 2 - 4 |
| | a) <i><u>Beginners</u> - A few useful pointers in helping you get started including - tuning, reading tablature and playing chords.</i> | Page 2 - 4 |
| | b) <i><u>Intermediate Players</u> - Additional information you may need to know in order to play the main arrangement.</i> | Page 4 |
| 2) | Basic dulcimer arrangement. | Page 5 |
| | <i>An easy arrangement that uses melody notes on all three strings. Includes chords for dulcimer or other accompanying instrument.</i> | |
| 3) | Main dulcimer arrangement | Page 6 |
| | <i>A fingerpicked arrangement for the intermediate player in both music notation and tablature.</i> | |
| 4) | Tablature | Page 7 |
| | <i>This page has both the basic and main arrangements in tablature only.</i> | |
| 5) | Closing comments | Page 8 |

Fretbow's dulcimer arrangements originally were written for players who already had some experience in playing the dulcimer. In these latest editions every song title has both an intermediate and beginners version of the music. It is suggested that you study the following tips and advice and then try getting started with the basic melody and chords arrangement on page 5. If you find the music too difficult to follow then consider finding a dulcimer teacher, alternatively you could purchase a good beginners book.

Sitting with your Dulcimer

The Fretted Dulcimer is normally played flat on the player's lap. As you sit with your dulcimer, the head (the end with the tuning pegs) should be to your left. Just to the right of the head you will see a narrow strip of plastic (or bone) that holds the strings in place, this is called the *Nut*. Parallel with the nut are metal strips positioned in the wood fingerboard, these are called *Frets* and are numbered starting with fret number one, this is closest to the nut. The dulcimer has a unique fretting pattern that's different from other fretted instruments like the guitar. One peculiarity is the addition of the **6 ½ fret**, if you don't know about this then you'll get caught out when counting any fret numbers higher than the 6th fret. The highest fret number in *Dance to Your Daddy* is at the 4th fret, so at this stage of learning the dulcimer it doesn't really apply.

Tuning the Dulcimer

Dance to Your Daddy is in D- A- d tuning, and is the most common tuning used by fretted dulcimer players. Here's how to tune to D- A- d :-

Play the 3rd string (heaviest Bass string) at 4th Fret, now tune the 2nd string open (middle string) to sound the same. Next, play the 2nd string at 3rd fret, this is the correct pitch to tune the first string open. Please note, many dulcimers have two first strings that are set close together, these are tuned exactly the same and played as one.

Reading Tablature

The example to the right shows two systems of written music, each represents exactly the same arrangement of melody, the tablature system is the easiest method to learn from.

Study the diagram and then try playing a few of the tablature notes, be sure to fret accurately, your left hand finger tip should position just to the left hand side of the fret. Easy? The rest of this music can be found on page 5.

It may also be helpful for you to check out your knowledge on time values and rhythm, this is fully explained on the next page.

Music Notation →

Tablature →

Horizontal lines represent the strings, string number one is at the bottom (nearest to you when playing) and string number three is the top most line, this represents your thickest bass string (furthest away from you). Numbers written on the lines are the fret positions for each note, the first note is played on the second string, 3rd fret. The fourth note along reads as '0', this is a *Zero fret* or *open string*, for this one just play the second string without fretting it.

Try playing each note in turn, gently pick the 2nd string for the first four notes, then change string for the last note in this example, this is played on the 3rd string, 2nd fret.

Chords

Chords can give a satisfying alternative to playing the melody. Learn these chords and try strumming along with the melody from the mp3 audio track that comes with this PDF music file. Chord symbols are given as bold type letter names above the music (see page 5). The two chords of D and A are frequently used in the D - A- d tuning.

Open strings (to be played)

NUT 1st fret 2nd fret 3rd fret

STRINGS

D 3

A 2

d 1

D Chord

No left hand fingering required for D, play all 3 strings 'Open'.








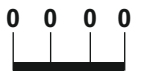






A Chord

Left hand fingering

Rhythm

Dance to Your Daddy is in 3/4 time, that is to say 3 beats to a bar or measure (| 1 2 3 | 1 2 3 |). All notes in the basic version of this arrangement are played to varying lengths of time, study of the following chart should help you understand the different note values used for this song.

Note Values

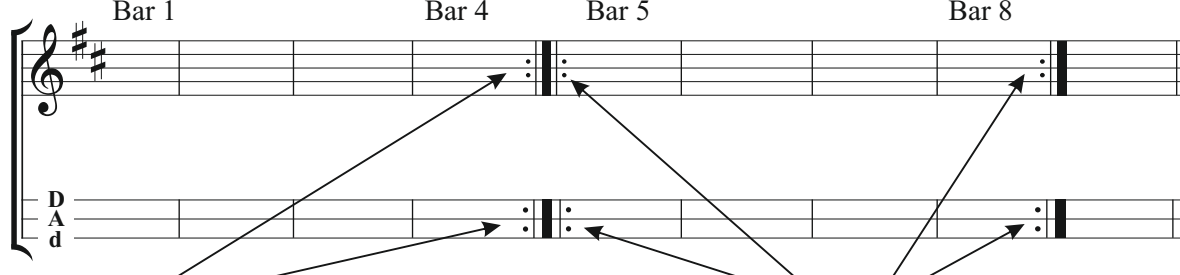
Music	Tablature	VALUE	Eighth Notes Grouped	
		Eighth Note (Quaver) = Half (1/2) a beat		
		Quarter Note (Crotchet) = One beat		
		Half Note (Minim) = Two beats	<p>Eighth notes can be grouped. <u>Ex 1</u> has two half beat notes in each group - a combined total of one beat. <u>Ex 2</u> has four half beat notes in each group - a combined total of two beats.</p> <p><i>Dotted Half Note</i></p>   <p>The dot extends the note by half its time again: = Three beats.</p>	
		Whole Note (Semibreve) = four beats		

Sections and Repeats

The music to *Dance to Your Daddy* is set out with repeat marks, lack of understanding of what these are could result in a version of the music only half the length intended! The following shows the structure of sections and repeats used for this song.

