

# Table of Contents



10

## The Talented Jacob

From Markham, Ontario all the way to Virginia with Nothin' Fancy, Jacobe Lauzon is propelled by the power of his music.

# Bluegrass Canada

Volume 15 Issue 4

## Columns

- 5 President Murray Hale's Message
- 16 In the Groove with Tom McCreight
- 31 Editor Mike Kirley's Message

## Lessons

- 6 Mandolin with Emory Lester
- 8 Banjo with Denis LePage

## News

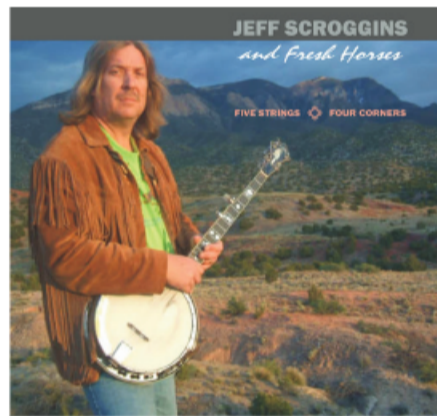
- 26 What's Going On

## Listings

- 23 BMAC Organization Listings
- 28 Radio on the Air

## On the cover

Jacobe Lauzon with Nothin' Fancy



## Out West

Linda Thorburn up close and getting pickin' with Jeff Scroggins.

17

## Many 'a Mandolin

This issue we caught Emory Lester in the Cuckoo's Nest.



6



## Home Again

Tom "the Old Coot" McCreight is home again with Paul Menard.

16

# Frosty Notes in Key of D

## Denis takes us through a popular Christmas Tune

By Denis LePage



*Denis LePage has spent over 40 years mastering the banjo, and is an active member of the Canadian bluegrass community. He currently runs a website dedicated to banjo instruction: [banjoden.com](http://banjoden.com).*

**Y**eah... I know it's not Christmas. But I thought I'd put the tablature for Frosty the Snowman in this issue so that you'd have a bit of time to get comfortable with it before those holidays are upon us.

There have been a lot of banjo versions of Christmas tunes recorded over the years. Eddie Adcock put out a killer version of Jingle Bells when he was with the Country Gentlemen. Bill Evans recently published a tab of Frosty in the key of G in the Banjo Newsletter. "What Child Is This" has been done numerous times and if you check out YouTube you'll find a bunch more. So I thought I'd add one more to the list.

But the real reason I have supplied this version of Frosty is because it's in the key of D (as Liberty was in the last issue) and D is a key that you should get used to playing in without a capo. Initially, you can think of playing in D open as being pretty much identical to playing in G at the 8th/9th fret position that Scruggs used so often in tunes like Foggy Mountain Breakdown and Earls Breakdown. If you can play at that position in G you can use a lot of the same licks in D down at the 3rd/4th fret position. But there is a lot more you can do. Melodic runs work well in this key and you can also take advantage of having a full octave within the first 3 frets on the banjo.

So here are some notes on this tab version of Frosty. Much of the tune is played within a chord. In fact the tune starts off with a measure of D chord that is followed by a short melodic run

then a bit more D followed by a longer melodic descending run. The bridge starts off with a couple of simple slides and then a jump to the 6th and 7th frets so that the melody notes land in the right place. The second half of the bridge is an E chord followed by another melodic run.

The rolls in the ending are laid out so that again the melody notes (... the "bumpity bump bump" parts) fall where they should. I have finished this version off with a single string lick that is played out of the D position chord. Go ahead and change this up if you like but remember that single string licks in that D position can be used anywhere on the neck if you're playing in different keys.

When I was doing a workshop at the Tottenham festival a few years ago I was asked about how I come up with lead breaks for songs. I'm not sure I answered that question very well at the time but the trick to playing a lead break or coming up with a version of a tune like 'Frosty' is to try to find a way to hit the melody notes of the tune exactly where the singer would hit them. That rule of thumb applies whether your playing Scruggs, melodic, single string or the Reno/Adcock staccato chording styles. As Chris Quinn put it in the article that we did on him a few months ago: Try to play the syllables of the words.

I think you'll find that this version of 'Frosty' pretty much sticks to that. I hope you enjoy it and will try to put together some other tunes that you can share with me the next time we meet.



ARR: D. LEPAGE

# FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

KEY D (ADGBD)

Handwritten musical notation for the first system of the main piece. The top staff shows fret numbers: x x x, 3 4 3 4 4 x 0 0 0 0 4 4 0. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings.

Handwritten musical notation for the second system of the main piece. The top staff shows fret numbers: 5 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 x 3 4 4 x. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings.

## BRIDGE

Handwritten musical notation for the bridge section. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0 0 2-3 3 0 0 0 0 0 x 4 4 3 x. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings.

Handwritten musical notation for the section following the bridge. The top staff shows fret numbers: 0 x 0 x 2 x 2 x 0 5 5 5 0 0 x x x x. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings. The text "BACK TO A PART" is written at the end of the system.

## ENDING

Handwritten musical notation for the first part of the ending. The top staff shows fret numbers: 4 4 x 4 4 x 4 3 x x 2 x. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings.

Handwritten musical notation for the second part of the ending. The top staff shows fret numbers: 2 2 x 2 2 x 2 0 2 3 4 2 4 2 3 x x x 4. The bottom staff shows chord diagrams and fingerings.