

Canadian Made. Globally Played.

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Merlin Handbook

Le livret du Merlin



The Merlin

Made in LaPatrie Quebec, Canada and inspired by the dulcimer, the Seagull Merlin is a very portable & compact 4-string diatonic acoustic instrument that is simply fun to play and very hard to put down!

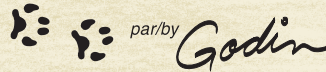
The Merlin was designed to introduce & stimulate people of all ages (some of whom may not necessarily be players) to the joy of creating & playing music. Small in stature. Big in fun!

Le Merlin

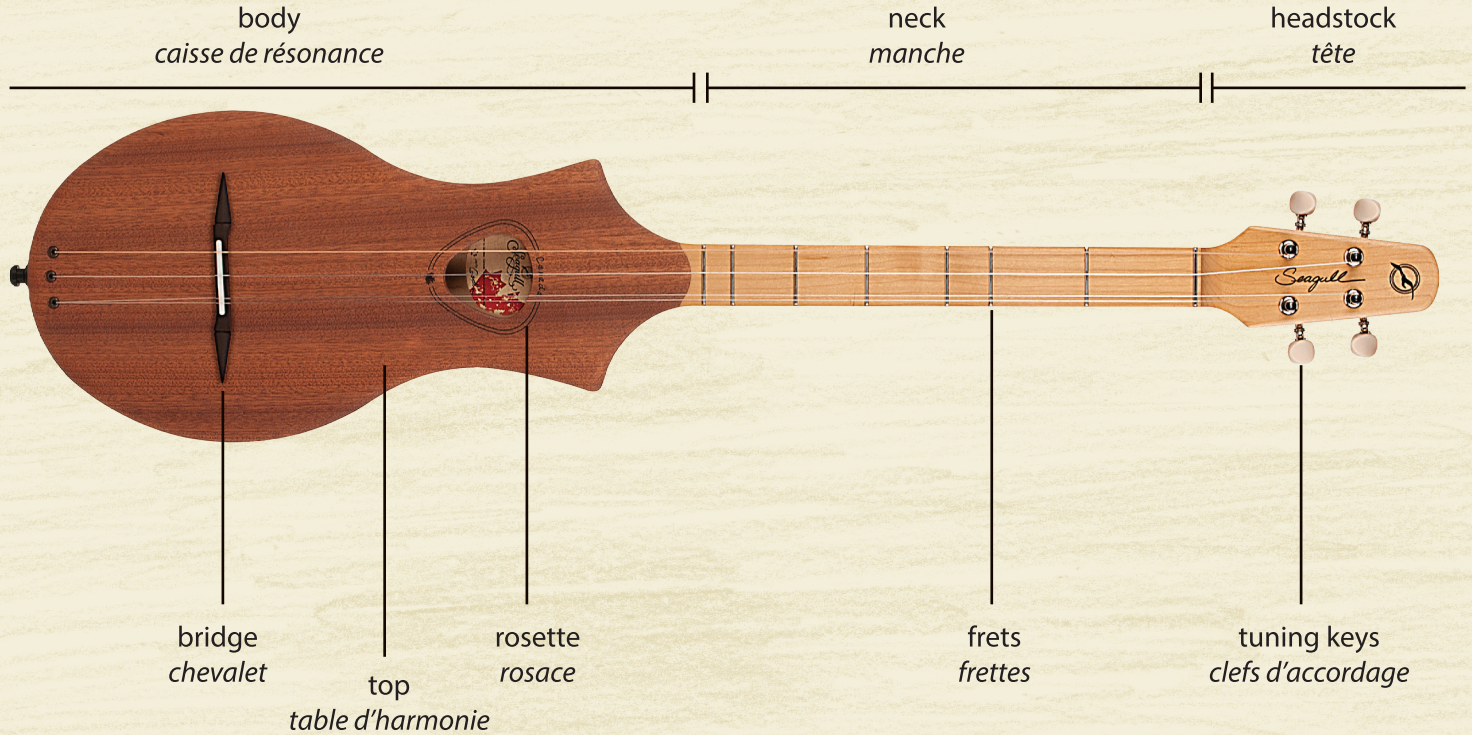
Particulièrement léger et facile à transporter, le Merlin de Seagull est un instrument diatonique à 4 cordes fabriqué au Canada, à LaPatrie dans la province du Québec. Cet instrument acoustique qui s'inspire du dulcimer est tellement agréable à jouer qu'il est difficile de s'arrêter!

Le Merlin est spécifiquement conçu pour faciliter l'initiation à la musique chez les gens de tous les âges. Il rend ainsi à la portée de tous, le bonheur de créer et de jouer. Simplicité et plaisir assurés !

