

Warm-Up Exercises 3



KENNETH "JETHRO" BURNS was an American mandolin player who achieved fame as half of a musical comedy duo named Homer and Jethro. He was a master of the mandolin and, fortunately for us, he made plenty recordings which were not pure comedy. The first exercise below is one of the warm-up exercises he taught. As with all exercises, start off slow, and with repetition you should be able, gradually, to get faster.

Jethro Burns's Warm Up Exercise 1

Musical notation for Exercise 1, consisting of three systems of a treble clef staff and a mandolin tablature staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains 4 measures, the second system contains 6 measures, and the third system contains 3 measures.

The second exercise is another one from Jethro Burns, but adapted by me to avoid going way up the neck! This time it's exploring arpeggio patterns: the first

two bars utilise the G major arpeggio; the next two bars the A minor and bars 5 and 6 the D major and D seventh arpeggios.

Jethro Burns's Warm Up Exercise 2

Musical notation for Exercise 2, consisting of two systems of a treble clef staff and a mandolin tablature staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains 3 measures with chords G, G, and Am. The second system contains 4 measures with chords Am, D7, D7, and G.