

## In 10 The Search of the Wild Dulcimer

in the instrument and glue them in. Metal strap pegs screw into the instrument. So do what you think is best.

When you are looking at dulcimers, you might want to drag along a friend who knows something about guitars. No doubt he can help you with any of these considerations. You should be able to find a good-quality, hand-crafted instrument for right around eighty-five dollars. Or you can make one from a kit for about thirty dollars. If you are open to a suggestion: try to find a four-string dulcimer with a fretboard and string arrangement like the one illustrated.

If you notice any differences between your dulcimer's fretboard and the one in the illustration, you have either a variation of the standard dulcimer with an eight-note scale or a longer fretboard than the one shown. We consider many of the variations we have seen to be confusing and more trouble than they are worth because "extra" frets cloud the concept of the instrument and the "diatonic systems" known as modes.

The four-string variety with its double "lead" string simply provides a little more sound than the three-string dulcimer, and we think you'll find it to be a bit more pleasing.

So you've found a dulcimer, checked it over, and like its sound. And because you already know that the more it is played the better it will sound, we'd best get on with learning to do so.

### *Nomenclature*

