

Proper Position



Ill. 1

The instrument is held on the right thigh, the upper inside edge resting against the body.

The right forearm rests on the top edge of the rim about three inches above the tail piece. This holds the instrument in position leaving the left hand free.

The left arm drops freely and naturally from the shoulder, which should not be raised. The arm should not be held too close to the body.

The thumb of the left hand is pressed lightly against the side of the neck of the instrument, and should always be relaxed.

In barré chord (where more than one string is covered by the same finger) the thumb drops under the neck of the banjo (see Ill. No. 2) The fingers of the left hand are curved over the fingerboard and should be well pointed on the string.

The pick (or plectrum) is held lightly between the first finger and the thumb, the pick resting on the upper part of the ball of the finger, and projecting on a line with the finger.

The wrist is turned away from the body and is slightly curved.



Ill. 2

The Strokes

The Strokes (both down and up) are made entirely with the wrist.

When playing single strings, strike down at an angle of about 45 degrees with the head of the banjo, and not straight across the strings, on a line with the banjo head.

This is very important and too much emphasis can not be placed upon the acquiring of the proper stroke.

Observe well the accompanying illustrations which demonstrate the beginning and ending of the down stroke.

The up stroke is naturally the reverse of the down stroke.

In the down stroke the pick should be arrested by the next string

The direction of the stroke is slightly modified when playing chords.



III. 3



III. 4