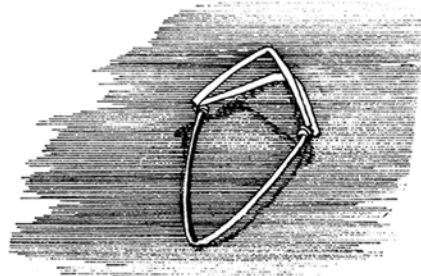


Hold the pick tightly so that you can make short picking movements against the unisons. The motion you want to use is similar to that of using an eraser on the end of a pencil—back and forth very rapidly in short arcs at an angle to the strings. The pick's rounded corner helps you cross the strings evenly, so use it to your advantage. The sound you get will be very brisk, with brief notes.

Another pick we sometimes use is the mizrab, the pick used to play the Indian sitar.

THE MIZRAB



The mizrab is a thin wire finger pick which we usually place on the index finger. The wire part of the pick acts like a fingernail with which you pick and strum the strings. You may need to place your thumb against your index finger to keep the mizrab from falling off, if you do a lot of strumming with it. For picking, it allows a unique freedom of finger movement, and the sound takes on a shimmering quality.

If you use a mizrab, why not fashion a sitar-type bridge out of a piece of hardwood or bone? The trick is to allow the strings to “buzz” a little in the grooves. Maybe you only want to “buzz” the drones...so make the grooves larger than normal and see what you get.

Experiment.

Utilize what you can—strange materials, other parts of instruments from other cultures—and see where all this takes you.

It all boils down to folk music, and never forget, no matter what anyone says, that folk music is what you do.