

## Choosing a Slide

There are several types of slides from which a player can choose to play the slide style of resonator dulcimer. Take a look at some of the examples below:



The top slide is a steel version of a “bottleneck” slide that fits over one’s finger.

The bottom slide is a “t” shape or I-beam shape that fits in the players hand, rather than over a finger.



I choose to play with a standard, quite heavy Dobro or National style slide (“t” or I-beam shape) pictured on the bottom in both of these photographs, because I have more control over the accuracy and tone.

## Holding a Slide

I grip the slide loosely in my left hand, with my thumb along the right side, my index finger on the top and my middle finger along the left side of the slide, fitting comfortably in all of the grooves on the slide.



The photos on the left demonstrate how I hold the Dobro or National style slide.

The photo on the right demonstrates the bottleneck style slide over my pinky finger.



## Damping the strings behind the slide

An important part of left-hand technique is using the **pinky and/or ring finger** of the slide hand to dampen the strings behind the slide (on the side of the nut.) This is to deaden the “wolf tones” that would sound as the string is bisected by the slide and produces both the tone you wish to produce (from the slide to bridge) as well as the other side of the string (from the slide to the nut--which is the tone you DON’T want to produce.

