

ILLUSTRATIONS OF  
METHOD OF HOLDING INSTRUMENT



POSITION OF THE HANDS



SIDE VIEW



SHOWING HOW TO HOLD THE PLECTRUM

## How to hold the Tenor Banjo.

Rest the lower rim of the Banjo on the right thigh about 4 inches from the body, the upper part resting against the body. The neck should point at an angle which brings the nut slightly higher than the left shoulder, and about 10 inches in front of it. Rest the right forearm on the rim, midway between wrist and elbow about two inches from the tailpiece, arch the wrist so that the fingers when slightly bent fall in position on the strings two inches in front of the Bridge. If these directions are followed it will be found that the Banjo is held quite securely with very little pressure of the right arm, thus allowing the wrist free and easy movement, and without the left hand touching the instrument.

### The Left Hand.

Raise the left hand to the neck of the instrument keeping the elbow close to, but not quite touching, the side of the body. Place the thumb at the back of the neck (not round it), curve the wrist well out so that the fingers form a semi circle and the tips fall naturally and perpendicularly upon the strings. The thumb should be opposite the 2nd finger. Keep the palm well away from the neck. If the fingers are allowed to fall flat across the four strings they should lie parallel to the frets. Except when using Barré, use only the tips of the fingers, which should be pressed firmly upon the strings immediately behind, but not on the frets. DO NOT GRIP, all joints must be slack, thus allowing the hand and fingers to move freely and easily.

### The Right Hand.

(Holding the Plectrum.)

The Plectrum is held between the forefinger and thumb, with the thumb flexible to regulate the pressure on the strings. The tip of the little finger may rest lightly on the vellum, but should move with the motion of the hand. The Stroke is made from the wrist which also must be very loose and flexible.