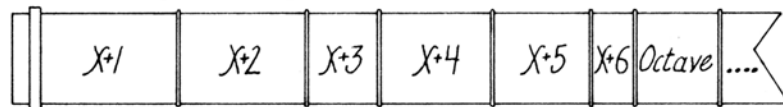


This section is designed for quick reference. It's a consolidation of the essential information explained in previous sections on tuning, along with graphic information useful for dealing with strings, tuning ranges, modal schemes, and chromatic relationships. Because this book could never cover everything on dulcimers, we also include a list of some of the books and records you may want to get into for songs and folklore about the instrument.

THE MODAL NOTATION SYSTEM

To facilitate tuning into the various modes, always consider the first and second strings, the unison or melody strings, as the value "X" when played open; that is, without any being depressed to a fret. Counting up the scale from the open X note-value, each fret assumes a value of X+1, X+2, X+3, X+4, etc., according to its position on the fretboard.

DIATONIC FRETBOARD WITH TUNING NOTATION VALUES



Tune the unisons to a workable pitch—some note that sounds good to you and is not watery or weak sounding. On the other hand, you shouldn't tune them inordinately tight. The middle and bass strings (third and fourth) are then tuned off the unisons by fretting the unisons at the appropriate numbered intervals along the fretboard. The only tone you have to recognize is the octave relationship (eight tones below the starting tone). All relationships are figured from the melody strings through octave values. (Only in tuning the Lydian and the Locrian will you have to tune the bass string off the middle string, a non-unison value.)

Example: (Read from bottom to top)

⊗
⊗X+4
X
X