RIGHT-HAND POSITION

Bluegrass banjo playing is known for its bright tone. Fingerpicks help create this characteristic sound. On the index and middle fingers you should wear metal picks. A plastic pick is worn on the thumb. The curve of the fingerpick follows the curve of the finger. Study the photos for the correct position of the picks.

The metal picks may be adjusted with a pliers. The plastic pick may be softened by immersing it in boiling water with the pliers and then shaping it to fit tightly around your thumb.

Let your right hand curl loosely over the strings near the bridge. Rest your third and fourth fingers lightly on the banjo head to steady your hand. Keep the wrist arched and fingers relaxed so they can function freely and independently.







Metal Fingerpicks

Plastic Thumbpick

Right-Hand Position

RULES FOR RIGHT-HAND FINGERPICKING

- The thumb (t) strikes downward to play notes on strings 3, 4, and 5.
- The index finger (i) picks upward to play notes on string 2.
- . The middle finger (m) picks upward to play notes on string 1.

Try the exercise below while paying careful attention to the right-hand thumb and finger indications (t, i, and m) below each note.





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