

## BOOKS AND RECORDS OF INTEREST

There are a number of books published on playing (and building) the dulcimer. We're not going to cover all of them; instead, we're going to list three that we've found useful in some way, and leave it up to you from there.

Each of these books is a variation on the same theme—traditional dulcimer playing—and should be included in your personal library if you're into having books around.

### The Dulcimer Book by Jean Ritchie

This is the most traditional and widely read book on dulcimer playing. Jean Ritchie and her family have been involved with dulcimers and Appalachian folk music for generations, and much of the material is really "family tradition." It's a good book for learning about the dulcimer's European history. It includes basic instructions and some songs.

### Mountain Dulcimer by Howard Mitchell

This book is primarily concerned with explaining how to build your own dulcimer. The explanations are generally clear, without a lot of folk-pretension and ostentation, and the instructions for playing in a traditional style are readily understandable.

### Four & Twenty by Lynn McSpadden

A very comprehensive book, as far as traditional dulcimer playing goes. It includes good instructions, songs that are musically interesting, and exploration into "progressive" picking styles, and a handy chord chart.