



# THE BANJO MASTER'S ROADMAP

5-STRING, PLECTRUM & TENOR BANJOS



MILESTONE 6:  
PERFECT & EXCELLENT  
• Performance  
• Plectrum  
• Style  
• Music  
• Teaching

## "SKIP TO MY LOU" Variations

*Single String Melody*  
*Basic Strum*

*Basic Chord Melody*

*3-Finger Bluegrass*

*Duo-Sound*

*3-Finger Melodic*

*Advanced Chord Melody*

*Double Thumbing*

### MILESTONE 2: PICKING AND STRUMMING

- Hand Techniques
- The Bump-Ditty
- Simple Melodies
- Jamming Basics
- Tuning Options

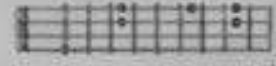
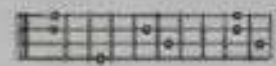
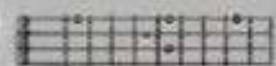
STAGE 1



### MILESTONE 6: MASTERING THE NECK

- Scale Patterns
- Arpeggios
- Advanced Chords
- Fingerboard Knowledge
- Chord Melody
- Chord Inversions

STAGE 6



# Skip To My Lou



Lost my part - ner what -'ll I do? Lost my partner, what -'ll I do?



Lou, Lou, Skip to my Lou, Skip to my Lou my dar - ling.

Arranged by James L. Bottorff - 2012

## BASIC STRUM

C TUNING

SKIP TO MY LOU

First system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each with a strum pattern of a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Below the staff are the lyrics: LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. It shows the fret numbers for each note: 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 5, 5, 0. The fret numbers are written above the strings.

1 B T 1 B T 1 B T 1 B T

TAB. 2 2 1 2 2 5 5 0

LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU

Second system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each with a strum pattern of a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Below the staff are the lyrics: LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. It shows the fret numbers for each note: 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 3, 0. The fret numbers are written above the strings.

1 B T 1 B T 1 B T 1 B T

TAB. 0 2 0 2 0 3 3 0

LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU

Third system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each with a strum pattern of a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Below the staff are the lyrics: LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. It shows the fret numbers for each note: 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 5, 5, 0. The fret numbers are written above the strings.

1 B T 1 B T 1 B T 1 B T

TAB. 2 2 1 2 2 5 5 0

LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU

Fourth system of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music, each with a strum pattern of a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Below the staff are the lyrics: SKIP TO MY LOU MY DAR - LING. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. It shows the fret numbers for each note: 0, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2. The fret numbers are written above the strings.

1 B T 1 B T 1 B T 1 B T

TAB. 0 2 0 2 1 2 1 2

SKIP TO MY LOU MY DAR - LING

# BASIC CHORD MELODY

## C Tuning

CHORDS

Diagram 1: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 2: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 3: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: SKIP TO MY

Diagram 4: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 5: G chord (Circled G), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 6: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 7: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: SKIP TO MY

Diagram 8: G7 chord (Circled G7), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

STRINGS

CHORDS

Diagram 1: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 2: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 3: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: SKIP TO MY

Diagram 4: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU

Diagram 5: G chord (Circled G), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: SKIP TO MY

Diagram 6: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LOU MY

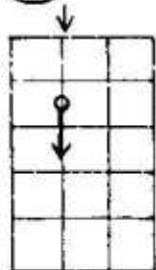
Diagram 7: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: DAR -

Diagram 8: C chord (Circled C), notes 1, 3, 5, 7, 10. Label: LING

STRINGS

Key of C

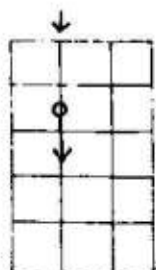
Arranged for 5-String & Plectrum Banjos  
by Jim Bottorff - 2026

**G****3-FINGER BLUEGRASS****D<sub>7</sub>**

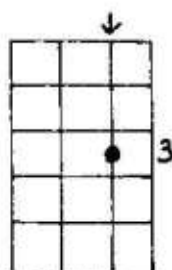
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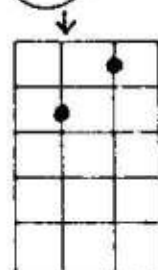
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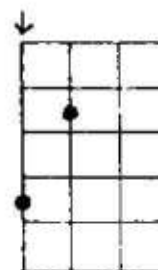
SKIP TO MY



LOU.



