

Chords in DAD

Chords can be used to provide accompaniment for a solo instrument, or to play back up while other instruments take the lead. They are also useful to play when a tune comes up in a jam session that you don't know. The tab below illustrates four different positions for playing all of the chords used in the key of D.

Musical notation for Dulcimer in DAD tuning. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system shows the D chord in two positions: a standard open position and a barre position. The second system shows the G chord in two positions: a standard open position and a barre position. The tablature (DAD) is as follows:

Chord	Position	String 1 (D)	String 2 (A)	String 3 (B)	String 4 (D)
D	Open	0	0	2	4
	Barre	0	0	2	4
G	Open	0	3	3	5
	Barre	3	3	3	5

The most common chords in the key of D are the "D" chord, the "G" chord and the "A"... sometimes "A7" is used in place of "A". Each chord is illustrated in 4 different positions. The easiest to play is always the first position. Become familiar with all of the positions for each chord, but you can always rely on the first position chords.

Musical notation for Dulcimer in dad tuning. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system shows the A chord in two positions: a standard open position and a barre position. The second system shows the A7 chord in two positions: a standard open position and a barre position. The tablature (dad) is as follows:

Chord	Position	String 1 (D)	String 2 (A)	String 3 (B)	String 4 (D)
A	Open	0	4	4	6+
	Barre	1	4	4	6+
A7	Open	0	3	4	6+
	Barre	3	4	6+	8

Yes, the four chords above are the most common chords used in the key of D, but the chords below are used many times to add color. E minor, f# minor and b minor are very popular, but sometimes "C-natural" is used for a special effect.

Musical notation for Dulcimer in dad tuning. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system shows the em, f#m, and bm chords. The second system shows the C chord. The tablature (dad) is as follows:

Chord	Position	String 1 (D)	String 2 (A)	String 3 (B)	String 4 (D)
em	1	1	1	3	5
	2	1	3	5	8
	3	2	2	4	4
	4	2	2	4	4
f#m	1	0	2	2	5
	2	0	2	2	5
	3	2	0	3	5
	4	2	0	3	5
bm	1	6	6	6	6
	2	5	6	6	6
	3	6	6	6	6
	4	6	6	6	6