

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine

Old-time march

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music, each with a measure number and a chord diagram above it. The chords are: Staff 1 (measures 1-4): D, D, G, D, A; Staff 2 (measures 5-8): D, D, G, A, D, A, D; Staff 3 (measures 9-12): D, G, G, D, A; Staff 4 (measures 13-16): D, D, G, A, D, A, D. The melody is a rhythmic march with eighth and sixteenth notes, often featuring triplets and slurs.

"Vamping" on a fifth-tuned dulcimer:

This is the tune I use to illustrate the "vamping" hammering-and-plucking technique. D Cord: thumb on bass F#, finger 3 on bass A, finger 2 on RH treble bridge D (second position D major chord). Now pluck the F# with your thumb, then the other two fingers, then drop your thumb down and play the D that's (usually) the first note on the bass bridge. So you're still playing the A and the D like before, but alternating your thumb between the F# and the D below it. Sounds like a guitar vamping back-up. Doing the same thing on the G chord is easy. Just do a first position G, with your thumb on the G bass course, then alternate your thumb only between the bass G and the D below it. For the A chord it's a little tougher. Get an A major on the right side of the treble bridge with thumb on A, second finger on C#, third or fourth finger on E (all notes on the right treble bridge). Pluck A (with your thumb) then the other two notes, then slide your thumb over to the bass side and pluck an E, then back to the treble bridge for the C# and E above it. It's difficult at first, but practice, practice, practice.