

## Old Time Banjo / Frailing Lesson #4

### A. Double C and Double D Tunings

The third most common tuning in old time banjo playing, besides the open G and G modal (Mountain Minor or Sawmill) tunings, is the Double C or Double D tuning.

From the open G tuning (g D G B D) first raise the tuning of the second string **up** a half step from B to C. This gives you the Mountain Minor or Sawmill tuning we did in lesson #2, (g D B C D). As you remember, the second string when played at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret now sounds the same note as the first D string played open.

Next, drop the tuning of the bass (fourth) string **down** a whole step from D to C. The bass string when played at the 7<sup>th</sup> fret should now sound the same note as the third G string played open.

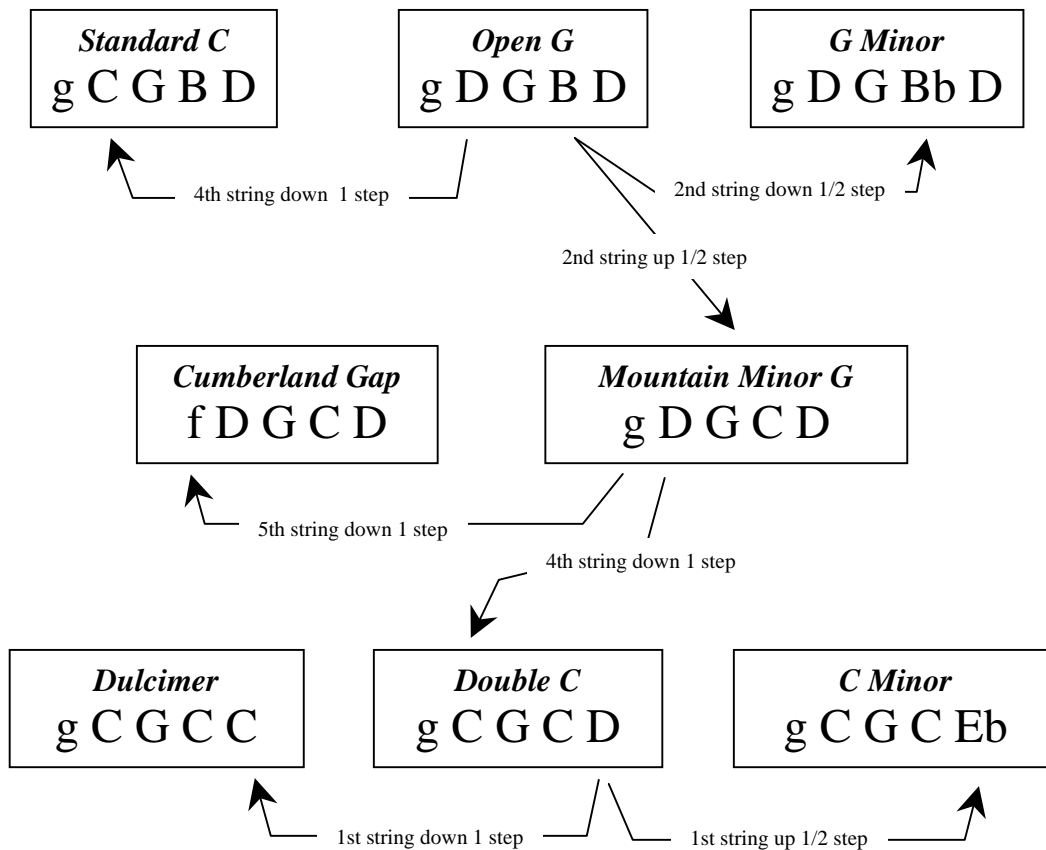
This now gives you the notes g C G C D. The bass (fourth) string is the same C note as the second string, only an octave lower. This is the Double C tuning which is handy for tunes played in the key of C.

To get to the double D tuning for songs in the key of D, simply put your capo at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret raising the tuning of all the strings up a whole note. Remember to also tune or capo your fifth string up a whole step from G to A as well. We're now tuned to the Double D tuning: a D A D E.

By fretting the first string (E) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret (F#) you can brush all the strings for a D major chord (D F# A).

