



Build Your Own Mountain Dulcimer Kit (v2)

Mountain Dulcimer Assembly Instructions



Contents

- 1 x Fretted dulcimer neck
- 1 x plywood body:
 - 2 ends, 2 sides, 1 bottom, and 1 top with sound holes
- 1 x small parts bag
- 1 x set of dulcimer strings
- 1 x assembly instructions

Small Parts Bag

- (2) Left hand tuners
- (2) Right hand tuners
- (8) tuner mounting screws
- (2) ¼" dowels
- (3) brass tail pins
- (2) screws
- (2) washers
- bridge
- (4) rubber feet
- guitar pick



Full assembly instructions video at:
<https://youtu.be/mnotCQ8qNbs>

Step 1

Assemble the box:

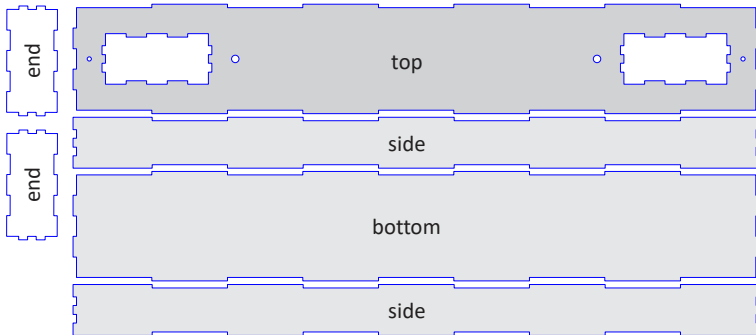


Figure 1 pre-cut plywood box parts

The box is laser cut to ensure a tight, secure fit that does not require glue. However, *glueing* your box is strongly recommended and will ensure a more rugged dulcimer that will not flex when playing. Any white or wood glue is suitable and only a small amount of glue need be applied to the tabs where they meet with the adjoining side.

First, press fit the ends together with one side. Then attach this assembly to the bottom. Finally, add the second side and press all joints to ensure a snug fit. Hold it until the glue sets or wrap the assembly with rubber bands or use masking tape to help provide constant pressure and keep the joints closed.

Step 1A (optional)

Paint the body.

If you intend to paint the body, once the glue sets go ahead and paint your dulcimer body.

Step 2

Install the tuning pegs:



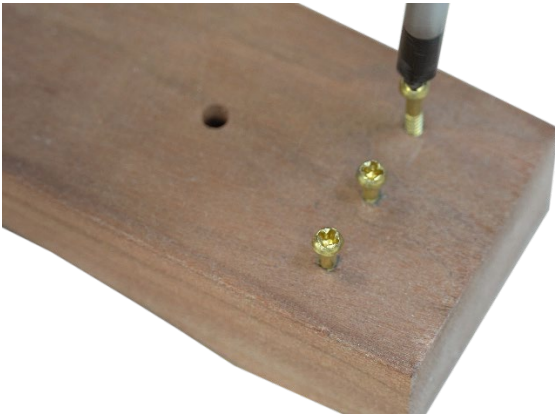
There are (2) left hand and (2) right hand tuning pegs. These should be arranged as pictured, with the white button facing up.

Align the mounting holes in the tuner with the pre-drilled pilot holes in the fretted neck. Use a #1 Phillips screwdriver to attach with the (8) small screws.

Step 3

Install the tail pin screws.

Screw the small brass #2 screws eyes into the 3 small pilot holes on the bottom tail end of the neck as pictured. Be sure to screw them in until only the smooth, unthreaded part of the screw is visible.



Step 4

Install alignment dowels in the neck.

Insert large (1/4") dowels in the large holes in the back of the fretted neck. You may need to tap in with a small hammer, or simply press down on the top of the neck against a flat surface to ensure the dowels are fully seated in the holes. It is not necessary to glue these.

Step 4

Attach neck to the top of the box.

Align the top of the dulcimer sound box with the dowels in the bottom of the neck. Install a screw and washer in the small holes on each end to secure the neck to the top.



