**Requirements**

* Supports D + G Merlins and alternate tunings e.g. full chromatic sample set (optional later)
* Extensible to Ukulele/Guitar/Diddley Bow e.g. more strings different notes different fretboard
* Merged Strumming and Fingerpicking formats for import.
* Text file and optional MP3 file input design.
* Python based music descriptor compiler (.tune -> .notes)
* Python based music player (pyglet ? midi ?) separate script so dependency not mandatory.
* Changing Tempo
* Pause, Backing track on/off
* Drag slider to position in tune.
* Pause does not jam background playback ? Rest has to if coded in AGK.
* Support up to 6/8 time.
* Read/Write of strum type data with chord-top support (for editor and TAB printer)
* Switchable between flat and 3D view ?

*Chord Strumming requirements*

* Background music to play over
* Chords at beat level
* Built in standard chords that can be overridden
* Different chords with same name (e.g. D\_alt scheme)
* Display of chord shapes large and small.
* Different strumming patterns including off

*Fingerpicking requirements*

* Separate note display which can be mixed in.
* Non strums e.g. x4x format.
* Ability to isolate melody ?
* Decide whether x4 is 0x4 or x4x and 4 is 004 or xx4 – probably x as easier for fingerpicking and drone tunes much simpler.

**Storage format (.notes)**

All values are lower case, which has implications for the mp3 file name for music. This is deliberate.

; xxxx Comments (start of line only)

Blank lines are ignored.

:name = value Control value (see below)

qbeatNumber:007/Gm Strumming pattern hexadecimal values

chord part is optional for display

(not for actual playing)

Control values

format format number (1)

bars number of bars

beats number of beats in a par

music name of .mp3 file in same directory as this file which

is background if any

tempo tempo in beats / minute

tuning tuning (dad)

instrument instrument in use (merlin)

created timestamp (unix ?) of creation

author author’s name(s)

intro how many intro bars to stick on the front.

**Definition format (.tune)**

; comments. Spacing is separator.

| new bar, beat 1

|nnn bar nnn

+ + 1 beat (can be concatenated e.g. ++.

. + ½ beat

= + ¼ beat

ssss String markers (hexadecimal digits)

x is no strum

right justified e.g. 7 means xx7

may be optionally followed by /<chord> which is label

[VnVnVnVn] Set strum pattern, filled in when bar completed

With current chord, which is inherited automatically

Initially then chord values set.

/Gm Play given chord (indicates a switch, displayed).

Does not generate strums, these are done at the end

of the bar.

name:value Definition of a value, or a chord.

If a bar only contains /<chords> it is determined to be strummed, otherwise it is fingerpicked. If no strumming is set [] it is *never* filled in.

Examples: Let it be (strumming version)

D\_030:030 *we define our chords here.*

A:101

Bm:210

G:310

A\_444:444

Em\_111:111

D\_0:000

[V.Vn.nVn] *define a strum to be used.*

|2 *go to bar 2*

/D\_030 *D variant*

++ /A

|Bm *goto bar 3*

++ /G

| /D *goto bar 4*

++ /A\_444

| *goto bar 5*

/G + /D + /Em\_111 + /D\_0 *four chords in a row. (the drop on be….)*

Examples: Norwegian Wood (fingerpick version)

| 101 *first bar (note ¾ time) I*

| 101 . 2 . 1 + 0 *once (semiquaver) had a*

| 421 *giri*

| 101 . 1 . 3 + 2 *or should I say*

| 401 *say*

| 310 + 530 + 200 + *she once had*

| 401 | *me (note this is two bars)*

Note annotating this with the chords won’t work because you could write 101/A where the first 101 is but the actual chord is 401 A

However, it is only really designed for basic usage.