Section One
Section Two
Ending

Bar 1
Bar 4
Bar 5
Bar 8



This repeat mark, instructs you to return to the beginning of section one, you will then repeat the whole section.

Play bars 1 - 4 twice

This section has repeat marks both at the beginning and end.

Play bars 5 - 8 twice

Please note: It is common practise not to have repeat dots shown at the beginning of section one. Both sections one and two work in exactly the same way - 4 bars that repeat within their section.

Left and Right hand fingering

RIGHT HAND

Right hand playing technique is very straight forward for this music. You can use the simplest finger picking technique of all. Let the thumb play on the first and second strings and the index finger for all third string notes.

i = Right Hand Index Finger (closest to your thumb), plays the third string.

T = Right Hand Thumb, plays the first and second strings.



This symbol indicates a spread or brushed chord, it is usually played by drawing the right hand index finger across all strings towards yourself. The notes should drag a little and have slight separation from each other, it is different from a strum that is normally played faster.

LEFT HAND

In the basic arrangement of *Dance to Your Daddy* there is no suggested left hand fingering for playing the melody, you can decide for yourself the best fingers to use. Having said this, there are a few points worth mentioning to the complete novice. Beginners often attempt to play the different fret positions with the same left hand finger, this may seem to be the easiest thing to do but in the long run will do nothing in helping you develop a good playing style. Try and use a spread of different fingers as you work through the frets, the left hand thumb can also be used, especially on the higher fret positions.

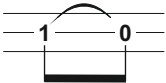
INTERMEDIATES

Most of what you need to know about playing the main arrangement of *Dance to Your Daddy* has already been covered in the beginners section. The only extra tips to be given here are for playing pull-off's and reading left hand fingering diagrams.

PULL - OFFS



P



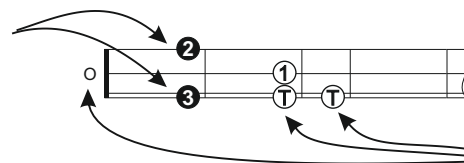
Pull-offs are a special technique where two different notes on the same string are played by Right and Left hand fingers alternately. In this example the second string is picked by the right hand, giving the initial note sound for the second string, 1st fret. Next pull the left hand fretting finger sideways, this will now sound the 2nd string, open.

REMEMBER: First Note is played by a right hand finger, the second note is played (pulled off) by a left hand finger.

Fingering Diagrams

These essentially are the same as the chord diagrams described on page 2. The main difference is in the use of left hand finger symbols shown in both black and white circles. The black are for fingers fixed down, these are anchored fingers that remain down whilst the other floating fingers (white circles) move around, reading the tablature will tell you when the floating notes should be played.

ANCHORED fingers, these are held down all the time.



FLOATING fingers and notes, these move and swap around to provide the melody.

Dance To Your Daddy

BASIC MELODY WITH CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT

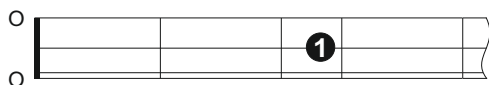
Tuning: D - A - d

Traditional English melody

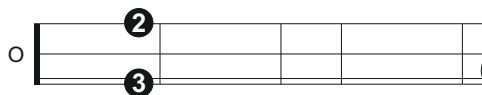
The musical score is written for a fretted bow instrument in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The bass line uses a D-A-d tuning. Chords D and A are indicated above the treble staff. Fingerings (T, i, 1, 2, 3, 0, 4) are shown on the bass staff. The score includes repeat signs and a final double bar line.

The following chords can be used as a simple accompaniment to the melody. The D chord can also be played very simply on three open strings (as described on page 2).

D chord



A chord



Dance To Your Daddy

MAIN ARRANGEMENT

Traditional English melody
arrangement for dulcimer by Theo Elsey

Tuning: D - A - d

The main arrangement consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with fretting numbers. The first system has two measures. The second system has two measures. The third system has two measures. The final measure of the third system is a whole note chord.

Three diagrams showing fretting techniques for the dulcimer. Diagram 1 shows a single fret on the D line. Diagram 2 shows a double fret on the A line. Diagram 3 shows a single fret on the d line.

Dance To Your Daddy

Tuning: D - A - d

Traditional English melody

BASIC MELODY WITH CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT

This section shows the basic melody with chord accompaniment for the song 'Dance To Your Daddy'. The music is written on a three-line staff representing the strings D, A, and d. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs indicating phrasing. Chords D, A, and d are indicated above the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

MAIN ARRANGEMENT

Traditional English melody
arrangement for dulcimer by Theo Elsey

This section shows the main arrangement for dulcimer. The music is written on a three-line staff representing the strings D, A, and d. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs indicating phrasing. Chords D, A, and d are indicated above the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

CLOSING COMMENTS

This complete file has been created as one of three Fretted Dulcimer samplers made freely available for download from Fretbow's website: www.fretbow.co.uk It is recommended that you also look at the two other titles, *Rosewood Casket* and *The Hills of Connemara*, these are all set at an entry level suitable for beginners.

Theo Elsey

August 2001 Revised edition - February 2025