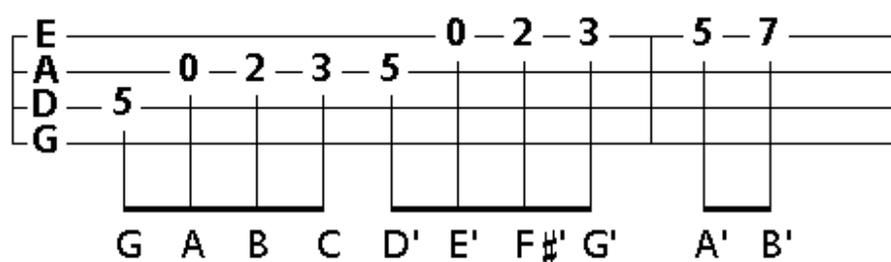
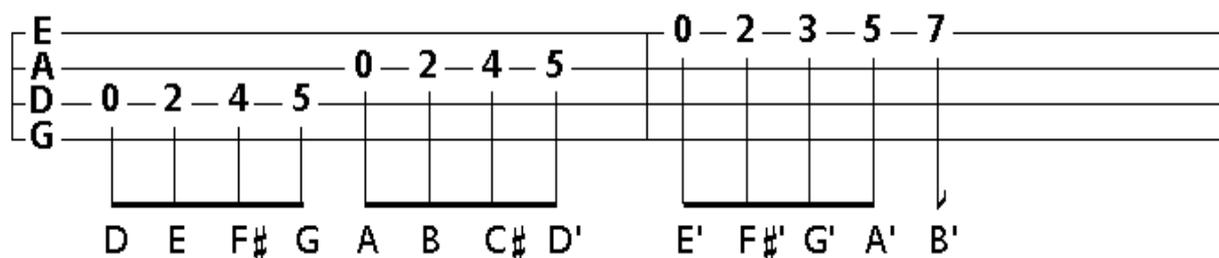


Playing up to B'

So far, we've learned the eight notes each of the D and G major scales. We're going to add some higher notes now, because you'll be needing them for many Irish tunes.

We've already come across high A (A') in the exercises on p31, and the last note we're going to add is high B (B'), which is the seventh fret on the E string. There are more notes above these but you won't need them at this stage.

Here are A' and B', added first into the D scale and then into the G:



You need your little finger for B', and lots of learners find it hard to stretch to the seventh fret and then to press hard enough to get a good sound. This is one of the reasons I always recommend playing with four fingers instead of just three, to strengthen up that finger. However, if you're a three-finger player you have a free little finger, and you can skip this next bit. But do play the tune on p68 so that you're getting some practise at playing the B' with confidence.

There are some fingering diagrams coming up, so let's recap on which finger is which:

Finger 1 = Index finger
Finger 2 = Middle finger
Finger 3 = Ring finger
Finger 4 = Little finger

Getting Up to B'

How we get up to the B' depends on whether or not there's an A' before it. Let's look at the two different options.

1. Jumping

If there's no A' before the B' then you'll have your little finger free and can just jump up to B'. At first you'll probably have to look at the fretboard to do this, but in time you'll get used to it. (Also, most banjos have a dot on the neck at the seventh fret – see p15. If yours doesn't, you can always make a small mark with Tippex).