

The G major Scale

There's only one other scale you really need to know at this point, and that is the scale of **G major**. It has all the same notes as D major except for one, but that one is very important. It also has the same pattern of steps as D major (all major scales do).

The D scale starts on the note D, the open D string on the banjo. The G scale starts on the note G, but *not* on the G string. The reason for this is that the notes on the G string are too low for our purposes, so we move up an octave in terms of sound to a higher G note and start here instead.

We've already come across the note G in our D scale, on the fifth fret of the D string. This is our starting note for the G scale:



The full scale is (*Tr.10*).

G A B C D' E' F# G'

As before, we're just going up the alphabet. The G, A and B notes are exactly the same ones that we already know. Our important new note is C. This note is on the third fret, not the fourth, and it's called 'C natural' to distinguish it from C sharp.

C natural is the 3rd fret on the A string
C sharp is the 4th fret on the A string

High D (written D') is the same note we've already learnt. Now we move to the E string for our last three notes, high E (E'), high F# (F#') and high G (G'). So the G scale covers three strings instead of two. We're making progress!

Here's our G major scale in tab:

