

Why did I change the tuning of the 5 and 6 chord-zither?

About the 5 chord zither:

1) Choosing the chords:

5 chords is a very small number of chords. You must choose chords which go with the C major key (the most useful key): C Maj, F Maj and G Maj. The other 2 most useful chords are A min and D min, not A Maj and D Maj (which do not belong to C Major key).

Music needs both major and minor chords.

2) Choosing the melody notes:

You need more than 2 octaves otherwise a tune cannot be repeated up or down an octave. You need 2 ½ octaves i.e. 19 notes (ab cdefgab cdefgabc de).

On a 5 chord zither you have 21 notes. The extra 2 notes can be B flat, the most used "black note". So you get : (ab cdefgabbb cdefgabbb de).

This explains the tuning of the 5 chord zither.

About the 6 chord zither:

1) If you have a chromatic scale, you will want to play tunes but you will not have the right chords for them.

2) As for the 5 chord zither, two octaves are not sufficient.

3) What is missing on the 5 chord zither is a melodic minor scale. You can get A melodic minor and all the chords which go with it on the 6 chord zither by using my tuning.

I hope this helps.