

HOLDING THE INSTRUMENT

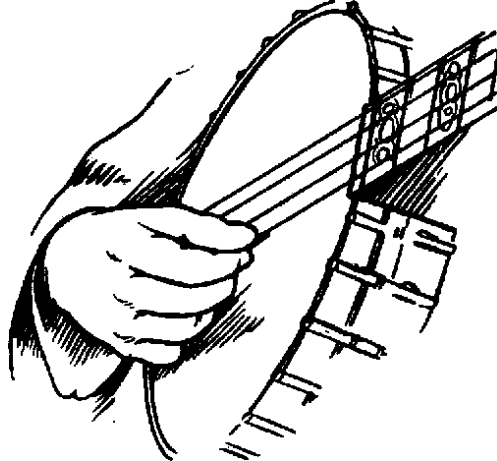
Rest the Banjo on the right thigh, the top rim of the instrument should rest comfortably against the body at an angle, giving a perfect balance, and leaving both hands free for manipulation.



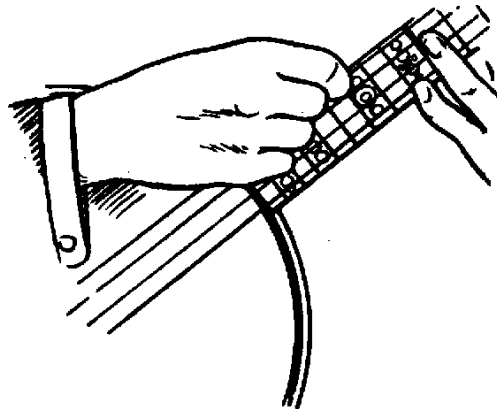
Position of left-hand fingers on strings.

THE RIGHT HAND.

Place the fore-arm over the middle of the top rim. It should be perfectly free, so that when playing single notes you can move near the bridge to produce a clear sharp tone; and when playing chords, near the finger-board, for the snappy tone required in band work.



Position of right hand for single picking.



Position of right hand for chord playing.

THE LEFT HAND.

The Neck of the Banjo should rest in the fork of the left hand with the fingers curved in over the strings.

HOLDING THE PLECTRUM

Select a Plectrum not too thick and with a fairly long point. Hold lightly between the first finger and thumb with the point down towards the vellum.

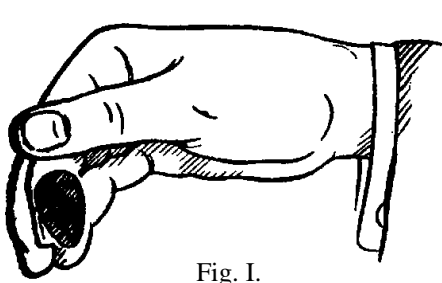


Fig. I.

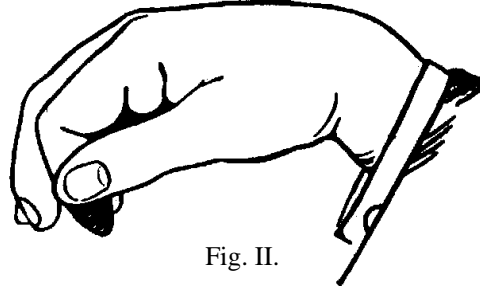


Fig. II.

Place the Plectrum on first finger as in Fig. I, the other fingers curved toward palm of hand, and close the thumb on it as in Fig. II.

HOW TO USE THE PLECTRUM

For scale passages use down and up strokes alternately, playing about two inches from the bridge. The wrist should be flat, don't on any account hook the strings.

For chord playing the wrist should be arched, the Plectrum held very lightly, and the up and down strokes should be more of a "flicking" or "brushing" movement than that of the single string picking.