

The First Noel

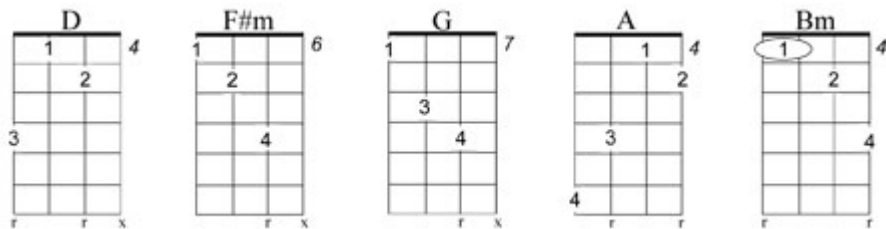
by [Dix Bruce](#)

Since the holidays are just around the corner, here's a great old traditional Christmas carol, "The First Noel," that sounds beautiful on the mandolin. The tune comes from 18th century France. I included it in my "[Famous Mandolin Pickin' Tunes QWIKGUIDE](#)" book and CD set by Dix Bruce [Pub. by Mel Bay]. I'm in the process of greatly expanding that title and it'll be re-published sometime in the not-too-distant future.

The italic numbers between the standard notation and the tablature staves are suggested fretting finger numbers.

I usually add tremolo to notes longer than quarters to give "The First Noel" a light and flowing feel. Play through it first without the tremolo. Add the tremolo once you're completely comfortable playing the simple melody.

I love the chord progression to "The First Noel," especially in measures thirteen and fourteen where the chords change on every beat. You do have to be on your toes, or in this case, your fingertips. The chords shown are suggestions. Feel free to substitute your own favorite chord positions. Good luck and Happy Holidays!



The First Noël

Traditional, arr. by Dix Bruce

Musical notation for measures 1-3. Chords: D, F#m, G.

TAB: 4 2 | 0 | 2 4 5 | 0 | 2 4 5 4 2

Musical notation for measures 4-5. Chords: D, G, D, A.

TAB: 0 | 2 4 | 5 4 2 | 0 2 4

Musical notation for measures 6-8. Chords: D, G, D, D.

TAB: 5 0 | 5 4 | 4 2 | 0 | 2 4 5

Musical notation for measures 9-11. Chords: F#m, G, D.

TAB: 0 | 5 4 | 2 | 2 | 0

Musical notation for measures 12-14. Chords: Bm, A, G, D, G, A, D, G, D.

TAB: 5 4 2 | 0 2 4 | 5 0 | 5 4