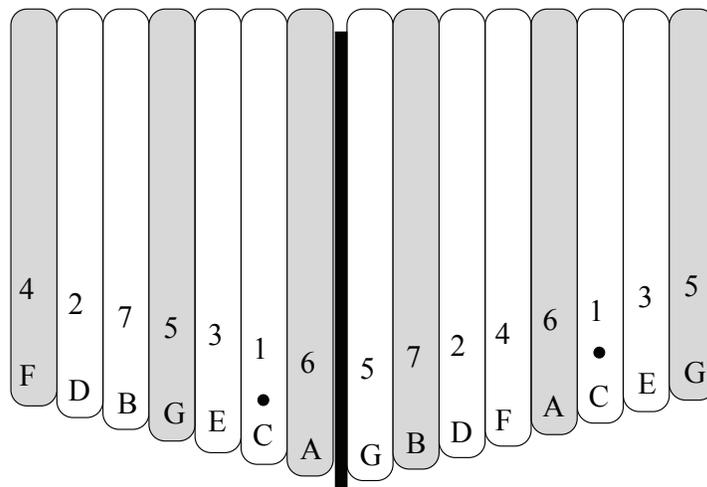


Welcome to the Kalimba Magic Kalimba C ALTO 66 Song Download

Arranged by: Mark Holdaway, Kalimba Magic

First, an explanation. The C Alto starts out exactly the same as the regular old Hugh Tracey Alto Kalimba, which has a range of G3 - G5 and comes in the key of G - that is, with two F# notes.

ANYONE can retune their standard Alto kalimba into a C Alto simply by tuning the two F# tines to F natural, which will require pulling the tines out by a few millimeters until they are in tune to F. Doing so will actually result in a huge change in your kalimba, and C will now become the root note or key note, and the low G is now the 5th of the scale. Doing this makes every song you ever learned on the G-tuned Alto irrelevant, and you need to learn songs in C from scratch.



The C-tuned ALTO kalimba is tuned almost like the standard Alto, but with all naturals on the front. The two dots indicate which tines are C, or the root note.

Why would you do this? I did it so I can play kalimba in my marimba band, Baba Marimba, which has a lot of music in the keys of C major and A minor. It actually took me more than a year to feel comfortable playing the C Alto (that is what 28 years of playing in a standard tuning will do for you when you try to change to a different tuning). In other words, you probably don't want to jump to the C tuned Alto unless you have a very good reason - like to play a song in the key of C pitched for a voice or for other instruments in C.

Most of these songs were originally arranged for the Alto kalimba, but were then translated to the Catania 12-Note kalimba (which also has the 5 in the bass), and then finally translated onto the C Alto. As such, many of the songs in this collection don't use the top few notes - sorry! On the other hand, there were songs that only used one octave of notes - from G3 to G4 -- and for many of those songs, I copied and pasted the notes and transposed them up an octave, so the tab teaches you the lower octave first and then the upper octave.

These Songs Are Rated by Easiness, from 1 to 5

This download is a very diverse collection of music from all over the world, and there are songs that are very simple, ranging to songs that are very complex - rated on a scale of 1 through 5, with 5 being most difficult. This download will keep you playing your C-Alto Kalimba, and keep you advancing on it, for months and years to come!

Some songs, such as Jingle Bells, start out simple, but go on to a more difficult version. These songs have two different difficulty ratings. Remember, 1 is easy, and 5 is difficult! Beginners: aim for "1" and "2" songs at first.

What is Included in the Download?

- 1) THIS AAA_66_C_ALTO_Songs “Read Me” file to explain how to use everything.
- 2) A set of “66” KTabS files for mostly different songs (some songs have two versions, a simple one and a difficult one). KTabS is the Kalimba Tablature Software. You can download the KTabS Reader for free at <http://ktabs.theirhouse.org>

The full KTabS program (which will let you edit these files or create your own tablature) is available for \$30. Why get KTabS? It will show you exactly how to play these songs, and you can hear the music unfolding as you go. For Windows computers (mainly).

- 3) A set of “66” PDFs of the tablature for each song. You can print these out or keep them on your computer and read the music off the screen.
- 4) We have included MP3s of KTabs playing a few songs to help you get started. Songs with MP3s include: AAA Paper Moon Jam, Away in a Manger, Bach’s Minuet in G, Brahms Lullaby, Chemutangure, Deck the Halls, God Bless America, Jamaica Farewell, and Jingle Bells.

If you are not familiar with Kalimba Tablature, just think of it as a long stretched out diagram of all the tines on your kalimba, with notes plopped down on the tines you are to play, in the correct order. If you know how to read music, it should be easy (once you get used to the fact that the tablature runs UP the page from bottom to top instead of across the page as normal music runs).

More Info on Kalimba Tablature and KTabS

If you have had some experience reading music, you can probably read the tablature without having to learn anything new. If you have not read music before, pick a song that you already know how it goes, and just approach the tablature slowly - start from the lower left hand corner, and slowly scan up the page - the tablature has musical notes that show you which tines to play and how long to wait on each note before playing another one.

If you don’t understand the tablature, there is help online. You can learn more about Kalimba Tablature at:

http://www.kalimbamagic.com/learnhow/learnhow_tablature.php

You can learn more about using KTabS at:

http://www.kalimbamagic.com/learnhow/learnhow_ktabs.php

Remember: I myself do not sell KTabS, but it is a very powerful and useful program if you do anything with kalimbas. If you need help using KTabS, I can provide some assistance.

Glissando - a Technique for Playing Two or More Adjacent Notes Simultaneously

A brief mention of the “glissando” - a technique where you touch a tine tip with your thumb nail and drag the nail across that tine and one or more adjacent tines - this is how you play a three note or four note chord. If you don’t get it, go onto You Tube and search for “Danny Boy Kalimba” and you’ll see it in action. When you see three or four notes placed on adjacent tines on the tablature, that means to do a glissando. If you don’t have nails long enough, perhaps you should buy a pair of Alaska Piks?