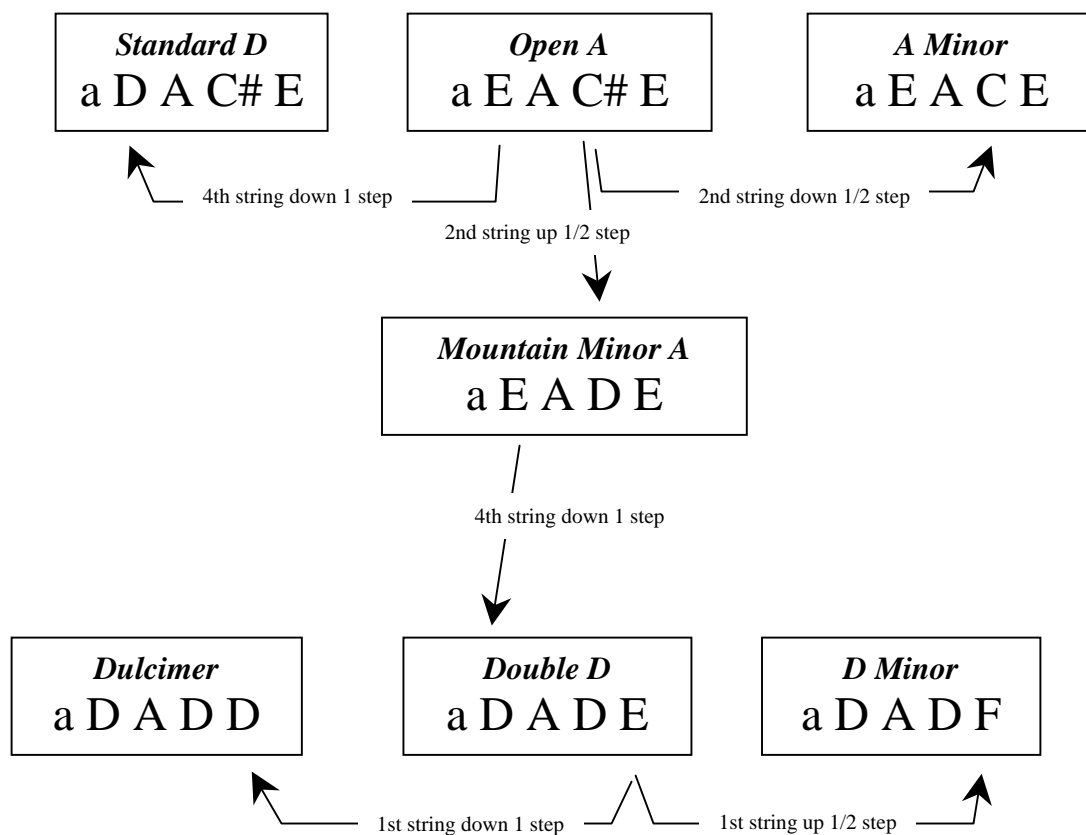
**B. Banjo Tunings reference – no capo**

The chart below shows a logical progression of how to get from one tuning to another, starting at the Open G tuning. None of these tunings use the capo at all. All you have to do to get to a different tuning is simply retune one string. For example, to get from the Open G tuning to the Cumberland Gap tuning you would first go to the Mountain Minor tuning.



### C. Banjo Tunings reference – capo at 2<sup>nd</sup> fret

This chart shows how to get from one tuning to another, using the capo at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret (and tuning or capoing the fifth string up to A as well). Again, all you have to do is retune one string to get to a different tuning. For example, to get to the D minor tuning from the Open A tuning you would first tune to Mountain Minor, then Double D, before going to the D minor tuning.



## D. West Fork Gals

Using the Double D tuning we'll get into a more complex frailing tune. Pay attention to the chords in part A, keeping your fingers down when brushing to play the chord. In part B there is lots of single note work so go slow and make sure you hear each note clearly, but do not lose the overall rhythm. Play each part twice (A A B B). Sorry, no words to this one!

The image displays four systems of musical notation for the piece "West Fork Gals". Each system consists of five horizontal staves, labeled E, D, A, D, and A from top to bottom, representing the strings of a banjo in Double D tuning. The notation includes various fret numbers (0, 2, 3, 4, 5) and rhythmic markings such as "2" and "3" above notes, indicating fingerings and rhythms. The first system begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The third system begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.