

10 Songs Played With 2 Chords

If you have learned the simplified C and G7 chords, you are ready to play these ten songs. At this point, we will assume that you can hum, whistle, or sing the melody to at least one of the ten songs whose lyrics are given below. That being the case, you can begin by choosing any one of the songs, singing the melody, and strumming the designated chord as you sing the particular word of the lyric above which the chord is indicated. In other words, if you choose “Skip To My Lou”, play the C chord as you sing these words in the first line:

C C C C
Flies buttermilk shoo shoo
(Note that the second C chord comes on the first syllable of the word “buttermilk”, not literally on the entire word.)

In order to find the note on which to begin singing a song you may do one of several things. First you might be able to get it by ear if you simply start strumming C and G chords alternately. Listening to those chords might be enough for you to find the note naturally, so to speak. Another way is to get the note from a piano or pitchpipe. Failing that, simply pluck the string indicated. That will give you the correct pitch of the starting note, and you can sing it in whatever register is most comfortable for you.

SKIP TO MY LOU (Starting note: * E—1st string)

C C C C
Flies in the but-ter-milk, shoo fly shoo,

G7 G7 G7 G7
Flies in the but-ter-milk, shoo fly shoo,

C C C C
Flies in the but-ter-milk, shoo fly shoo,

G7 G7 C C
Skip To My Lou, my dar-ling.

* refers to note
on which to
start singing
the *melody*

CLEMENTINE (Starting Note: C—2nd string when pressed to form C chord)

C **C**
Oh my dar-ling, oh my dar-ling,
C **G7**
oh my dar-ling Clem-en-tine,
G7 **C**
Thou art lost and gone for-ev-er,
G7 **C**
dread-ful sor-ry, Clem-en-tine.

DOWN IN THE VALLEY (Starting Note: G—3rd string)

C **C** **C** **G7**
Down in the val-ley, the val-ley so low,
G7 **G7** **G7** **C**
Hang your head o-ver, hear the winds blow.

(Follow same pattern for rest of lyrics.)

ALOUETTE (Starting Note: C—2nd string when pressed to form C chord)

C **C** **G7** **C**
A-lou-et-te, gen-tille A-lou-et-te,
C **C** **G7** **C**
A-lou-et-te, je te plu-me-rai.
C **C** **G7** **G7** **C**
Je te plu-me-rai la tete, je te plu-me-rai la tete,
C **C** **G7**
Et la tete, et la tete, oh! etc.

BILLY BOY (Starting Note: E—1st string)

Oh where have you been Bil-ly Boy, Bil-ly Boy,

Oh where have you been charm-ing Bil-ly?

I have been to seek a wife,

She's the dar-ling of my life,

She's a young thing and can-not leave her moth-er.

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS
(Starting Note: G—3rd string)

He's got the whole world in his hands,

He's got the whole wide world in his hands,

He's got the whole world in his hands,

He's got the whole world in his hands.

COCKLES AND MUSSELS (Starting Note: G—3rd string)

In Dub-lin's fair city, where girls are so pret-ty,

I first set my eyes on sweet Mol-ly Ma-lone;

She wheeled her wheel bar-row through streets

broad and nar-row,

Cry-ing cock-les and mus-sels a-live, a-live, Oh!