A-Bit-Like-Spanish-or-Classical-Style-Guitar

Brace your thumb against the side of the fretboard, and with your middle and index fingers pick back on the strings toward the thumb. Try to keep your fingers extended and move them as if they were two little legs plucking the strings. Try to play the strings individually as much as possible, without sounding them all together.

BEATING, SCRAPING, BANGING, AND OTHER SPECIALTY STYLES

Beat, scrape, or bang on the strings with whatever catches your imagination. You can use the noter, the flat of your hand, the side of a ripple-edged coin, a pencil, a violin bow...anything at all.

In the Appalachians some old-timers still play with a fiddle bow. If you use a bow, it is best to lay the instrument flat on your lap in Appalachian style and bow with the right hand, but we've heard of people holding the dulcimer vertically and using a bow, too—so do what you will.

You may be able to find a bow in a pawn shop or, of course, at a music store. Get some rosin, a resinous material fiddlers rub on their bows, to help your bow vibrate the strings better.