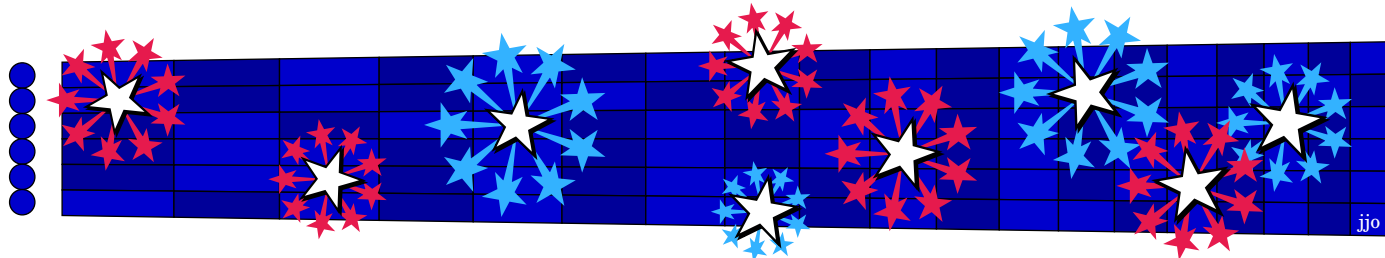


July Fretboard Exercises

Star-Spangled Sightreads



Versions from 1778 and 1814 ...

Exercise 1: I 0 II 3 III 4 IV 4 V 4 VI 6 VII 2 VIII 5

$\text{♩} = 120$

Exercise 2: I 0 II 3 III 4 IV 4 V 3 VI 5 VII 1 VIII 4

$\text{♩} = 120$

Exercise 1	Smith(1778): To Anacreon In Heaven	1
Exercise 2	Carr(1814): The Star-Spangled Banner	1

Exercise 1, in 1773, was the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th-century English gentlemen's club devoted to the hedonistic enjoyment of music (as in wine, women and song). Their inspiration was the 6th-century B.C. Greek poet and singer, Anacreon, whose songs celebrated women, wine and entertaining. The last two lines of the lyrics below are a refrain sung by all members after each verse, emphasizing that commitment.

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anacreon>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anacreontic_Society
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anacreontic_Song
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacchanalia>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wine,_women_and_song

*To Anacreon in Heav'n, where he sat in full Glee,
A few Sons of Harmony sent a Petition,
That he their Inspirer and Patron would be;
When this answer arriv'd from the Jolly Old Grecian:
"Voice, Fiddle, and Flute,
"no longer be mute,
"I'll lend you my Name and inspire you to boot,
"And, besides I'll instruct you, like me, to intwine
"The Myrtle of Venus with Bacchus's Vine."*

Exercise 2 is the version we now sing (with the sharpened F's) that was hastily published by the proprietor of a local music store without any mention of Francis Scott Key or his original title "The Defence of Fort McHenry." But it emphasized "star-spangled banner" and the rest is history.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Star-Spangled_Banner

A song like this using an old melody with new lyrics is a *contrafactum*, and that single Anacreontic melody spawned an astounding number (85) of patriotic contrafacta in America between 1790 and 1820, two by Key himself! It was a surprisingly popular melody.

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contrafactum>

This is a good time to read more about how Key came to witness the bombardment of Fort McHenry and about the very flag he saw that gave rise to our national anthem. It was huge (30 by 42 feet) and the only official U.S. flag with 15 stripes, as authorized in 1795 after the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the original 13. By the time of the bombardment (1814) three more states (Tennessee, Ohio and Louisiana) had been admitted and it was clear that more stripes couldn't be added, so the next authorization (in 1818) reverted to 13 stripes but 20 stars (to also include Indiana and Mississippi). Wikipedia has it all:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star-Spangled_Banner_\(flag\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star-Spangled_Banner_(flag))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_flag_of_the_United_States
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_date_of_admission_to_the_Union

*P.S. It easiest to follow these links if you **get the pdf** as indicated on the first page.*