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Beginning Strumming Techniques

TABLATURE

The symbols (also called Tablature) for the right hand are as follows: ↑ – Strike the strings in a motion towards the high register strings. You can use either your thumb (Figure 6a) or your finger(s) (Figure 6b). I suggest you use your thumb, especially when you are striking the lower register strings. If you use your finger(s), hold them at a slight angle as you strum toward the higher register. This helps to avoid getting them caught in the strings.

↓ – Strike the strings in a motion towards the lower register strings (Figure 7). Use your finger(s) only.

Before you begin the strumming exercises, practice pressing the chord buttons and strumming across the strings. For example, firmly press the F major chord bar with your middle or index finger. Strum across the strings several times with your thumb. Keep your wrist loose and your elbows raised slightly; create an arc-like movement as your thumb moves quickly across the strings (Figure 8). On the next page are two songs to help you become familiar with the strumming and pressing the chord bars.



Figure 6a.

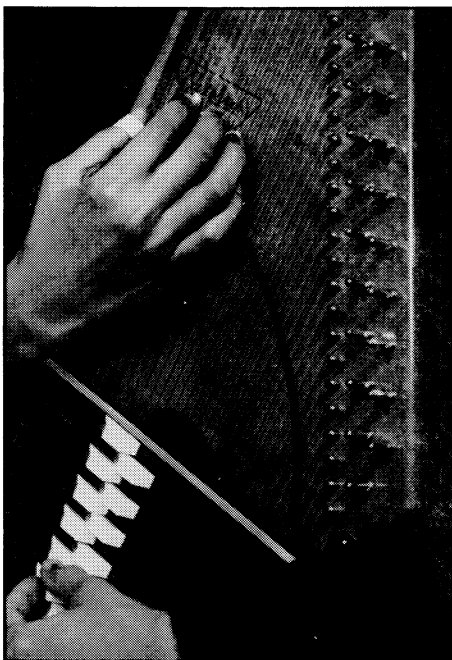


Figure 6b.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.