

THE PICK

The Pick is the important part of playing the Tenor Banjo. This is done as follows with an almond shaped pick made of tortoise shell that is held between the thumb and the 1st finger of the right hand, and should be used by striking the strings across and back, holding the hand in a curved position so that the hand does not touch the strings above the bridge. For your first exercise strike the C or 4th string open downward stroke, then strike 3rd or G string downward stroke, then D string the same, then A string the same; that gives you the four open notes of the four strings, C - G - D - A. Then strike each of the strings in the same rotation downward and upward or across and back, then strike strings in same rotation three times down, up, down; always start on the downward stroke. Then play the same strings 4 times, 5 times, 6 times, 7 times and 8 times making each of the tones clear and in equal time like the ticks of a clock. After becoming familiar with the open strings, and being able to play them clear and distinct, in equal time, then play the following scale as marked on the next page.