

Rhythm Practice

Strengthen the LEFT HAND by leading with the left. Use the left hand to play EVERY BEAT, with the right hand playing only the "back beat."

L L R L L R L L R L L R L L R L L R L L R L L R

3 Continue the same hammering, leading with left hand, and accenting the first note in each group.

5 Be flexible. Now lead with the RIGHT HAND. Don't forget to accent the first note in each group/

R R L R R L R R L R R L etc.

To reinforce this skill, practice the scales using these hammering patterns. Play one beat (L - l r) on each note of the scale. First, lead with the LEFT HAND, then repeat, leading with the RIGHT HAND.

Many hammer dulcimer players who play for dancing... contradancing, Irish and Scottish dancing, clogging...will use these rhythmic fill-ins to reinforce the BEAT without sacrificing the melody. The dancers need a strong beat to keep in step.