

How To Hold The Tenor Banjo

Rest rim of Banjo on right thigh; the upper part of rim leaning back against the right side of chest. Allow right forearm (half way between wrist and elbow) to rest about two inches above tailpiece, arching right wrist so the pick will come in contact with C or 4th string, about two inches from the bridge. (*see illustrations 1 and 2*)

Position Of Left Hand

Allow neck of Banjo to touch at base of first finger, at the middle of 1st fret on A or first string side. Position of the thumb in single note playing is usually between 1st and 2nd fingers but on opposite side of neck. In chord playing the thumb is often placed directly under 1st finger in back of neck. For long reaches move thumb forward to center of hand but keep the thumb below level of fingerboard at all times. (*see illustration No 3*)

Holding The Plectrum (Pick)

1st_Lay the palm of right hand on some flat surface keeping fingers close together.

2nd_Now curl the fingers in towards the palm until the tips of fingers reach point where the fingers are joined in hand.

3rd_Place ball of thumb on the side of first finger.

Be sure not to bend the thumb and keep it straight and relaxed

4th_Place plectrum between thumb and first finger. Now place right forearm on Banjo as explained in “How To Hold The Banjo” (*see illustration No 4*)

Do not stiffen the fingers_Kep them relaxed.

Illustrations Showing Correct Manner of Holding
the Tenor-Banjo and Proper Position of the Right Hand



No 1.
Front View.



No 2.
Side View.



Illustration No. 3_Showing Position of the Left Hand_

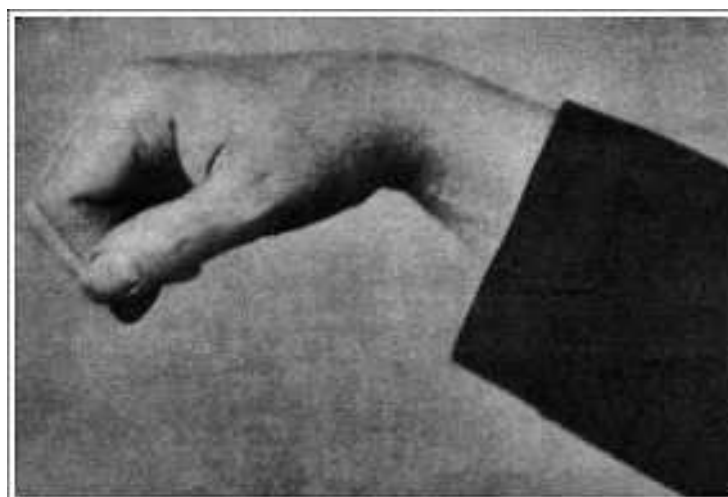


Illustration No. 4_Showing how to Hold the Pick_

Pointers For The Tenor Banjo Student

The tenor banjo is here to stay. It is a recognized instrument in the Orchestra to-day.

Purchase the best banjo you can afford.

Rather economize on something else than use a cheap instrument. "When a person buys a cheap article, he feels good when he pays for it, and disgusted every time he uses it. When he buys a good article, he feels better every time he uses it, for the recollection of quality remains long after the price is forgotten".

Have confidence in yourself. Don't wish you could do the same as the other fellow. With study and perseverance and an effort on your part, you can do the same.

Practice with a good piano player, one with knowledge of Harmony preferred.

Practice playing the banjo with the Victrola. This is the best private practice of all as you can obtain the latest dance hits and practice along with the country's professional orchestras. This way you can become familiar with the different strokes and jazz effects.

Playing in an orchestra, it is good to sit near the piano and drums. Especially the drums as it is well to work with the drummer using the same rhythm.

Never try to drown the orchestra, unless it is a strain where the tenor banjo is featured. Be sure of your harmony. Rather play softly or stay out if not sure of your part.

Go out of your way to hear a good professional player and watch his work and try to imitate. Don't think you can camouflage discords with a lot of fancy strokes.

When not sure of the Harmony, refer to the piano or 2nd Violin part. Always be sure of your Harmony. Nothing sounds worse than to hear a banjo player striking discords. The tenor banjo Must use the same Harmony as the Piano.

Always relax. Play at ease. Just as sure as you start to stiffen up as though it is a hard job, then the strain starts.

Never assume a grouchy appearance. Smile and look pleasant. The banjo is a snappy and fascinating instrument. Always appear as though you enjoy your playing.

Keep your banjo in good condition. Be sure the head is tight. A new head will help wonders. Change your strings often. Use only the best strings.

Develop your single note playing. Study the scales thoroughly and know them by name.

Always try to keep the top notes of chords close together. Memorize relative chords in all keys.

Perseverance and intelligent study will make a Tenor Banjoist of any Student.