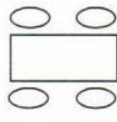


To play in this tuning in the key of A minor, you must re-tune your dulcimer. This is easy to do. From the DAD tuning, lower the middle string one note from "A" to "G". This is a minor change, and you don't have to turn the tuning peg very far to lower the string. Then place the capo on at the first fret. Simple enough — you are now in A minor.

The unique aspect of this tuning is that the scale is based out of the middle string — not the melody string. The A minor scale is related to the C major scale — it consists of the same notes except that the A minor scale begins and ends with "A" rather than "C". These notes are found on the middle string and there are no sharps or flats in A minor.

Here is the fretboard and notes. The dark vertical line is where the capo is placed. This tablature number now becomes the "zero" fret.



Fret #	0	1½	2	3	4	5	6	6½	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Bass	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Middle	G	A	Bb	B	C	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E
Melody	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B

There are several places on the fretboard where the A minor scale can be placed. Play it entirely on the middle string. Alternately, play this scale across the strings as I did in my arrangements. In several places, I used the 4th fret on the bass string for "A" rather than the 0 fret on the middle string. When strumming, it is easier to hear the "A" note this way.

DGD Fretboard – Capo 1 to EAE or Am

Am scale: A B C D E F G

Fret #	0	1 1/2	2	3	4	5	6	6 1/2	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Bass	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Middle	G	A	Bb	B	C	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E
Melody	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B

A Dorian = uses F# A Aeolian = uses F natural

Fret #	0	1 1/2	2	3	4	5	6	6 1/2	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Bass	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Middle	G	A	Bb	B	C	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E
Melody	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B

Fret #	0	1 1/2	2	3	4	5	6	6 1/2	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Bass	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Middle	G	A	Bb	B	C	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	D	E
Melody	D	E	F	F#	G	A	B	C	C#	D	E	F#	G	A	B

NOTE: The fret where the capo is placed is now indicated as the “zero” fret. All the other fret numbers remain unchanged.

“The Congress Reel” is written in the modal tuning of A-Dorian which is slightly different than A minor. The A-Dorian scale includes F# rather than F-natural. So, the key signature for this tune is shown as one sharp. Fortunately, this note is readily available on the fretboard. Another modal tuning, A-Aeolian, uses the F-natural note.