LOU,

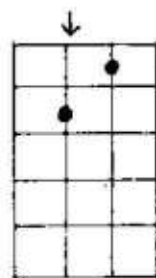


LOU,

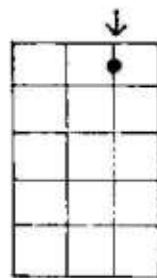
STRINGS

T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M

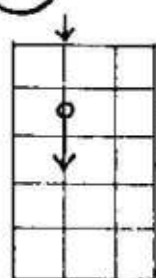
COUNT 1 2 3 4

**G**

SKIP TO MY



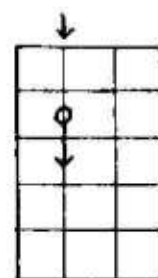
LOU.



LOU,



LOU,



SKIP TO MY



LOU.

T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M

**D<sub>7</sub>**

SKIP TO MY



LOU MY



DAR



- LING.

T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M T 1 T M

**G Tuning  
Key of G**Arranged for 5-String Banjo  
by Jim Bottorff - 2026

(C)

# DUO-SOUND

(G<sub>7</sub>)

Diagram showing six chord diagrams for the first system, each with a downward arrow above it. The diagrams are for chords: C, C, C, G<sub>7</sub>, C, and C. The fourth diagram (G<sub>7</sub>) has a '5' indicating a fifth fret barre on the bottom string.

Below the diagrams are the lyrics: LOU, LOU, SKIP TO MY LOU, LOU, LOU.

A five-string banjo staff is shown below the lyrics, with strings numbered 1 to 5 on the left. The staff contains rhythmic notation with upward and downward arrows. The count '1 2 3 4' is written below the first four measures.

(C)

Diagram showing six chord diagrams for the second system, each with a downward arrow above it. The diagrams are for chords: C, C, C, C, G<sub>7</sub>, and C. The sixth diagram (C) has a '5' indicating a fifth fret barre on the bottom string.

Below the diagrams are the lyrics: SKIP TO MY LOU, LOU, LOU, SKIP TO MY LOU.

A five-string banjo staff is shown below the lyrics, with rhythmic notation with upward and downward arrows.

(G<sub>7</sub>)

(C)

Diagram showing four chord diagrams for the third system, each with a downward arrow above it. The diagrams are for chords: G<sub>7</sub>, G<sub>7</sub>, C, and C. The first two diagrams (G<sub>7</sub>) have a '5' indicating a fifth fret barre on the bottom string.

Below the diagrams are the lyrics: SKIP TO MY LOU MY DAR- LING.

A five-string banjo staff is shown below the lyrics, with rhythmic notation with upward and downward arrows.

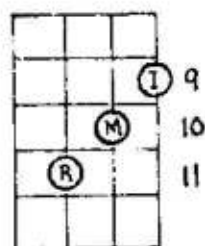
**C Tuning  
Key of C**

Arranged for 5-String  
& Plectrum Banjos  
By Jim Bottorff - 2026

G

# 3-FINGER MELODIC

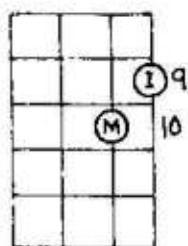
D<sub>7</sub>



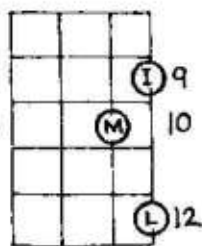
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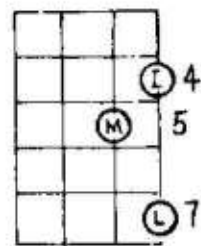
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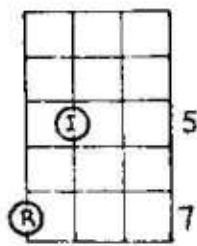
SKIP TO MY



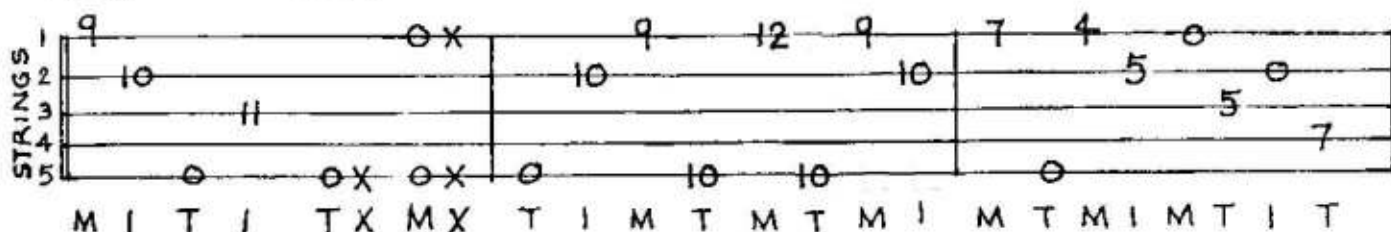
LOU.



