

The Right Hand

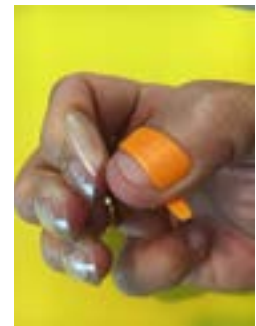
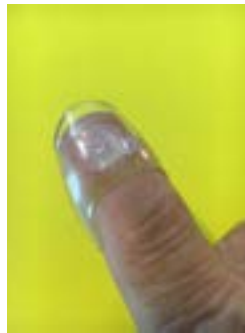
I call the Right Hand the **WHEN** hand because it tells us *when* we are going to hear what we are going to hear.

Remember, when you are learning something new, as Bryan Bowers says, “Fast is your enemy, Slow is your friend!”

Flatpick or Fingers or Fingerpicks?

While it is possible to play the resonator dulcimer with a flatpick and strum all the strings, I prefer to use individual fingers to bring out the clarity of all of the notes, rather than being overpowered by a constant (and LOUD) set of drone strings.

To assist with that clarity, I do use fingerpicks on my right hand. My choice are **Freedom Picks** from Fred Kelly. These fit over the player’s finger like an extension of the nail. My thumbpick of choice is the Fred Kelly **Speed Pick**. These are available in stores or on my website: www.owlmountainmusic.com



Home Position

I also assign my fingers to particular strings as a “home position” from which I can move and vary when I choose to do so, but which helps me be oriented when I am playing.

My thumb plays the highest string (nearest to the player); my index finger plays the next string (the “A”); my middle finger plays the next string (the “F#”); and finally my ring finger plays the lowest, bass string (the “D”).



Now that we have our assignments, it is time to start practice playing the strings individually. The patterns and exercises on the next pages are going to help us with that.