Fabriqué au Québec, Canada - Made in Quebec, Canada



Merlin Components/*Composantes du Merlin*



How to Play/*Comment jouer*



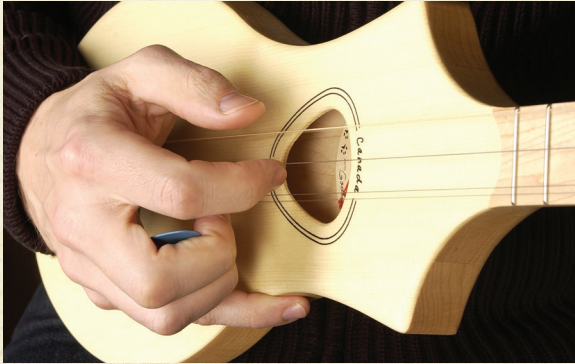
- The Merlin was designed to be played just like a guitar.
- Find a playing position you feel comfortable.
- *Le Merlin a été conçu pour être joué comme une guitare.*
- *Adopter la position qui vous convient pour jouer.*

Playing Posture/*Position pour jouer*



- Sit comfortably with your back straight and your feet on the floor, while resting the lower side of the instrument's body on your thigh.
- Now, place the instrument in a diagonal position (ideally with the help of a guitar strap) allowing optimal ease of movement for your left hand, up & down the neck.
- *Bien assis(e), le dos droit et les pieds au sol, laisser reposer l'extrémité droite de la caisse de résonance sur votre cuisse.*
- *Maintenir l'instrument en position diagonale (idéalement à l'aide d'une courroie) de façon à permettre un déplacement optimal de la main gauche sur le manche.*

Plucking the Strings/*Pincer les cordes*



Pluck the strings with a pick
or with your fingertips.

*Pincer les cordes avec un
plectre ou avec vos doigts.*



Play both of the double small
strings at the same time.

*Jouer les deux petites cordes
doubles ensemble.*

Pressure on the Strings/*Pression sur les cordes*



Press your finger on the string near the frets

Appuyer sur la corde près des frettes



Synchronize both hands
(attack / pressure of the finger on the string)

*Synchroniser vos deux mains
(attaque / pression du doigt sur les cordes)*

Tuning/Accord

Tune your Merlin with a tuner or to a sound of reference.
Start by adjusting the tuning key of the biggest string to D.
Tune the 2nd string to A, a fifth higher than the D string (4th position),
and the doubled small strings to D, an octave higher than the D string.

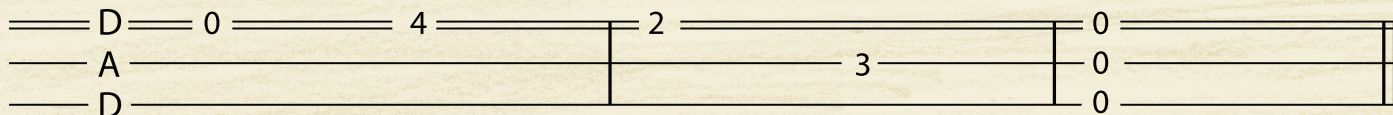


*Utiliser un accordeur ou un son de référence pour accorder votre Merlin.
Commencer par ajuster la clef de la plus grosse corde en Ré.
Accorder la 2e corde en La, une quinte au-dessus de la corde de Ré (4e case),
et les petites cordes doublées en Ré, une octave au-dessus de la corde de Ré.*

Tablature/*Tablature*

A tablature indicates the finger positions on corresponding frets (numbers) on the fretboard for each string (horizontal lines).

The two upper lines on the tablature correspond to the small doubled strings (high D), the middle one to the middle string (A) and the lower one to the biggest string (low D).



Une tablature schématise l'emplacement des doigts dans les cases sur la touche (représentés par des chiffres) sur les cordes (lignes horizontales).

Les deux lignes du haut sur la tablature correspondent aux petites cordes doublées (ré aigu), celle du milieu à la corde du milieu (la) et celle du bas à la plus grosse corde (ré grave).

To Count Time/*Compter les temps*

score/partition

tablature

This block shows a musical exercise in 4/4 time. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with two lines labeled 'D' and 'A'. The tablature consists of 12 measures. The first four measures have a whole note on the 4th fret of the D string. The next four measures have a whole note on the 2nd fret of the A string. The final four measures have a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string, followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string, followed by an eighth rest, and finally a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string. The counting sequence is: 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 2 3 4.

score/partition

tablature

This block shows a musical exercise in 3/4 time. The top staff is a treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with two lines labeled 'D' and 'A'. The tablature consists of 12 measures. The first four measures have a whole note on the 4th fret of the D string. The next four measures have a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string, followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string, followed by an eighth rest, and finally a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string. The final four measures have a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string, followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string, followed by an eighth rest, and finally a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string. The counting sequence is: 1 2 3 | 1 2 3 & | 1 2 & 3 & | 1 2 3.

score/partition

tablature

This block shows a musical exercise in 6/8 time. The top staff is a treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with two lines labeled 'D' and 'A'. The tablature consists of 12 measures. The first four measures have a whole note on the 4th fret of the D string. The next four measures have a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string, followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string, followed by an eighth rest, and finally a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string. The final four measures have a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string, followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note on the 2nd fret of the A string, followed by an eighth rest, and finally a quarter note on the 4th fret of the D string. The counting sequence is: 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6.

