



# The Fiddle & Bow Store

Baritone Violins/Fiddles, Historic & Modern Pochettes (a.k.a. Kits, Packpacher Fiddles and Traeol Violins/Fiddles) & other Unique Instruments

These are fiddle chord charts for the chords most commonly used in Old Time, Irish, Scottish and other “folk” styles of fiddling. Full chords are composed of three notes: the **root** note, the **3<sup>rd</sup>** (“flatted” 3<sup>rd</sup> for minor chords) and the **5<sup>th</sup>** harmony notes. On a fiddle, one can only play partial chords, composed of any 2-note combination of the root, 3<sup>rd</sup> or flatted 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup>. Owing to the way a fiddle is played (with a bow), the notes must be on adjacent strings. Bluegrass fiddlers make extensive use of chords (usually called “double-stops”) when not playing a solo.

In Old Time, Irish and Scottish playing, chords are used primarily by a second fiddler. A good second fiddler will often mix chordal accompaniment with playing the main melody in unison, the main melody an octave lower (especially when playing a baritone/octave fiddle) or a harmony melody. Different regional styles will emphasize different techniques for the second fiddler; for example, in certain regions of Ireland, simply playing the tune in various combinations of unison and an octave lower is favored. In other styles, the second fiddler plays primarily chords; which works particularly well with a baritone fiddle. A viola is sometimes used as well for the same purpose.

In any case, any fiddler who ever intends to play second fiddle in a duet best know his or her chords. The bowing techniques for chord playing include long bowing and the “chop” (used extensively by Darol Anger—he has a lesson on the chop on YouTube). Experienced players will use various other techniques such as the burl (called a treble in Irish playing), various shuffle patterns and so forth. We intend to create a video lesson on bowing methods for second fiddle in the near future.

## How to read the charts:

The first note (bolded) is the chord name. The three notes in parentheses are the **root note**, the **3<sup>rd</sup> harmony** and the **5<sup>th</sup> harmony**. For example **C** (C E G) indicates that for a **C** chord, the **root is C**, the **3<sup>rd</sup> is E** and the **5<sup>th</sup> is G**.

In the tables that follow, each row corresponds to a string on the fiddle. The heavy darkened column (i.e. second column) represents the fiddle nut and the vertical lines represent imaginary frets. The first column (to the left of the “nut”) represents the open (unstopped) strings.

These tables are for a fiddle tuned in the standard violin *E-A-D-G* tuning. We will have additional charts available for various “cross-tunings”, such as *E-A-E-A*, *D-G-D-G*, *E-A-D-A*, etc.

When learning a new tune, try various 2-note combinations on adjacent strings to get the “voicing” you are looking for. Most of the chords can be played in either first or third positions. Chords composed of notes in the first position are the easiest. In general, chords composed of 2 notes that are literally adjacent to on another take some practice to play in tune.



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## C (C E G)

|          |    |          |          |    |          |    |          |          |          |          |    |          |
|----------|----|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|
| E        | F  | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb | B        | <b>C</b> | C#       | D        | Eb | E        |
| A        | Bb | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        |
| D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb       | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        |
| <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb       | <b>E</b> | F        | F# | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1  | 2        | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8        | 9        | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## Cm (C Eb G)

|          |           |    |          |    |          |           |   |           |    |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----|----------|----|----------|-----------|---|-----------|----|----------|-----------|----------|
| E        | F         | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb        | B | <b>C</b>  | C# | D        | <b>Eb</b> | E        |
| A        | Bb        | B  | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | <b>Eb</b> | E | F         | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab        | A        |
| D        | <b>Eb</b> | E  | F        | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab        | A | Bb        | B  | <b>C</b> | C#        | D        |
| <b>G</b> | Ab        | A  | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C#        | D | <b>Eb</b> | E  | F        | F#        | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1         | 2  | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6         | 7 | 8         | 9  | 10       | 11        | 12       |

