

Chord Shapes - Brother Drop Dead - Fiddle

While guitars and ukes get to use movable shapes in swing music, fiddles end up having to be flexible about how they chord in swing music. Your main goal is to match the percussiveness of the guitars right hand while highlighting the important notes in the chord. Our tendency is to *want* to play the “cool notes” or color tones from the chord, the 7’s & 6’s; this ends up drawing the listener’s attention away from the melody or solo. I find that its better to stick to notes from the main triad of the chord

Try to use notes from the Chord triad found on the D & G strings. The Diagrams below represent 2 (of many) ways to play these chords on the fiddle.

A6 Bow

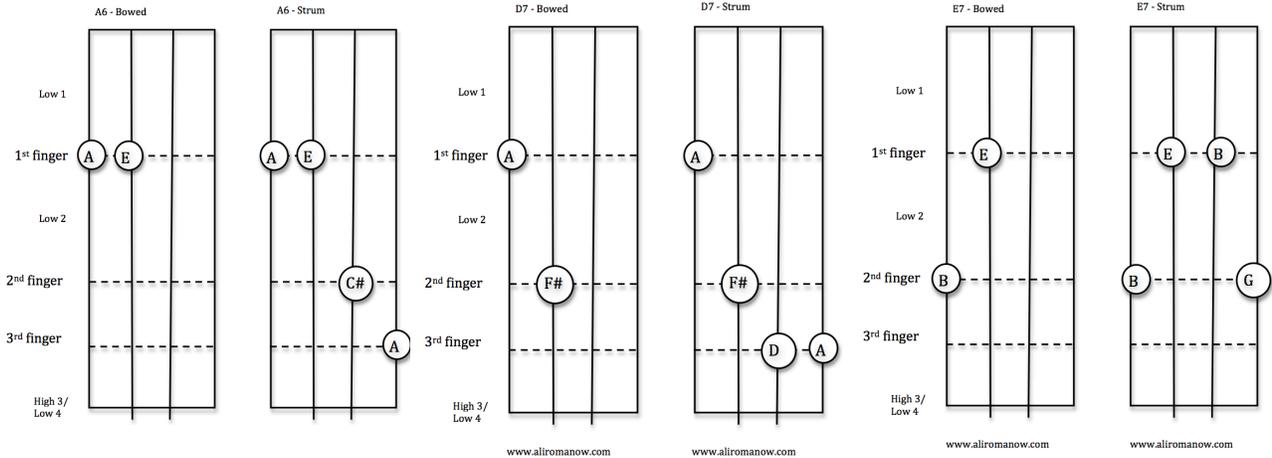
Strum

D7 Bow

Strum

E7 bow

Strum



Mimicking the Wall of Wood sound:

Rhythm guitar in swing music is all about being percussive and clean with your right hand. It is a down stroke style, so on the fiddle we use small brushing down bows in the bottom half of the bow. This is much easier said than done. Having your pinkie bent, hand relaxed and using small circular arm movements will help. If you find your bow bouncing a lot, try loosening it a bit and moving closer to the frog.