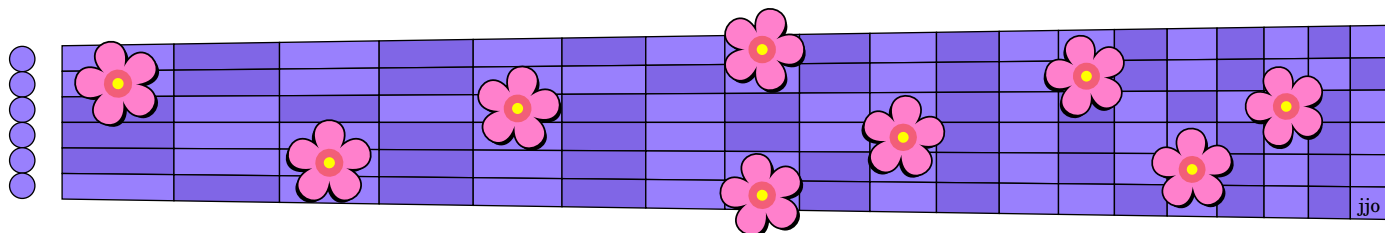


May Fretboard Exercises

Sightreads for Mother



Dear old songs about dear old Mom ...

Exercise 1: I 2 II 2 III 3 IV 4 V 2 VI 3 VII 1 VIII 3 IX 2 X 3 XI 4 XII 3 ③

♩ = 120

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

♩ = 180

Exercise 1	Morse(1915): M-O-T-H-E-R	1
Exercise 2	Olcott&Ball(1910): Mother Machree	1

Exercise 1 is known more for the lyrics written by Howard Johnson, who also did the lyrics for our Jul2025 sightread: “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!”. In related trivia, Theodore Morse also wrote the music for “How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck If a Woodchuck Could Chuck Wood?”. Those were simpler times.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Morse
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Johnson_\(lyricist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Johnson_(lyricist))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/How_much_wood_would_a_woodchuck_chuck%3F

*M is for the million things she gave me,
 O means only that she's growing old,
 T is for the tears were shed to save me,
 H is for her heart of purest gold;
 E is for her eyes, with love light shining,
 R means right, and right she'll always be,
 Put them all together, they spell MOTHER,
 A word that means the world to me.*

Exercise 2 sounds a bit Irish, so you might think it was about a matriarch of the Machree clan. But “Machree” actually originates from the Irish Gaelic phrase *mo chroí* which literally translates as “my heart” and is used as an Anglo-Irish term of endearment meaning “my dear” or “beloved”. Perfect for Mother's Day.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother_Machree_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother_Machree_(song))

*Ev'ry sorrow or care in the dear days gone by,
 Was made bright by the light of the smile in your eye;
 Like a candle that's set in a window at night,
 Your fond love has cheered me, and guided me right.*

*Sure, I love the dear silver that shines in your hair,
 And the brow that's all furrowed and wrinkled with care,
 I kiss the dear fingers, so toil-worn for me,
 Oh, God bless you and keep you, Mother Machree!*

These exercises are from the yet to be released book “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. The contents may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that they be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at jjocano@gmail.com

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