# The First 50 Songs You Should Play On Autoharp: A Beginner's Guide to Mastering the Instrument

Embark on an enchanting musical journey with the autoharp, a delightful instrument that combines the charm of a harp with the strumming ease of a guitar. As a beginner, it's essential to start with songs that are not only enjoyable to play but also help you develop a solid foundation. This comprehensive guide will introduce you to the first 50 songs that will kickstart your autoharp mastery. Let's dive into the world of autoharp music and create beautiful melodies!



#### First 50 Songs You Should Play on Autoharp

by Fred Sokolow

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#### **Essential Chords for Beginners**

Before embarking on our musical adventure, let's familiarize ourselves with the essential chords that will serve as the building blocks for many autoharp songs. These chords are relatively easy to master, even for beginners, and will provide you with a solid foundation to explore more complex chords in the future.

- C Major: This cheerful chord is the perfect starting point for autoharp players. It's formed by pressing the C, E, and G buttons.
- **G7**: Adding a touch of spice to your melodies, the G7 chord is created by pressing the G, B, and D buttons.
- D Major: With a bright and uplifting sound, the D Major chord consists of the D, F#, and A buttons.
- A Minor: Infuse your songs with a touch of melancholy using the A
   Minor chord, played by pressing the A, C, and E buttons.

#### **Basic Strumming Patterns**

Now that you have a grasp of the essential chords, let's explore some basic strumming patterns that will bring your autoharp songs to life. These patterns are simple to learn and will help you develop a steady and rhythmic strumming technique.

- Down-Up Strum: Start with a simple down-up strumming pattern, alternating between strumming downwards and upwards. This is a great starting point for beginners.
- Quarter Note Strum: Maintain a steady rhythm by strumming four times per measure, evenly spaced. This pattern is commonly used in folk and country music.
- Eighth Note Strum: Double the speed with the eighth note strumming pattern, strumming eight times per measure. This pattern adds a lively and upbeat feel to your songs.

#### The First 50 Songs for Beginners

With the essential chords and strumming patterns under your belt, you're now ready to embark on your musical journey with these 50 beginner-friendly autoharp songs:

- 1. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
- 2. Mary Had a Little Lamb
- 3. You Are My Sunshine
- 4. Amazing Grace
- 5. When the Saints Go Marching In
- 6. Oh, Susanna
- 7. Camptown Races
- 8. Skip to My Lou
- 9. Home on the Range
- 10. Jingle Bells
- 11. Silent Night
- 12. Deck the Halls
- 13. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
- 14. Old MacDonald Had a Farm
- 15. The Wheels on the Bus
- 16. Itsy Bitsy Spider
- 17. Baa, Baa, Black Sheep
- 18. London Bridge Is Falling Down

- 19. Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- 20. Michael Row the Boat Ashore
- 21. Frère Jacques
- 22. Au Clair de la Lune
- 23. Sakura
- 24. Edelweiss
- 25. Scarborough Fair
- 26. Greensleeves
- 27. Wild Mountain Thyme
- 28. Shenandoah
- 29. Wagoner's Lad
- 30. Cripple Creek
- 31. Down in the Valley
- 32. Shady Grove
- 33. Rocky Top
- 34. Country Roads
- 35. Leaving on a Jet Plane
- 36. Blowin' in the Wind
- 37. Imagine
- 38. What a Wonderful World

- 39. Over the Rainbow
- 40. Somewhere Over the Rainbow
- 41. Can't Help Falling in Love
- 42. Unchained Melody
- 43. Yesterday
- 44. Hallelujah

#### **Tips for Learning Autoharp Songs**

As you embark on your autoharp journey, keep these tips in mind to maximize your progress and enhance your playing skills:

- Start Slowly: Don't rush into learning complex songs. Begin with simple melodies and gradually progress to more challenging pieces.
- Practice Regularly: Consistency is key. Dedicate time each day to practice your autoharp, even if it's just for a short duration.
- Use a Metronome: A metronome helps you maintain a steady rhythm and improve your timing.
- Listen to Recordings: Familiarize yourself with how the songs should sound by listening to recordings of professional autoharp players.
- Find a Teacher or Group: Consider taking lessons from an experienced autoharp teacher or joining a group to learn from others and receive feedback.

Congratulations on taking the first step towards mastering the autoharp!
With dedication and passion, you'll be strumming beautiful melodies in no

time. Remember to start with the essential chords and strumming patterns, and gradually expand your repertoire by learning the 50 beginner-friendly songs outlined in this guide. Happy autoharp playing!

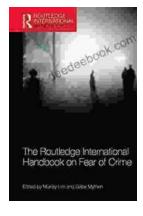


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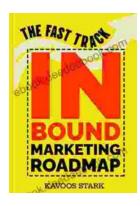
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