



## HOLDING THE TENOR BANJO

Sit in an upright position and allow the rim of the banjo to rest on the right thigh. In many cases it is preferable to have the right leg crossed over the left. Rest the right forearm about two inches above the tailpiece and arch the wrist so that the pick will come in contact with the strings about two inches above the bridge.

## THE LEFT HAND

The neck of the Banjo is supported between the thumb and forefinger. Do not rest the neck of the banjo in the palm of your hand. The fingers should curve naturally over the fingerboard ready to press down lightly with the tips. Keep forearm and hand in an easy position.

In playing chords or double stops where two or more strings are pressed down or covered by one finger, allow the wrist to drop in order to secure easy execution.

Never press down directly on the frets, always just back of them.

The first finger controls the first two frets, the 2nd finger controls the 3rd fret; the 3rd finger controls the 4th fret and the 4th finger controls the 5th and 6th frets.

## HOLDING THE PICK (Plectrum)

Curl the fingers of the right hand towards the palm, keeping them together. Place the ball of the thumb on the side of the first finger, keeping it straight and relaxed. Then place the pick between the first finger and thumb, with only enough pressure to keep the pick in position.

## THE STROKE

There are no set rules for the use of strokes other than being in tempo. The relaxation of the wrist is probably the most important part of the stroke. The wrist is goose-necked -- strike the strings with a downward movement with the pick, allowing the hand to drop about two inches. Now raise the hand, striking the strings with the pick in an upward movement. In other words, an Up and Down movement of the hand pivoted at the wrist.

Try this several times, slowly at first and then increase the speed. This is termed a slow TREMOLO STROKE and should be mastered before attempting others.

## HINTS FOR THE TENOR BANJOIST

Purchase the best banjo you can afford. Never use a cheap instrument.

Confidence in oneself is very important. "Practise makes perfect".

Practising with a good piano player is very helpful.

In playing with an orchestra, sit near the Drummer. Try to follow him. It is excellent practise.

Always be sure of your harmony. If not, refer to the piano or 2nd violin parts. Piano harmony must be the same as the tenor banjo.

Keep the banjo head tight and change strings often.

Don't try to play chords without reading or knowing the notes. Don't guess them, be sure of them.

Don't feel that four strings must be played at all times. Many players use three strings more than they do four.