

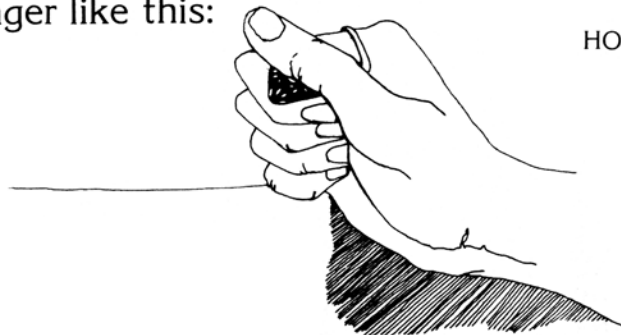
will work fine and you will not have to buy the metal slide. If you want to exert more pressure on the strings than the bottleneck allows, try using a small vanilla extract bottle partially filled with water, held lengthwise.

You will be able to make clean sounds anywhere on any string if you raise the strings off the fretboard about a sixteenth of an inch, and you can do this by replacing the nut with a slightly higher one. If you are going to use bottlenecking as an embellishment, you might not need to raise the strings very much, if at all. However, if you are going to use the steel-guitar technique a lot, raising the strings is necessary to produce a clear sound. You may even want to raise the bridge too, but this depends on your instrument. Strumming may sound odd if you're using the slide, so we'd recommend a flat-picking technique or finger picks.

The slide is great for blues, but the "minor third" tone (found halfway between the first and second frets in the Mixolydian mode) might not harmonize too well with the drones. Then again, it's all in how you listen.

## **Picks and Pickings From Other Cultures**

One picking technique that interests us is used to play instruments like the Russian balalaika, the Arabian oud, and the bazooki, a Greek instrument. All these instruments require incredibly rapid playing, and their picking styles can be used to play the dulcimer. Use a triangular pick with slightly rounded corners. We prefer a thin pick which we choke-up on with our fingers, but maybe you'll find a thicker more inflexible pick works better. Hold it between the thumb and forefinger like this:



HOLDING THE PICK VERY TIGHTLY