Old MacDonald had a Farm/*Dans la ferme à Mathurin*

The diagram shows a guitar fingerboard with four strings labeled D, A, D, and G. The time signature is 4/4. The fret positions are as follows:

- String D (top):** Frets 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0.
- String A (second):** Frets 2, 2, 1, 1, 0, 0.
- String D (third):** Frets 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0.
- String G (bottom):** Frets 2, 2, 1, 1, 0.

The diagram is divided into two measures by a vertical bar line. The first measure contains the first four frets (0, 0, 0, 0) for all strings. The second measure contains the remaining frets (1, 1, 0 for D; 2, 2, 1, 1, 0, 0 for A; 1, 1, 0 for D; and 0 for G). The final note on the G string is a whole note, indicated by a circle with a vertical line through it.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star/*Ah! Vous dirai-je, Maman*

The diagram shows a guitar fretboard with four strings (D, A, D, G) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes and fret numbers are as follows:

| String | Measure 1 | Measure 2 | Measure 3 | Measure 4 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| D | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| A | | | | |
| D | | | | |
| G | | | | |

Measure 1: D (0), A (1), D (0), G (4)
Measure 2: D (0), A (1), D (0), G (4)
Measure 3: D (4), A (3), D (2), G (1)
Measure 4: D (4), A (3), D (2), G (1)

Happy Birthday/*Bonne fête*

The diagram shows a guitar fingerboard with six strings and a 3/4 time signature. The strings are labeled D (top), A (middle), and D (bottom). The fret positions are indicated by numbers 0-4 on the strings. The first three measures are as follows:

- Measure 1:** D string (0), A string (0), D string (0). A bar line is after the first beat.
- Measure 2:** D string (1), A string (0), D string (0). A bar line is after the second beat.
- Measure 3:** D string (2), A string (0), D string (0). A bar line is after the third beat.

The fourth measure is split across two lines:

- Line 1 (Measures 4-5):** D string (1), A string (0), D string (1). Bar line after the first beat. D string (0), A string (0), D string (0). Bar line after the second beat.
- Line 2 (Measures 6-7):** D string (4), A string (2), D string (0). Bar line after the first beat. D string (2), A string (1), D string (0). Bar line after the second beat.

The fifth measure is split across two lines:

- Line 1 (Measures 8-9):** D string (2), A string (1), D string (3). Bar line after the first beat. D string (3), A string (2), D string (0). Bar line after the second beat.
- Line 2 (Measures 10-11):** D string (1), A string (0), D string (1). Bar line after the first beat. D string (0), A string (0), D string (0). Bar line after the second beat.

The diagram ends with a double bar line at the end of the 11th measure.

Jingle Bells/Vive le vent

Musical score for guitar in 4/4 time, titled "Jingle Bells/Vive le vent". The score is written on five systems of two staves each. The first system includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a chord diagram for D major (D-A-D). The notation consists of fret numbers and rhythmic symbols (half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and triplets) indicating fingerings and timing. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

System 1: $\frac{4}{4}$ D A D. Fret numbers: 2 2 2 0 | 2 2 2 0 | 2 4 0 \cdot 1 | 2 0.

System 2: Fret numbers: 3 3 3 \cdot 3 | 3 2 2 2 2 | 2 1 1 2.

System 3: Fret numbers: 1 0 | 4 0 | 2 2 2 0 | 2 2 2 0.

System 4: Fret numbers: 2 4 0 \cdot 1 | 2 0 | 3 3 3 \cdot 3.

System 5: Fret numbers: 3 2 2 2 2 | 4 4 3 1 | 0 0.

The Wool from the Sheep/*La laine des moutons*

This diagram shows a guitar fingerboard for a piece in 3/4 time. The key signature is D major, with the notes D, A, and D indicated at the beginning. The fretboard is divided into five measures, each containing a sequence of notes and fingerings. The notes are represented by vertical stems with circles for heads, and fingerings are indicated by numbers 0, 1, and 2. Some notes are beamed together, and some are marked with a circled 'o'.

3/4
D
A
D

Measure 1: 2, 1-0, 1, 2, 0, 0, 2-0, 1, 2
Measure 2: 0, 1, 2, 1-0, 1, 2, 0, 2
Measure 3: 2-1, 0, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2
Measure 4: 0, 2, 2-1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 2
Measure 5: 2, 0, 2, 2-1, 0, 2, 1

Marianne's Going to the Mill/*Marianne s'en va-t-au moulin*

The image displays a guitar tablature for the piece "Marianne's Going to the Mill" (French: "Marianne s'en va-t-au moulin"). The music is written in 6/8 time and the key of D major. The tablature is organized into five systems, each consisting of two staves. The first system includes a chord diagram for D major (D-A-D) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are represented by numbers on the strings (0-4) and stems with flags. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fifth system.

Chord diagram: D major (D-A-D)

Time signature: 6/8

Tablature notation (string numbers):

System 1: 0 0 0 1 2 2 0 2 4 4 3 3

System 2: 4 3 2 0 0 0 1 2 2 0 2

System 3: 4 4 3 3 4 3 2 2 2 2 2 2

System 4: 4. 3 2 1 1 1 1 3. 2 1 0 0 0

System 5: 2 2 2 0. 4. 3 2 1 1 0.