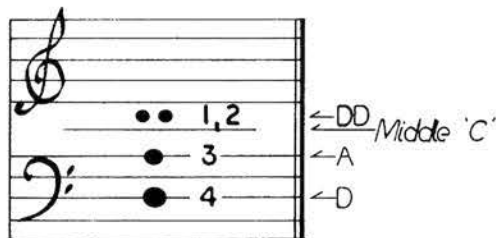
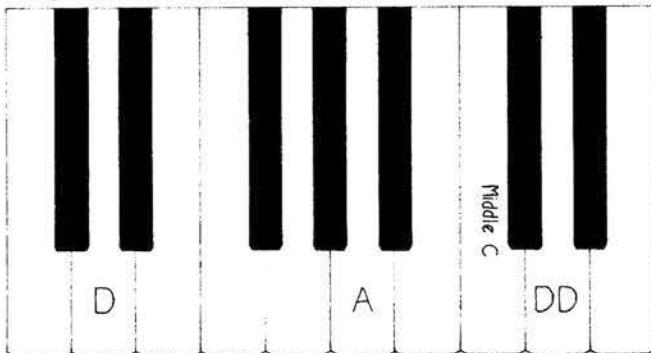


olydian mode, which means we will have an open chord when all the strings are strummed without depressing any of them to the frets. The original starting tonality of the Mixolydian mode was the note G, but our five-string-banjo first strings (.010's) don't easily tune up to a treble, or mid-range, G. So we tune our unison strings to a tone somewhere around D, which is very pleasant and has some definite advantages for quick tuning into other modes. Therefore, our Mixolydian is going to be transposed to D.

In musical notation, our tuning looks like this:



And on a piano, the notes we want to tune to are these:



There remains nothing more for you to do except duplicate these notes on your strings. You can use the D of a reed pitch-pipe, but the sound “color” of a reed is different from that of a string, so it may throw you off a bit. A D tuning fork, a precise little device piano tuners use, can also help in finding the D tone.

Then again, if you know something about the piano or can work with a friend who will give you a D from his guitar, banjo, or fiddle, you're in business. But if there's no piano, guitar, or banjo around, or if a pitch pipe or tuning fork is unavailable, simply tune your unison strings to any note you think sounds good and is not too high for the strings. You might try a