

It's time to see how **double-stops** can figure into an arrangement.

Loosely defined, a double-stop is when you play notes on **two strings** at once.

I'd like to use the term to mean two notes played together that **specifically** belong to (1) a melody line and (2) an associated harmony line. The function of a harmony line is to track, or to shadow, or to support the melody line. The two notes often belong to the same chord and usually stay the same **interval** apart. More about this later.

For now, just get used to how double-stops sound and feel to play:

How do you manage those "0-5" deals in the 1st and 2nd bars? Just rest your 3rd finger against the intervening string so that it won't ring when you hit it. Let's swoop in on just a double-stop version of "BTCD":

The next step would be to take an old-time song like this and **improvise** on it a bit. You try to stay true to the basic melody while taking certain "liberties," shall we say. In the chapter on fiddle tunes, we'll step up our game with faster Eighth note passages, but for now I just want you to get a taste for what is possible. Let's jump in and try some of these variations, along with some extra chord tones and a Shuffle Strum: