

# Left Handed ToneWay Picking Patterns for the Mandolin and Fiddle

The Picking Patterns for the mandolin and fiddle are all derived from one big pattern: the **Universal Pattern**. We break it down into three parts.

The first is the "at the nut" pattern that covers a 5-to-5 tone range (i.e., most songs). It is mostly for the keys of C, G, and D. The second, also at the nut, covers a 1-to-1 tone range (i.e., the other 10% of songs). The last pattern is a "floating" pattern that allows you to play in any key using the same Picking Pattern, just shifted around. The key to these patterns is planting your index finger on the 1 tone (except for A or D as you see below, which are on the nut). Once you have all these 'parts' down, just use the **Universal Pattern** for everything - including 'double stops'. Study The Nitty Gritty on Chord and Double Stops, page 122, to master these!

In all these Patterns, note how shifting the pattern "left and right" (i.e., to different strings) changes to a different key (a 'fifth' away, in fact). Also note (especially in the floating pattern) how moving "up and down" the neck raises and lowers the key.

For the "floating" Pattern, plant the index finger on tone 1 to anchor the key.

**Universal Pattern**

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**"At-the-nut" pattern for 5-to-5 songs**

C                      G                      D

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**"At-the-nut" pattern for 1-to-1 songs**

G                      D                      A

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**"Floating" Pattern for 5-to-5 songs**

A                      B<sup>b</sup>                      B                      C                      D                      E                      F

Note: Initially use the "At-the-nut" pattern for 1-to-1 songs as a "Floating" Pattern for 1-to-1 songs