

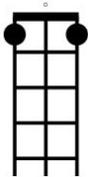
The M4 “UNIVERSAL CHORDS BOOK”

(DULCIMER GUITAR, STRUMSTICK ET WOODROW)

(beta version 2018-04-12)

There is no one "standard tuning" for the *dulcimer guitar*, but as with the shape of the instrument, usually tuned (from left to right) to G-D-GG and D-A-DD. Players are accustomed to naming their strings from *lowest to highest* (as would a guitarist or violinist), which means that the strings are usually named *in order* from which they appear on the instrument, i.e., *left (UP) to right (DOWN)*. Thus the tunings cited above would more commonly be given as: G₃-D₃-G₄G₅ in the key of G and D₃-A₄-D₄D₄ in the key of D. This convention will be followed for the rest of the article.

Since the M4 is a diatonic instrument tuned in a MAJOR SCALE, it's hard to write a "standard chord book" for it. The reason is that the instrument can be tune in virtually any key (scale). Most people have it in the key of D or the key of G, but some down tune it in C or in F or any other tunings. That mean that the same "chord position" will be named differently if we change the key of the instrument.



Here's an example: This chord position will be a "D chord" if your Dulcimer Guitar is in the key of G. It will be a "A chord" if your instrument is in the key of D. It will be a "G chord" if your instrument if in the key of C...

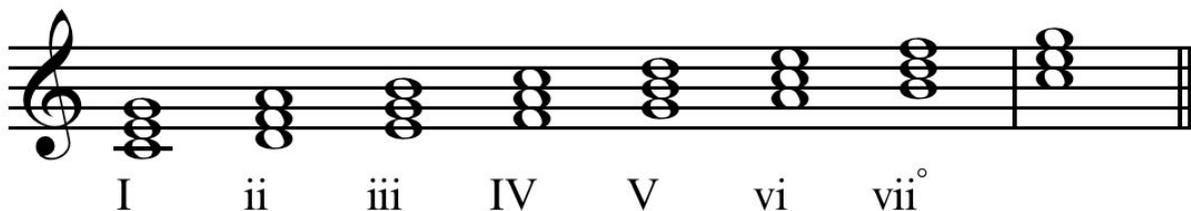
So it is impossible to make a standard "chord book" for M4.

But there is one thing:

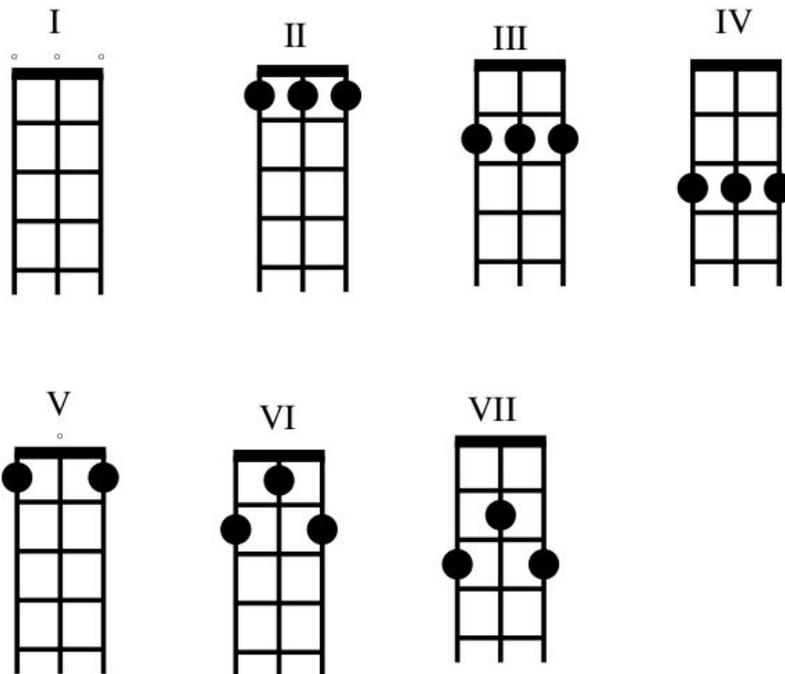
*In music theory, the diatonic scale notes are numbered from one to seven.
We use numbers to denote the position of a chord relative to is key (scale).*

Roman numerals are used to label chord positions

Image below shows you the chords progression on a music sheet in the key of C with the roman numerals below each chord. Basically it's C(I), Dm(II), Em(III), F(IV), G(V), Am(VI), Bm(VII) and C(VIII) or C(I) one octave higher. If we change the key, the notes will change, but chords progression (roman numerals) will stay the same.



So this is how we will write chords for the Merlin M4, Dulcimer Guitar, Woodrow and strumstick. With the ROMAN NUMERAL SYSTEM. Here's the seven basic chords you can play on the instrument.



Here's OTHER WAYS TO PLAY THE SAME CHORDS:

I = **(000)**, (002), (200), (234), (432), (232), (434), (777)

II = **(111)**, (113), (311), (343), (345), (543), (545)

III = **(222)**, (202), (224), (422), (454), (456), (654), (656)

IV = (310), (013), **(333)**, (335), (533),

V = **(101)**, (444), (421), (124), (446), (644)

VI = (010), **(212)**, (012), (210), (555), (755), (557)

VII = (121), **(323)**, (123), (321)

You will notice that the same chord will have a different sound when you change its shape. It's normal. Just play around, have fun and notice when you love or hate the sound of a shape.

LOVE
The Merlin Wizard