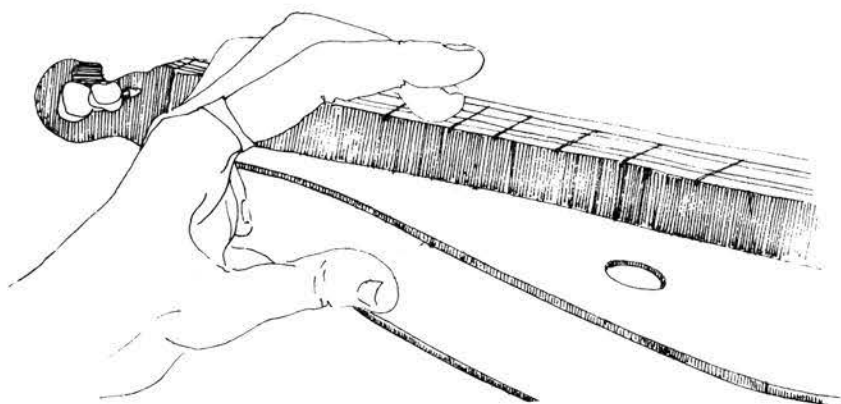


for the half-time notation where a down/up strum stroke cuts the beat in half.

If you find sliding one finger through all these changes to be a little awkward, you are no doubt more than ready for the two-finger technique which utilizes both the middle and index fingers. Place your middle finger at the octave fret and slide down the scale playing each note as you go, then come back up the scale by using your index finger to depress each note. Thus, for moving around the fretboard use the middle finger to move downward, and the index finger for upward movement. Additionally, the middle finger is easily used to hold down a note as a “base” while the index finger reaches out to play other notes in rapid succession.



TWO-FINGER FRETTING TECHNIQUE

Try this: first strum the open note, and while it is still sounding, quickly put your middle finger down at the first fret. Strum this note, and while it is still sounding depress the next fret with your index finger. Then, lifting your index finger up off the note, slide the middle finger to the fret your index finger just got off of, and sound that note. Repeat this depress-and-slide technique all the way up the scale. By reversing the process, do it all the way back to the open note.

Work with the elements and techniques we have talked about. Get into the habit of depressing the unison strings firmly, maximizing the tone you pro-