DGDGDG-tuning

Getting started

Hello everyone!

The DGDGDG-tuning is a superb tuning for folk music for many reasons. To name a few; it has a clear and open feel, it is great for switching from accompanying to melody-playing, you have an additional fourth in the note-range in first position compared to most traditional guitar-tunings. The open strings can really help bind the different elements of your playing (chords, counter harmony, second harmony, melody) together.

The tuning is a variation of the 12-string guitar tuning ADADAD used and invented by Swedish guitar maestro Roger Tallroth. There is a very helpful video on YouTube, where he talks about his playing and the tuning: Link

You will need to restring the guitar to get the best string tension in this tuning and to get the highest string to go all the way up to the note g. The string gauges I use for GDGDGD are: 010; 013; 024w, 032w; 045w; 056w.

I use a custom mix of individual strings to get the best balance between string tensions. However, it is also possible to use a regular medium gauge set of strings plus a .010 gauge string. You then take the high e-string and place it where the b-string would normally be and use the .010 string where the high e-string would normally be. If you want to do it this way the string gauges you end up with are: 010; 013; 026w; 035w; 045w; 056w.

If you do not want to restring your guitar, it is possible to retune a normal-stringed guitar into CFCFCF and place a capo on the second fret. Even though the two lowest strings can become quite sloppy, it can be a good way to start playing around with the tuning.

I sometimes use a variation of the tuning, where I tune all the d-strings down to c. So it becomes CGCGCG. This is great for playing in D (capo on 2nd fret), E (capo on 4th fret), F (capo on 5th fret), etc.

Good luck getting set up for this tuning!

All the best and happy playing, Sebastian