Open String

## G (G B D)

|          |    |          |          |          |          |    |          |    |          |          |    |          |
|----------|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|----|----------|
| E        | F  | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab       | A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C  | C#       | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        |
| A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C        | C#       | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | F  | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        |
| <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | F        | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C        | C# | <b>D</b> |
| <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb       | <b>B</b> | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | F        | F# | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1  | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8  | 9        | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## Gm (G Bb D)

|          |           |    |           |    |          |           |          |           |    |          |    |          |
|----------|-----------|----|-----------|----|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----|----------|----|----------|
| E        | F         | F# | <b>G</b>  | Ab | A        | <b>Bb</b> | B        | C         | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        |
| A        | <b>Bb</b> | B  | C         | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb        | E        | F         | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        |
| <b>D</b> | Eb        | E  | F         | F# | <b>G</b> | Ab        | A        | <b>Bb</b> | B  | C        | C# | <b>D</b> |
| <b>G</b> | Ab        | A  | <b>Bb</b> | B  | C        | C#        | <b>D</b> | Eb        | E  | F        | F# | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1         | 2  | 3         | 4  | 5        | 6         | 7        | 8         | 9  | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## D (D F# A)

|          |    |           |    |           |          |    |          |    |           |          |           |          |
|----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| E        | F  | <b>F#</b> | G  | Ab        | <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | C  | C#        | <b>D</b> | Eb        | E        |
| <b>A</b> | Bb | B         | C  | C#        | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | F  | <b>F#</b> | G        | Ab        | <b>A</b> |
| <b>D</b> | Eb | E         | F  | <b>F#</b> | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb | B         | C        | C#        | <b>D</b> |
| <b>G</b> | Ab | <b>A</b>  | Bb | B         | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E         | F        | <b>F#</b> | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1  | 2         | 3  | 4         | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8  | 9         | 10       | 11        | 12       |

Open String

## Dm (D F A)

|          |          |          |          |    |          |    |          |          |    |          |    |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|
| E        | <b>F</b> | F#       | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        |
| <b>A</b> | Bb       | B        | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | <b>F</b> | F# | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> |
| <b>D</b> | Eb       | E        | <b>F</b> | F# | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B  | C        | C# | <b>D</b> |
| <b>G</b> | Ab       | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B  | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb       | E  | <b>F</b> | F# | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1        | 2        | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8        | 9  | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String



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## A (A C# E)

|          |    |          |    |           |          |           |          |    |           |    |           |          |
|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----------|
| E        | F  | F#       | G  | Ab        | <b>A</b> | Bb        | B        | C  | <b>C#</b> | D  | Eb        | <b>E</b> |
| <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | C  | <b>C#</b> | D        | Eb        | <b>E</b> | F  | F#        | G  | Ab        | <b>A</b> |
| D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F  | F#        | G        | Ab        | <b>A</b> | Bb | B         | C  | <b>C#</b> | D        |
| G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb | B         | C        | <b>C#</b> | D        | Eb | <b>E</b>  | F  | F#        | G        |
| 0        | 1  | 2        | 3  | 4         | 5        | 6         | 7        | 8  | 9         | 10 | 11        | 12       |

Open String

## Am (A C E)

|          |    |          |          |    |          |    |          |          |          |          |    |          |
|----------|----|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|
| E        | F  | F#       | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | <b>C</b> | C#       | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> |
| <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F#       | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> |
| D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F# | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        |
| G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb       | <b>E</b> | F        | F# | G        |
| 0        | 1  | 2        | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8        | 9        | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## E (E G# B) Note: **Ab** is the same note as **G#**

|          |           |          |    |           |   |           |          |    |          |    |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|----|-----------|---|-----------|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|----------|
| E        | F         | F#       | G  | <b>G#</b> | A | Bb        | <b>B</b> | C  | C#       | D  | Eb        | <b>E</b> |
| <b>A</b> | Bb        | <b>B</b> | C  | C#        | D | Eb        | <b>E</b> | F  | F#       | G  | <b>G#</b> | A        |
| D        | Eb        | <b>E</b> | F  | F#        | G | <b>G#</b> | A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C  | C#        | D        |
| G        | <b>G#</b> | A        | Bb | <b>B</b>  | C | C#        | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F  | F#        | G        |
| 0        | 1         | 2        | 3  | 4         | 5 | 6         | 7        | 8  | 9        | 10 | 11        | 12       |

