

ing both of them—they can wiggle out from beneath your fingertip easily, so make sure you are using enough downward pressure to stabilize their movement.

## **PLAYING NOTES WHICH AREN'T THERE**



Eventually you will want to play a song which has one or more notes that are not included in your scale. There are four ways to get around this problem.

**1** You can bend the note on the fret below the one you want and make it a half-step higher. Since you are going for an exact tone, this will be difficult until you learn to gauge how much the string should be bent to produce the desired note.

**2** Rarely, but sometimes, you can get the note you want by using the harmonics of the instrument; however, this can sound a bit out of place.

**3** You can make a change in the rhythm and leave the note out entirely. Here, you don't actually produce the note, but the listener will fill it in. Also, in the time/beat space allowed for that note, you can slide around it by playing the notes just below and above it, "passing through" the note without really playing it.

**4** This method is really part of the next section, but you can always change the tuning to a different mode. You will probably find the note you are looking for, but then again you may lose a few of the other notes you need. Most songs that are "major" in mood can be played in either the Mixolydian or Ionian modes, and the Ionian comes next.

While learning to play the dulcimer, don't forget that the most important thing you can do is to improve your strumming and your sense of rhythm. The more you play, the more fluid your strum will