There are many different patterns for flat-picking. Anything’s fair. If you are in doubt, remember that no matter what the sequence, if you do it at least twice in a row, it will work.

**FINGER-PICKIN’**

We group a great deal under this heading, believing that if you pick specifically with your fingers, then that’s what it is. Some people grow their fingernails a little longer on the pickin’ hand, but most people’s nails are too soft for continuous use as picks. You might purchase a set of steel or plastic finger-picks. Finger-picks fit over the ends of your fingers and act as fingernails so you can pluck the strings in rapid succession without suffering blisters or having to build up callouses.

As with flat-picking, finger-picking sequences are many and varied, but any sequences you can do with a flat pick can be done with your finger-picks. Moreover, with finger picks you can use the thumb to “double strum” between the unisons and middle or bass string to syncopate the rhythm.

**ONE FINGER**

But let’s start with one finger.

You can use any one finger (usually the forefinger and sometimes the thumb) in a flat-picking style. Also, try brushing one finger across the strings from