

## Semi-Flamenco

This style has similarities to both banjo and flamenco guitar techniques. The hand is held as for the Claw Hammer, except that the thumb does nothing but act as a launching pad from which the index finger springs. It's like knocking something off a table with a flick of your index finger—the thumb and index finger are held in the “OK” position, and the rest of the fingers merely follow the index finger. You can alter this technique a little by flicking the thumb backward against the melody strings after each launching of the four fingers. The thumb kicks back and sounds the unisons after the first pass with the other fingers.

Since all of these are modified banjo styles, you might do well to ask an old-time banjo player to show you them in more detail.

## Pinching (Plucking)

To pinch the strings, wedge your fingers between any of the strings with a short, straight downward stroke. Then, on pulling up and away, you pinch the strings with the thumb and index finger to voice them. This plucking technique produces a very delicate quiet sound...something like a harpsichord. It works well for slower music in which the instrument occasionally accompanies the voice.