LOU,

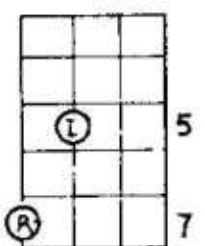


LOU,

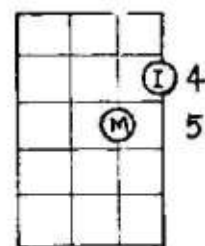


COUNT 1 2 3 4

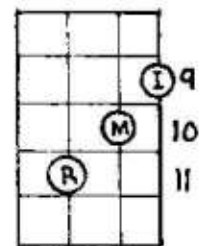
G



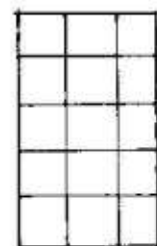
SKIP TO MY



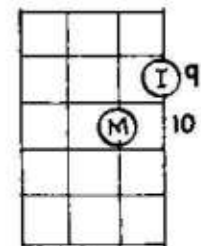
LOU.



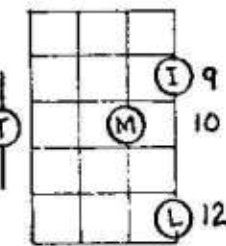
LOU,



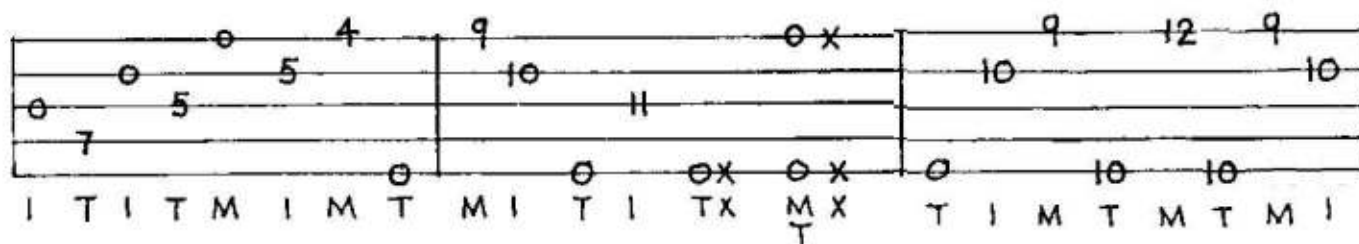
LOU,



SKIP TO MY

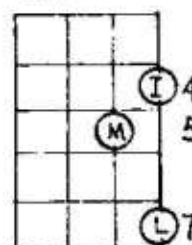


LOU.

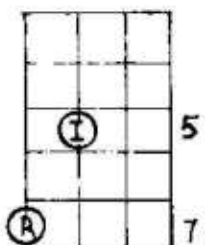


D<sub>7</sub>

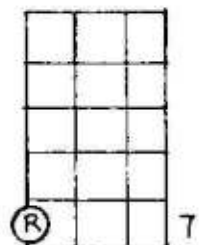
G



SKIP TO MY



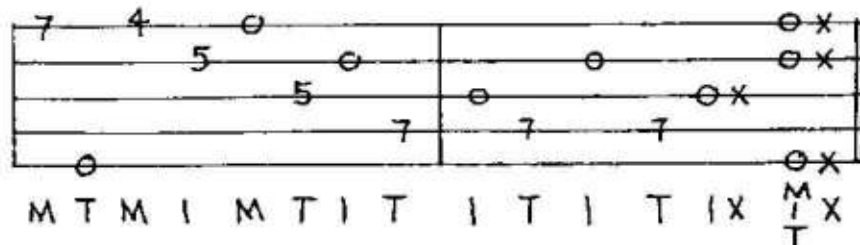
LOU MY



DAR



LING.

