

Introduction to Book 2

Welcome to Book 2 of “Field Guide to the Mountain Dulcimer,” the second in a series of two books. Book 1 contains Level I and you’ll find Levels II and III in this volume.

Do I need to have conquered Book 1 before starting this book?

Well, that’s a good question and the answer is “it depends.” Book 1 is basically a beginner’s guide, addressing buying, tuning, holding and care of the instrument as well as learning to play simple melodies, and chords in different positions. It also addresses basic right and left hand techniques and presents some tunes for you to play that reinforce what you’ve learned throughout the book.

A few tunes that were introduced in simple forms in Book 1 show up again in Book 2, adding complexity with each appearance. This should not be a major problem, but could be a consideration if you’re trying to decide where to begin.

So, it’s up to you to decide if you’d like to start with the basics, contained in Book 1, or if you’re ready to charge ahead to the next level. I suggest that you look over the Table of Contents and Level II introduction and see if it makes sense to you, or if you need a bit more background.

Whether you’ve finished Book 1 or are starting this series here with Book 2, there are a couple of things from the first book that I thought would be helpful to repeat. Following this chapter you’ll find blank tablature for three-string and four-string dulcimers as well as the master chord chart for DAD/DADD tuning from Book 1.

Here are a few things that you need to know about this series:

The companion downloadable audio files

You can download accompanying online audio files that let you hear the exercises and the tunes. This is important, as many of the pieces will be new to you. I suggest that you:

- **Read the text.**
- Listen to the music.
- Reread the text.
- Play the exercise(s) or tune.
- Repeat the above in any order until it all becomes clear.

I’m one of those people who, when I bring home a new camera, starts poking at the buttons and can’t understand why it doesn’t work. My husband says, “What does the manual say?”... and I say, “Manual?” The exercises and tunes are designed to give you less talk and more “example,” but imagine coming to me for a lesson and having me never explain anything to you. You need to read the text as *well* as listen and play. You do that and next time I’ll read the camera manual. Deal?



When you see this icon, you’ll know there is a recorded music file available. The track number leads you to the correct exercise, song or tune. You’ll find a complete list of the audio contents beginning on page 2.

You will not find recorded sound files for chord charts; only for exercises, songs and tunes. Note that for tunes written with repeated parts that sound the same, I didn’t play the repeats in the audio files.