Step 5

Attach the neck and top to close to box.

Align the tabs in the top with the sides of the body and press fit the top and neck assembly into the bottom of the body as shown.

Step 6

Place the bridge the bridge slot.

The bridge should be placed in the small slot at the tail end of the neck with the double slots are oriented the same as the nut on the top end of the neck.

Don't worry if it fits loosely in the slot. The bridge will be held firmly in place under string tension.

Step 7

Attach the rubber feet:

Apply the 4 self-adhesive rubber feet to the bottom corners of your dulcimer to protect your table and keep it from sliding around!

Step 8

String 'er up!

It's time to install the strings. Your dulcimer includes a set of 4 dulcimer strings. There are (2) .012 "melody" strings, (1) .014 "middle" drone string and (1) .022 "bass" drone string. When seated in front of the dulcimer with the top end (with the tuning pegs) facing to your left and the tail to your right, the strings are arranged with the 2 smallest (.012) melody strings

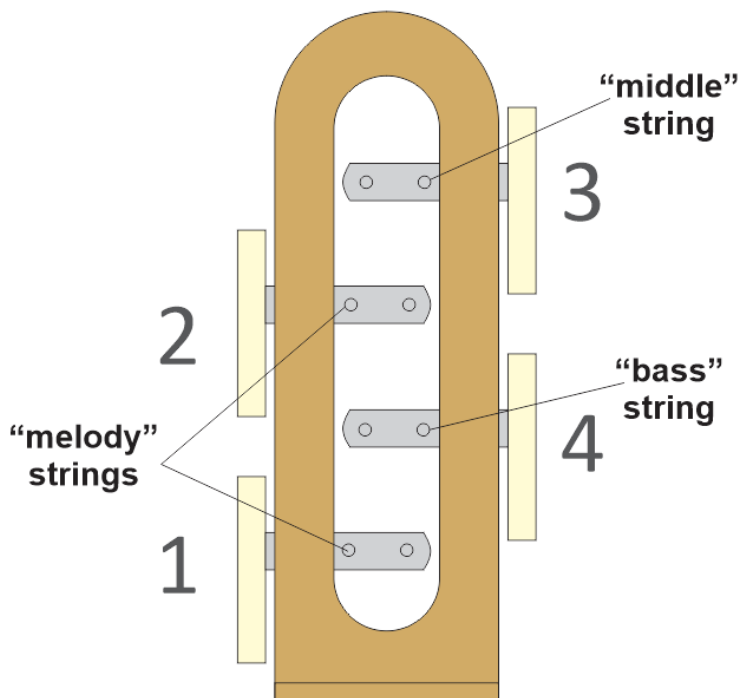
closest to you, the middle string in the middle, and the bass string on the further position.

The melody strings share a single screw closest to the player (you!).

Start by placing the loop end of the first string over the first brass screw as shown below. Note that both melody strings share the same pin.



Insert the other end of the string through the tuning peg hole of the first tuning peg. You will need to hold the string tight against the screw with one hand so it doesn't fall off while you thread the other end into the appropriate tuner post hole (See drawing).



The strings may be trimmed such that only 3 or 4 windings around the tuning peg are necessary. This can be accomplished by feeding them through the appropriate tuning peg hole several inches while leaving a bit of slack in the string. Begin winding the tuning peg counterclockwise until it begins to tighten, being careful to guide the string into the appropriate slot in the bridge and nut.

Once taught, trim the excess string close to the tuning peg. Watch the video guide for more tips on this step!

Step 9

Tune it up and begin playing!

Although there are multiple ways of tuning your new mountain dulcimer, my favorite tuning is D-A-D with the twin melody strings (known as a "course") tuned to "D", the middle to "A", and the bass drone string tuned to the "D" an octave below the melody strings.

If you don't own a tuner, no worries – there are several (free) tuner apps for your smartphone.

*If you have any questions or concerns,
please feel free to contact us at
support@jaromin.com*



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