

Back Up

By Janet Davis

Jerusalem Ridge- "A" Natural Minor

Recently, I was asked to reprint my arrangement for *Jerusalem Ridge* in A minor, which is to be played on the banjo without a capo. This originally appeared as a lead arrangement in December 1996 issue. The MP3 file in on BNL's website, which prompted the request for the tablature. This is an excellent tune to demonstrate how a song is based upon the Natural Minor Scale without retuning the banjo.

This discussion continues our series on minor scales and how they are used in songs.

Jerusalem Ridge is a popular fiddle tune which was composed by Bill Monroe for the Key of A minor. The notes in the melody *and* the chords in the back up for this song are built with notes from the "A" Natural Minor Scale. There are only 7 notes in this scale, which repeat (an octave higher) as you go up a single string, fret by fret. These notes are numbered according to their position in the scale line using Arabic numbers.

(Note: Compare the notes in the natural minor scale below with the notes in the lead arrangement for *Jerusalem Ridge* to see how the scale works for the melody line.

NOTES belonging to the "A" Natural Minor Scale are:

Scale tones: A – B – C – D – E – F – G... A(repeats.)

Position: 1 -- 2 -3-4-5-6-7--

The above notes are also combined to form the back up chords. Each chord is built by combining every other note, starting with the note named for the chord, (the root note).

The 1st, 3rd, 5th notes = A + C + E = Am chord. These notes naturally form a minor chord.

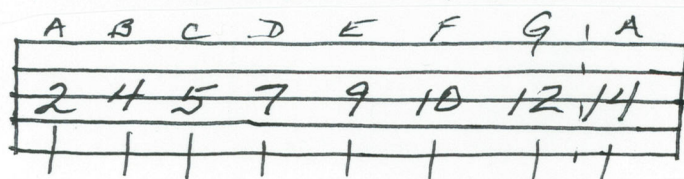
The 2nd, 4th, 6th notes = B + D + F = a diminished chord (B dim.)

The 3rd, 5, and 7th notes = C + E + G = C major chord...etc.

"A" Natural Minor Scale:

On one string:

(212-2122 = fretboard pattern for any natural minor scale)



"A" Natural Minor Scale:

Each note on a different string (3-finger style)

