

Theory and Application



Ringing Strings 1

ONE OF THE sounds of the mandolin is when an open string is ringing out while a melody is being played on another string. Used well it can be an effective form of decoration and enhance some tunes. It works particularly well with American old-time tunes - where it almost sounds like an accident, but you're so laid-back

you don't care - and it works particularly well with tunes in the key of A (both of the notes of the open A and E strings are in the chord of Amajor).

In *Shortnin' Bread*, the tune is mostly on the E string, so the A string is rung, except in the last bar of each part, where the E string rings.

Shortnin' Bread (traditional)

old-time tune

Musical score for 'Shortnin' Bread (traditional)'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a mandolin tablature line with fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 5) and a 'T' above and 'B' below. Chord symbols (A, E7) are placed above the staff. The first system has three measures. The second system has three measures, with a repeat sign after the first measure. The third system has three measures, with a repeat sign after the first measure. An illustration of a man in a red jacket and hat is partially visible on the right side of the score.

Shortnin' Bread - 2nd version

Musical score for 'Shortnin' Bread - 2nd version'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a mandolin tablature line with fret numbers (0, 2, 4, 5) and a 'T' above and 'B' below. Chord symbols (A, E7) are placed above the staff. The first system has two measures. The second system has three measures, with a repeat sign after the first measure. The third system has three measures, with a repeat sign after the first measure.

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