

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) *Beginners - A few useful pointers in helping you get started including - tuning, reading tablature and playing chords.* Page 2 - 4
 - b) *Intermediate Players - Additional information you may need to know in order to play the main arrangement.* Page 4

- 2) **Basic dulcimer arrangement.** **Page 5**

An easy arrangement that uses melody notes on all three strings. Includes chords for dulcimer or other accompanying instrument.

- 3) **Main dulcimer arrangement** **Page 6**

A fingerpicked arrangement for the intermediate player in both music notation and tablature.

- 4) **Tablature** **Page 7**

This page has both the basic and main arrangements in tablature only.

- 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 understand 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.

Tuning the Dulcimer

Dance to Your Daddy is in D- A- d tuning, this is probably the most common tuning used by fretted dulcimer players, the majority of FMA's dulcimer arrangements are also in this tuning. 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.

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 to the mp3 audio track..

Chord symbols are given as bold type letter names above the music (see pages 5 and 7). The two chords of D and A are frequently used in the D - A- d tuning.

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

A Chord
Left hand fingering

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.

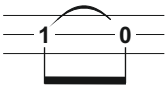
INTERMEDIATES

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



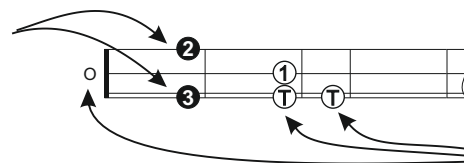
Pull-offs are a special technique where two different notes on the same string are played by Right and Left hand fingers alternately. In this example the second string is picked by the right hand, giving the initial note sound for the second string, 1st fret. Next pull the left hand fretting finger sideways,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

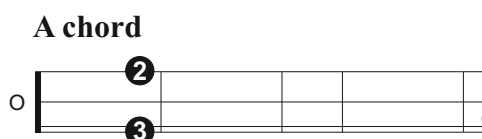
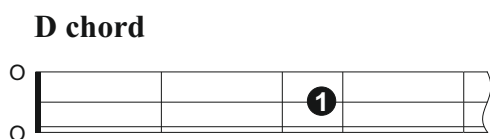
BASIC MELODY WITH CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT

Tuning: D - A - d

Traditional English melody

The musical score is arranged in three systems. Each system contains a treble clef staff and a guitar fretboard diagram. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system shows a D chord and an A chord. The second system shows D, A, and D chords. The third system shows A and D chords. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes, with some repeat signs and a final cadence. The fretboard diagrams show fingerings for each note, with 'T' for thumb, 'i' for index, and numbers 1-4 for other fingers.

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).



Dance To Your Daddy

MAIN ARRANGEMENT

Traditional English melody
arrangement for dulcimer by Theo Elsey

Tuning: D - A - d

Dance To Your Daddy

Tuning: D - A - d

Traditional English melody

BASIC MELODY WITH CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT

Basic melody with chord accompaniment for 'Dance To Your Daddy'. The piece is in 3/4 time and uses the D-A-d tuning. The melody is written on a three-line staff with fret numbers (0-4) and chord symbols (D, A) above it. The accompaniment is indicated by thick black bars below the staff. The piece concludes with a final chord of D (0-3-0).

MAIN ARRANGEMENT

Traditional English melody
arrangement for dulcimer by Theo Elsey

Main arrangement for dulcimer of 'Dance To Your Daddy'. This version includes plectrum (P) markings and tremolos (wavy lines) for the accompaniment. The melody is written on a three-line staff with fret numbers and chord symbols (D, A). The arrangement concludes with a final chord of D (0-3-0).

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 *Coulter's Candy*, these are all set at an entry level suitable for beginners.

Theo Elsey

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