

Seven-Tone Tunings

Name	Ding	Tone Fields								Comment
Minor Pentatonic 9	C	F	Ab	Bb	C	Eb	F	G	Classic minor pentatonic with a wistful ninth on top. Meditative and forgiving.	
Deshvara	C	F	G	B	C	D	F	G	A playful, positive major pentatonic tuning with a slightly exotic sound to many Western ears. Based on Raga Desh, a pentatonic scale commonly used Hindipop and Indian film music.	
Mixophonic	C	F	G	Bb	C	D	E	G	One of two sun-filled, happy tunings currently offered, this one a golden afternoon. A hexatonic version of the mixolydian mode of C. Undeniably optimistic, yet with enough wistfulness to provide intrigue.	
Limoncello	C	F	G	B	C	D	E	G	One of two sun-filled, happy tuning currently offered, this one a bright late morning, not too hot, just right. A straight C major strongly colored by the major 7th (B natural). Refreshing.	
Pygmy	C	F	G	Ab	C	Eb	F	G	Seven-tone version of a Rwandan Pygmy scale. Darker than the Minor Pentatonic 9, with a more exotic, yearning quality.	
Ake Bono	C	F	G	Ab	C	Db	F	G	Seven-tone version of Japanese Ake Bono scale. A stranger, more exotic cousin of Pygmy, with a strong Japanese feel.	
Kumo	C	F	G	Ab	C	Db	Eb	G	A somewhat mystical and striving tuning, with hints of both Pygmy and Ake Bono, but more understated than either. The name means 'cloud' in Japanese.	
Blues	C	F	Ab	Bb	B	C	Eb	F	A classic variation on a basic minor pentatonic, adding the immortal "blue note" of the tritone for delicious tension.	
Big Bear	C	F	G	Bb	C	D	Eb	G	A seven-tone version of our Da Xiong Diao, retaining its harmonic complexity, but gaining the sonic clarity of a seven-tone tuning. As yearning as the DXD, but with a slightly more Japanese flavor (as with its sibling the Little Bear).	
Little Bear	C	F	G	Ab	C	D	Eb	G	A seven-tone version of our Xiao Xiong Diao, retaining its harmonic complexity, but gaining the sonic clarity of a seven-tone tuning. Strong flavors of both Pygmy and Ake Bono emerge.	
Saudade	C	F	G	B	C	D	Eb	G	Named after the wistful melancholy at the heart of Portuguese fado music, because it also contains a unique mix, perhaps, of defiance, joy, loss, and ultimately peace. Unexpected and lovely, to our ears. Pronounced "sau-dodd" where sau rhymes with "now."	

Eight-Tone Tunings

Name	Ding	Tone Fields										Comment
Kiavara	C	F	G	Ab		C	Db		E	F	G	Based on an Indian Raga, has a strong Perisan/Arabic flavor. Harmonic minor with no fourth, or, Ake Bono with an added E natural.
Harmonic Minor	C	F		Ab	Bb	C	Db		E	F	G	A mode that evokes Gypsy and Klezmer, with Arabic/Persian overtones perhaps not quite as strong as in the Kiavara tuning.
Da Xiong Diao	C	F	G		Bb	C	D	Eb	F	G		Pronounced "Daw-Shawng Deeyow," which means "Big Bear Mode" in Mandarin, this has a Shang-Diao-like Chinese major pentatonic coloration with yearning Pygmy overtones. Note: this tuning is called "Dominant 7th" by BELLArt.
Xiao Xiong Diao	C	F	G	Ab		C	D	Eb	F	G		Pronounced "Shau Shawng Deeyow" ("shau" rhymes with "now"), which means "Little Bear Mode" in Mandarin, this tuning is only one note away from both Hijaz/Kaffa (losing the B natural of the latter) and Pygmy (adding a D natural). A more wistful, minor cousin of "Big Bear Mode."
Tharsi	C	F	G			B	C	D	Eb	F#	G	Named for the Thar desert in Rajasthan in northwest India, this unusual tuning combines major and minor colors in an evocative mix of joy and lament that would sound at home from the Arabian peninsula across central Asia. Pronounced "tar-see."
Shiraz	C	F	G	Ab		B	C	D	Eb		G	A wine-dark rose in a moonlit garden under old stone walls, Shiraz evokes the glory of Persia and Alhambra in equal measure. A variation on the Hijaz scale, Shiraz expresses an entire scale. A harmonic minor tuning full of unexpected joy. A very special wine indeed.
Khyberi	C		F#	G	Bb	C	D	Eb		F#	G	A very groove-friendly version of G harmonic minor, with the leading tone of the F# providing plenty of tension below the root G. Named for a famous pass on the southern silk road which it evokes to our ears. Strongly accented, but not monochromatic.
Hijaz	B		F#	G	A#	B	C#	D	E	F#		This mysterious tuning is equal parts haunting beauty and maddening dissonance. Evocative at times of Flamenco or Bossa Nova, Hijaz is not for the faint hearted, but in practiced hands can be truly divine. The fifth mode of harmonic minor, Hijaz expresses an entire scale (sometimes called Kaffa).