

Learning Aid #7 - "Updating" the 1-3-5 Fretboard

In the previous Learning Aid (#6) we showed that there was a scarcity of certain chromatic notes on the 1-3-5 fretboard. In the D-F#-A tuning, for example, we can find only one location in each octave for the notes A#, D#, C and F. That situation isn't necessarily the way we want things to be; that's just the way it is because of the diatonic fret spacing of dulcimers.

The same sort of problem has been seen for many years with the modal D tunings like D-A-A and D-A-d. For this reason, nearly all dulcimers today have the 6+ fret, and growing numbers of players are insisting on the 1+ fret as well. Both of these frets, basically, have been added to provide new notes and chords that are more easily reached.

In recent months, several of our tab offerings have been arranged using the 1+ fret, in order to make the notes F-natural and C-natural more easily available. We plan to continue using the 1+ in some of our future arrangements, since many players already have that fret. It is not a necessity here; merely a help (just as it is for other tunings.) In fact, those having the 1+ fret will find that it adds many more chord positions than are found in our present 1-3-5 chord tables. Here we have listed a summary of **22** such new chords. (You may wish to insert these in the regular chord tables found elsewhere).

Chords Added to D-F#-A Chart by the 1 + Fret

Major	Minor	Diminished
D (2/1+/3)	Am (1/1+/1+)	F#dim (2/1+/1+)
F (1+/1+/1+)	Bbm (1+/2/2)	Bdim (1+/3/3)
A (1/1+/2)	Fm (1+/1/1+)	Fdim (1+/1/1)
Bb (1+/2/3)	F#m (2/1+/2)	Ddim (1+/1/3)
	Dm (1+/1+/3)	

Dom7th	Major 7th	Minor 7th
D7 (0/0/1+)	Fmaj7 (1+/1+/4)	Dm7 (0/1+/1+)
Ab7 (2/1/1+)		
A7 (3/1+/2)		

Augmented	Flatted 5th
E+ (1/1/1+)	F(b5) (1+1+/1)
F+ (1+/1+/2)	F#(b5) (2/2/1+)