

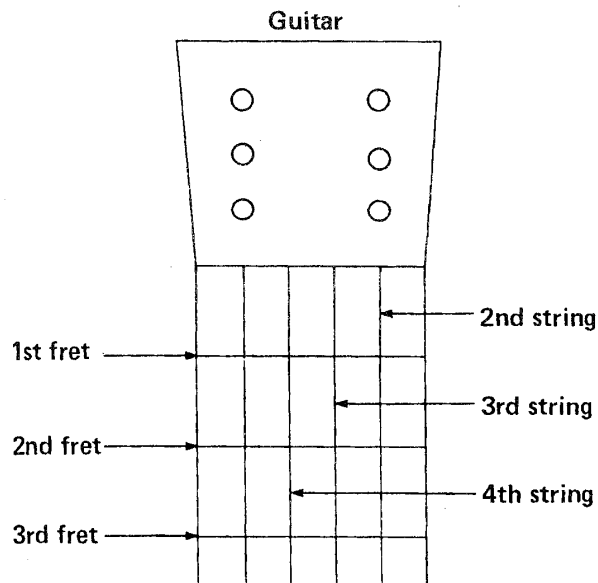
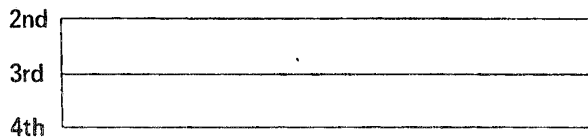
The Notation Used In This Book

(Bluegrass Songbook, Music Sales)

If you don't know or are not sure of the way a song goes, I've included a simple notation form which will show you the basic melody and phrasing of words for the first verse and chorus. This system is simpler to follow than standard music notation, though it is a bit less exact. It also requires a guitar (preferably) or a banjo or dobro (resophonic guitar) to use easily. If you don't play guitar, see the Appendices on page 111.

The three lines above each line of words represent the second, third and fourth strings of a guitar (or banjo). Unfretted, these strings would sound the notes B, G and D, respectively.

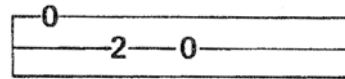
Tablature:



Some notes are too low for the fourth string of a guitar or banjo. In these cases extra lines are drawn in for the fifth and/or sixth strings of a guitar (A and E).

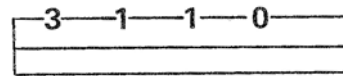
The numbers on the lines show you where to fret the string with your left hand to play the correct melody note. For instance, the first three notes of "Three Blind Mice" would be represented as follows:

Three blind mice



This means that you play the second string open, the second fret on the third string, and the third string open. Now try "see how they run."

See how they run



You may need a little practice to feel comfortable with this system. Find a song in the book that you know well, get out your guitar, banjo, or dobro (make sure it's in tune) and pick through the notes. After going through a familiar tune or two you'll probably be ready for less familiar ones.