

You do not need to know how to read music to play these tunes, although it helps. Listen to the melody by clicking a note, and then hit the spacebar, which starts the MIDI, and follow along with your autoharp to either the rhythm (above staff) or melody chords (above lyrics).

The symbols on the line underneath the lyrics are provided as a guide to keeping track of the rhythm and duration of the melody notes. That is, if you can count to four, you should be able to keep track of when to play the note.

In almost all instances, you “pinch” the note if it occurs on a downbeat (1-2-3-4 or 1-2-3) and you pick it with a backstroke if it is on an off beat (“and”) --- these are usually eight notes immediately followed by a pinched downbeat note. If a note lasts longer than one beat (i.e. a quarter note), you fill in the time with a strum and/or a thumb bass stroke as indicated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These are not written-in-stone directions for the “correct” of how to play/arrange a given tune. There are an infinite number of perfectly good ways to render these songs *AS LONG AS* you are in tune and on time. Many optional rhythm patterns are shown in the [COMPLETE METHOD](#) book by Meg Peterson.

RIGHT HAND PICKING - LEGEND

↓ pinch = thumb and middle finger simultaneously pinch melody note

↑ strum = broad stroke along middle strings with thumb

↓ back = striking back (towards your body) usually with index finger

▼ bass = a short stroke with the thumb hitting a few bass strings

Chord Accompaniment Rhythms

4/4 time

ONE and two and three and four
↓pinch ↑strum ▼thumb ↑strum

3/4 time

ONE two three
↓pinch ↑strum ↑strum

2/4 time

ONE and a TWO and a
↓pinch ↑strum ↓back ↓pinch ↑strum ↓back