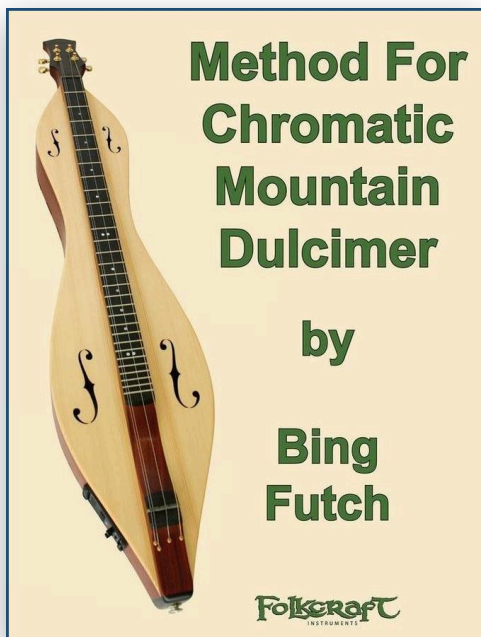




FINGERS OF STEEL® PUBLICATIONS

Method For Chromatic Mountain Dulcimer

by Bing Futch



For the chromatic mountain dulcimer, there's no other instruction book like this one. Bing Futch's Method For Chromatic Mountain Dulcimer is the definitive guide to playing it.

Over 100 audio tracks, free to download; Plenty of full-color charts, diagrams and reference material; Bing's experience as a player and teacher, from your first steps to advanced playing.

104 pages

Free demo audio

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About This Book	
If you're holding this book, flipping through it or having recently purchased it, then you've crossed the line and are probably ready to begin your journey with the chromatic mountain dulcimer. The allure of the dulcimer or standard mountain dulcimer usually lies in its simplicity and the fact that you can enjoy a stress-free experience playing a musical instrument. However, many of us know that as you can get very complicated with a dulcimer and that it would be nice to have the same options that most other folks have on their instruments regarding notes and chords.	
That's where the chromatic mountain dulcimer comes in and that's why you're reading this. You're ready to cross over to the "dark side."	
In assembling this book, I've made a number of assumptions that are key to getting the most out of every page:	
1. You are not a beginner mountain dulcimer player.	
You should have a functional knowledge of basic music theory. This includes knowing how to learn various rhythms and time signatures, how to fall- or fingerpick individual notes, how to play chords and how to read tablature. If you don't understand the particular why's and how's of music theory, not to worry. That will all be covered.	
2. You have a chromatic mountain dulcimer with positioning dots at the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st and 24th frets. (At least the first octave.)	
If you don't, it's not the end of the world (or the book) but for this method I will be focusing on reference techniques for these frets. Why? Because these are the standard positions for fret markers on guitars. Whether you're a guitarist making the leap to mountain dulcimer or coming with a guitar, these frets offer a compatible standard that will help you and those around you better understand your fretboard. My hope is setting dulcimer positioning dots to ease the transition between standard and chromatic dulcimer will be more confusing than helpful as you begin your journey. No dots at all will be quite maddening unless you're a professional. Just sayin'.	
3. There's no such thing as an "easier" fret, so no need for "1" or "12".	
After much lively discussion amongst other mountain dulcimer players, I have decided to use only chromatic tab in this book. Why? Because a chromatic scale written diatonically looks like this:	
D+ -1 -1 -1 -2 -3 -3+ -4 -4+ -5 -5 -6 -6+ -7 -7+	
There's a lot of duplicate numbers and little symbols to watch for and...it's just messy. So we'll stick with the widely accepted 1 through 12 system and keep it simple (and clean). If you really, really want the diatonic numbering system, I'll provide a chromatic Tablature template with this book and you can use that to convert all of the tabs yourself. The template will be on the data disk with the exercises from this book. It should open in Mac and PC as a disk. These files are also available on the Folkcraft website.	
4. We'll be in DAD tuning for the entire book.	
You can use multiple tunings for chromatic dulcimer, of course, but since you're already familiar with DAD it'll make getting used to this new fretboard a whole lot easier for reference sake.	
That's it! Let's get started.	

It will take some getting used to, but keep in mind that standard positioning dots in the upper octave should be at the 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st and 24th frets.

Here, the key signature is set for D Major.

Grey Cat On A Tennessee Farm

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