Open String

## Em (E G B)

|          |    |          |          |          |          |    |          |          |          |          |    |          |
|----------|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|
| E        | F  | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab       | A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C        | C#       | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> |
| <b>A</b> | Bb | <b>B</b> | C        | C#       | D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F#       | <b>G</b> | Ab | A        |
| D        | Eb | <b>E</b> | F        | F#       | <b>G</b> | A  | Bb       | <b>B</b> | C        | C#       | D  | <b>E</b> |
| <b>G</b> | Ab | A        | Bb       | <b>B</b> | C        | C# | D        | Eb       | <b>E</b> | F        | F# | <b>G</b> |
| 0        | 1  | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8        | 9        | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## B (B D# F#)

|          |           |           |    |           |   |           |          |           |           |    |           |    |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| E        | F         | <b>F#</b> | G  | Ab        | A | Bb        | <b>B</b> | C         | C#        | D  | <b>D#</b> | E  |
| <b>A</b> | Bb        | <b>B</b>  | C  | C#        | D | <b>D#</b> | E        | F         | <b>F#</b> | G  | G#        | A  |
| D        | <b>D#</b> | E         | F  | <b>F#</b> | G | G#        | A        | A#        | <b>B</b>  | C  | C#        | D  |
| G        | G#        | A         | A# | <b>B</b>  | C | C#        | D        | <b>D#</b> | E         | F  | <b>F#</b> | G  |
| 0        | 1         | 2         | 3  | 4         | 5 | 6         | 7        | 8         | 9         | 10 | 11        | 12 |

Open String

## Bm (B D F#)

|          |    |           |    |           |          |    |          |    |           |           |    |          |
|----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----------|----|----------|----|-----------|-----------|----|----------|
| E        | F  | <b>F#</b> | G  | Ab        | A        | Bb | <b>B</b> | C  | C#        | <b>D</b>  | Eb | E        |
| <b>A</b> | Bb | <b>B</b>  | C  | C#        | <b>D</b> | Eb | E        | F  | <b>F#</b> | G         | Ab | A        |
| <b>D</b> | Eb | E         | F  | <b>F#</b> | G        | Ab | A        | Bb | <b>B</b>  | C         | C# | <b>D</b> |
| G        | Ab | A         | Bb | <b>B</b>  | C        | C# | <b>D</b> | Eb | E         | <b>F#</b> | G  | <b>D</b> |
| 0        | 1  | 2         | 3  | 4         | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8  | 9         | 10        | 11 | 12       |

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## F (F A C)

|          |          |          |          |    |          |    |          |          |    |          |    |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|----|----------|----|----------|
| E        | <b>F</b> | F#       | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb | E        |
| <b>A</b> | Bb       | B        | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb | E        | <b>F</b> | F# | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> |
| D        | Eb       | E        | <b>F</b> | F# | G        | Ab | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C# | D        |
| G        | Ab       | <b>A</b> | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb       | E  | <b>F</b> | F# | G        |
| 0        | 1        | 2        | 3        | 4  | 5        | 6  | 7        | 8        | 9  | 10       | 11 | 12       |

Open String

## Fm (F Ab C)

|   |           |    |          |           |          |           |   |          |    |          |           |    |
|---|-----------|----|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---|----------|----|----------|-----------|----|
| E | <b>F</b>  | F# | G        | <b>Ab</b> | A        | Bb        | B | <b>C</b> | C# | D        | Eb        | E  |
| A | Bb        | B  | <b>C</b> | C#        | D        | Eb        | E | <b>F</b> | F# | G        | <b>Ab</b> | A  |
| D | Eb        | E  | <b>F</b> | F#        | G        | <b>Ab</b> | A | Bb       | B  | <b>C</b> | C#        | D  |
| G | <b>Ab</b> | A  | Bb       | B         | <b>C</b> | C#        | D | Eb       | E  | <b>F</b> | F#        | G  |
| 0 | 1         | 2  | 3        | 4         | 5        | 6         | 7 | 8        | 9  | 10       | 11        | 12 |

Open String