

Correct Position For Holding The Banjo

Relax the hands, arms, and shoulders. Rest the rim of the banjo upon the thigh of the right leg. Avoid crossing the legs. (try to sit erect). Permit the neck of the banjo to rest loosely upon the ball of the first finger of the left hand, (do not grip the neck with the thumb). Keep the fingers of the left hand well curved over the fingerboard. Keep the wrist of the left hand curved outwardly, never permit the neck of the instrument to rest in the palm of the hand.

For striking straight chords, the player may use a celluloid guitar thumb pick, instead of a mandolin pick. However; when playing the melody, the player must use a mandolin pick; the thumb pick is only practical for striking chords.

When using a mandolin pick hold the pick loosely between the tips of the thumb and the first finger of the right hand. Keep the wrist elevated; do not use a flat wrist motion.

When striking chords relax the hand. Use a down stroke (not straight across) with a rapid arpeggio motion. Do not attack the strings abruptly, merely drag the pick across the strings with a loose wrist.

To produce a musical tone it is necessary to slant the pick towards the bridge at an angle of forty-five degrees. Holding the pick straight produces a bad tone.