on the nut and bridge, imitating the slant and depth of the other cuts. Then reposition the string.

Another string arrangement you might try sometime places the unisons between the middle string (3), which moves over to the first position, and the bass. We've seen this arrangement on a number of three- and four-string dulcimers coming from the Ozarks and Vermont.

Remember that a three-string dulcimer is like a four-string, except that it has only one melody string. If your melody string is not on the outside closest to you, move it and then you'll have a first, a third, and a fourth string.

If you have a five-string dulcimer, you have various options, depending on how your five strings are arranged. If you have two unisons, fine. The other three strings may then be arranged any way you wish or left as is. The extra string (designated by an asterisk in the illustration) is another melody string that drones along with the middle and bass string. You can keep it on the instrument, move it near the bass string, or take it off. This five-string arrangement is prevalent in the eastern Tennessee/Great Smoky Mountains area of Appalachia, as is the violin-shaped dulcimer.