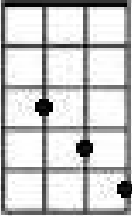
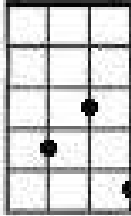
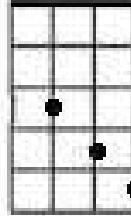
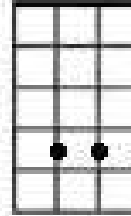
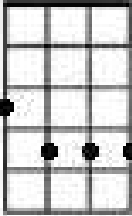
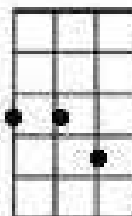
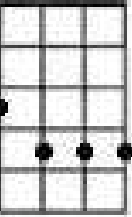
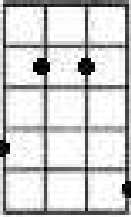
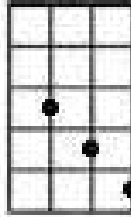
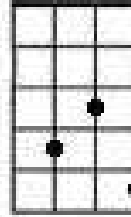
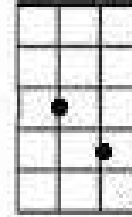
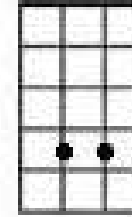
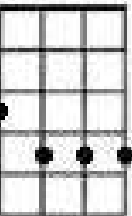
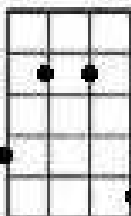
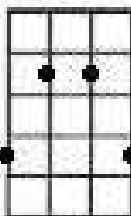
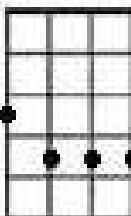
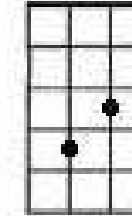
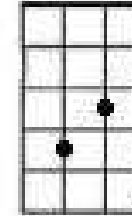


G Tuning  
Key of G

Arranged for 5-String Banjo  
By Jim Bottorff - 2026

# SKIP TO MY LOU

ADVANCED CHORD MELODY  
5-STRING & PLECTRUM BANJOS - CGBD

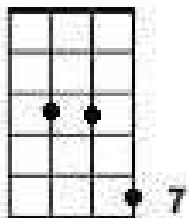
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| C                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     | G                                                                                    |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 14                                                                                 | 10                                                                                  | 14                                                                                  | 17                                                                                   | 12                                                                                    | 9                                                                                     |
| LOU                                                                                | LOU                                                                                 | SKIP TO MY                                                                          | LOU                                                                                  | LOU                                                                                   | LOU                                                                                   |
| C                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12                                                                                 | 15                                                                                  | 14                                                                                  | 10                                                                                   | 14                                                                                    | 17                                                                                    |
| SKIP TO MY                                                                         | LOU                                                                                 | LOU                                                                                 | LOU                                                                                  | SKIP TO MY                                                                            | LOU                                                                                   |
| G                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12                                                                                 | 15                                                                                  | 14                                                                                  | 12                                                                                   | 10                                                                                    | 10                                                                                    |
| SKIP                                                                               | TO MY                                                                               | LOU                                                                                 | MY                                                                                   | DAR                                                                                   | LING                                                                                  |

Arranged by Jim Bottorff - 2016

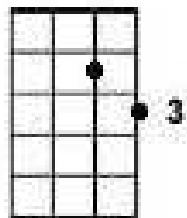
# SKIP TO MY LOU

ADVANCED CHORD MELODY  
TENOR BANJO - CGDA

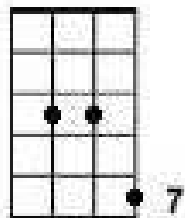
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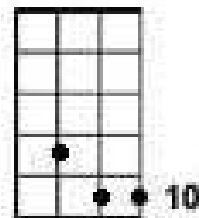
LOU



LOU

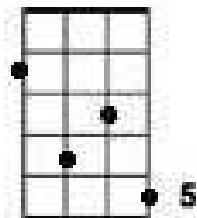


SKIP TO MY

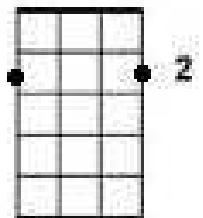


LOU

G7

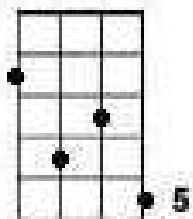


LOU

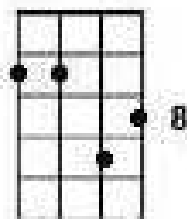


LOU

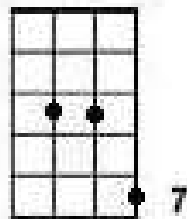
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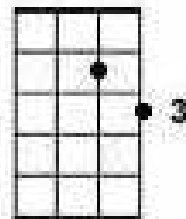
SKIP TO MY



