

become, and the better, quicker, and more sensitive you will be.

You've undoubtedly found that it doesn't take a great deal of strength or effort to produce sound on the dulcimer. Often, too much pressure in strumming ruins the otherwise pleasing, delicate sounds your instrument can create. Listen to what you are playing.

Syncopation—the changing around of beats and their accents—will enhance your playing, making your rhythms more varied, interesting and altogether different in impact.

Nothing is constant!

Change it around.

Use two or three fingering methods in any given song. Do what sounds good to you—even rewrite the tune if you want to. Few listeners will miss the notes, and maybe our song will be more pleasing than the original. Who knows?

Drop beats, make it “funky.” Even “Go Tell Aunt Rhody” can really cook if you get into it.

Whatever you do though, make sure that your embellishments and finger techniques are not cover-ups for poor strumming and non-rhythms. No left-hand technique can make up for a right hand that is not doing its job.