

## Tune 1: “The Newmarket Polka”

The very first tune is a well-known polka, The Newmarket. As we said at the end of Chapter Three, if you need to brush up *either* on the fundamentals of reading standard musical notation or of Irish trad music, then read through the appendices in this manual. **Even if you’re just using the ABC or the concertina notation, you DO most definitely need to refer to the music itself**, since this gives you necessary information, including the key the tune is played in (and hence whether some notes are played as sharps – though none are in The Newmarket); the duration of each note; and the rhythm). **And you DO need to understand the basics of Irish trad tunes** – again, refer to the appendices if you need information on this.

### POINTS TO NOTE/LEARNING POINTS:

In playing The Newmarket, note the following:

- It’s particularly easy to play on the concertina (and, indeed, on the button accordion), because it requires the use of just five buttons – three on the left hand side and two on the right. All of these buttons are on the middle or “C” row – they are C3, C4, C5, C6, and C7.
- Please note that there are very few Irish trad tunes which are best played just along the C row. It is much more common to find tunes which can easily be played entirely (or almost entirely) along the *inside* or “G” row - for example, the next tune (tune 2, Cooley's Jig).
- The Newmarket is in the key of G major, though this is of little relevance in The Newmarket (it contains no F notes; if it did, those notes would be played as F sharps because it is in G major).
- The very first note on the page, an E (button C4), is not played at the very start, but is played to start part A for the second time – and indeed is also played when you have played the whole tune and want to play it again from the top. We refer to this single note as a ‘link note’. It isn’t a part of the melody (the sixteen bars or measures that comprise the tune) *per se*; you play it when repeating the first part of the tune, or when playing it a second or third time. This is very common, so that in many of the other tunes in this manual, you will encounter link notes at the start of each part, which often are not played at the beginning, but *are* played when starting the 'repeat'.
- Position your 4<sup>th</sup> left-hand finger over the C3 button; your middle left-hand finger over the C4 button; and your left-hand index finger over the C5 button. Position your right-hand index finger over the C6 button and your right-hand middle finger over the C7 button. You’re ready to play.
- The first note that you’ll play, then, is D, obtained by pressing the middle button on the C row on the left side (C3) using your 4<sup>th</sup> left-hand finger, and pulling the instrument. In fact, you play that note twice – the first time it’s a crotchet (as we’ve said repeatedly, see the Appendix: “A Note On Notes” if you need help on notes, etc), and the second time it’s a dotted quaver. The next note is B (C6), a semi-quaver.
- The C3 button for D is often the first choice of many great concertina players and teachers. For myself, I often make use of the other D button, G2, since D is often played close together with F# (G2), and if your little finger is positioned on the G2 button anyway, why not use it? And it can avoid a change in bellows direction. For example, the sequence D E F# is a very common starting sequence in tunes; using C3 followed by C4 followed by G2 to obtain those notes involves two changes in direction and three fingers, whereas using G2 C4 G2 *to me* seems smoother and easier. But you should definitely learn to become comfortable with both buttons for D; and you will encounter both as you progress through the manual.
- And so on. Simply follow the concertina notation, referring also to the music for the duration of each note. Remember: at the end of line 3 there’s a “repeat” symbol, which means that you go back to the beginning, and play that part of the tune a second time – this time including the link note E (C4). Then onto the second part (the last three lines), starting with A (C5), remembering (a) to watch for the different durations of some of the notes – and (b) that the second part is also played twice. Again, if you need help on these points, see the short appendix on the structure and playing of Irish trad. And that is your very first Irish tune on your concertina!

TUNE 1 (POLKA)

The Newmarket (G)

arr. Dusty Banjos

E D D B A G E G  
 C4 C3 C3 C6 C5 C5 C4 C5  
 D D B A G G E D D B  
 C3 C3 C6 C5 C5 C5 C4 C3 C3 C6  
 A G E G D D' B A G G  
 C5 C5 C4 C5 C3 C7 C6 C5 C5 C5  
 A B D' A B A G E G  
 C5 C6 C7 C5 C6 C5 C5 C4 C5  
 B D' A B A G G A B D' A B  
 C6 C7 C5 C6 C5 C5 C5 C5 C6 C7 C5 C6  
 A G E G D D' B A G G  
 C5 C5 C4 C5 C3 C7 C6 C5 C5 C5

**Reminder:** Notation for the 30 buttons on the 30-button Anglo concertina (from page 13):

A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	<i>Push</i>	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	<i>Pull</i>	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	<i>Push</i>	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	<i>Pull</i>	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	<i>Push</i>	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10
G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	<i>Pull</i>	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10

Left Hand

Right Hand