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Track 1

A recording is included with this book. Using these recordings will help make learning more enjoyable and the information more meaningful. The audio will help you play the correct notes, rhythms and feel of each example. The track numbers below the symbols correspond directly to the example you want to hear. Have fun!

LESSON 3: READ SOME TAB, PLAY SOME TUNES

Now that we've covered the basics, it's time to play!

TABLATURE

Mandolin *tablature*, called TAB for short, is a system of writing music just for the mandolin. It tells you what fret to play, and what course to play it on.

The long horizontal lines represent the four string courses. The top line is the 1st course (E) and the bottom line is the 4th course (G). The numbers indicate which fret to play. Try fingering the notes indicated using any left-hand finger.

	1st String, 5th Fret	2nd String, 2nd Fret	3rd String, 4th Fret	4th String, 3rd Fret
1st String	T 5			
	A	2		
4th String	B		4	3

SECRETS OF THE MASTERS

The dots, or fret markers, on your mandolin neck will help you keep track of the frets. The dots are usually on frets 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12. Look at your mandolin and familiarize yourself with where the dots are. Often there is a “double dot” at the 12th fret.

TAB is often attached to written music, so the player will know how long the notes last and when they occur. As you become accustomed to reading standard music notation (Chapter 2), this will be more and more helpful. The following examples show TAB and standard music notation. If you do not yet read music, *do not panic*. If you like, you can look ahead to Chapter 2 (page 18) for information about reading standard notation. Or, just play the frets and strings indicated in the TAB in a slow, steady rhythm, giving each note an equal amount of time. The numbers under the TAB indicate the left-hand fingers (see page 8).



Track 2

RIVER'S UP, CAN'T GO ACROSS

Left-hand fingers: 1 2 0 0 2 0 1 1 3 1 0 2 1 1 0 0