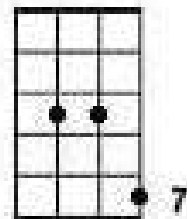
LOU



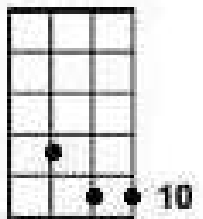
LOU



LOU

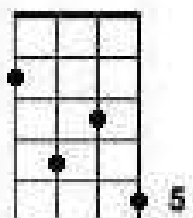


SKIP TO MY

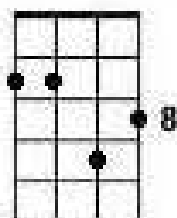


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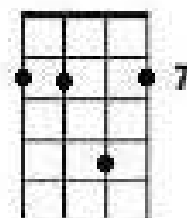
G7



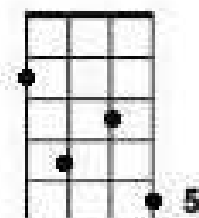
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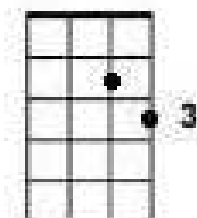
TO MY



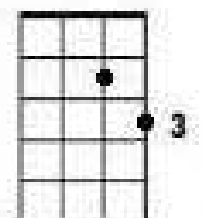
LOU



MY



DAR-



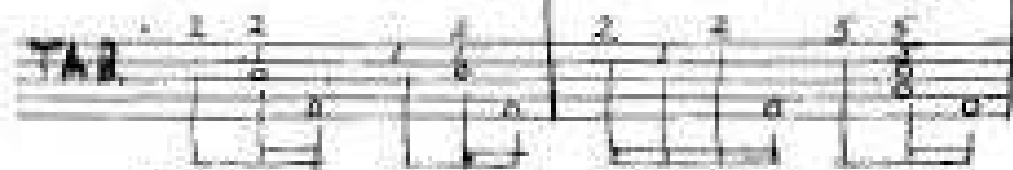
LING

Arranged by Jim Bottorff - 2016

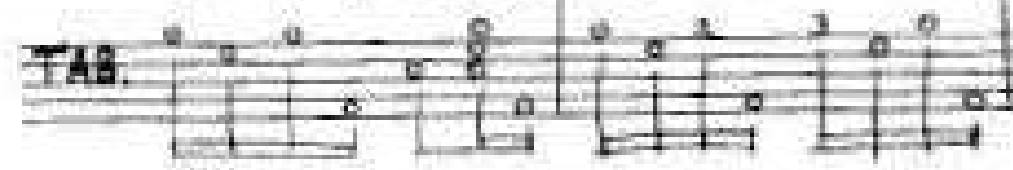
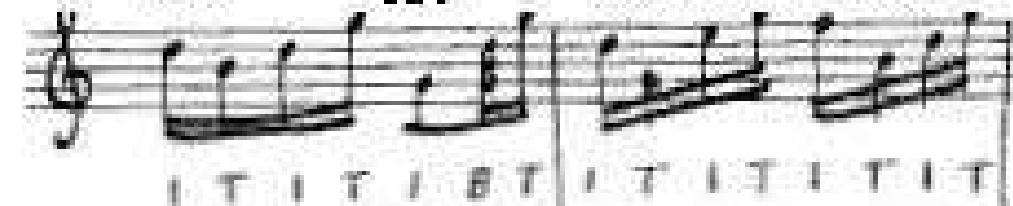
# DOUBLE THUMBING

## SKIP TO MY LOU

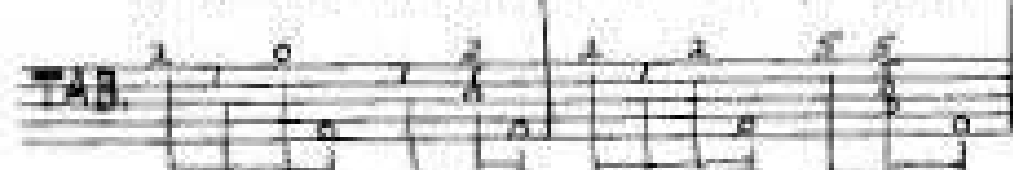
C TUNING



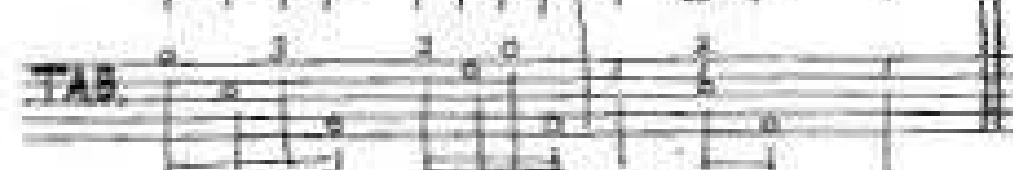
LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU



LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU



LOU LOU SKIP TO MY LOU



SKIP TO MY LOU MY DAR - LING