

## Guitar Ideas with the Right Hand---December 2012; John Wade

### Five Strums and Four Picking Patterns

#### Strums

1. **Alternative Bass strings**—then **Muffled** with heel of right hand
2. **Thumb/Brush**—with middle and ring fingers. Slow and then faster.  
**ADD later**—hammer-ons and pull-offs: base runs; bends and slides; or full stroke of 6 strings, on thumb down; and then onto brush down!
3. Pete Seeger banjo strum. "**Bump Did-dy**"; or thumb /brush down-index up. (Bump is one beat; did-dy is the second beat)  
The index can be anyone of the Top Three strings. Slow and then fast.  
Add later—hammers-on for the thumb down.
4. **Click-a-Clack**. Thumb-index finger up/brush down. (thumb down-index up is one beat; brush down is second beat)
5. **Carter Family Church Lick**. An extension of **2** and **3** above. Thumb down/ Up with index/brush down/index up. The TWO Ups with the index can move around the Top three strings. Slow to faster.
6. **Goose pluck**. Thumb down/two or three fingers pluck UPWARDS together. This is the same beat as 2 above but has a more staccato sound. Slowly and then faster. This is also helpful for  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.
7. **Now Practice!!!**-rotate four or five strums, and add bass runs; hammer-ons; pull-offs; bends (even slides) and some little melodies on the three top strings; or melodies on bottom three strings.

#### Picking Patterns—to insert in between the strums

8. **The Chicken scratch. Thumb down/index up**. (This is a modified goose pluck—ie three fingers up reduced to one finger up). Helpful for bass runs and melodic interludes. Slow and then faster.  
**Add later**—the single finger picking upwards can change to single middle or ring picking upwards
9. **Pinch**—Thumb down and at the exact same time, index and middle up. The up can be on any one or two strings. The pinch is used to create a pleasant "pause" in a noisy picking pattern.  
**Add later**—the pinch finger can alternate between single ring, or single middle or single index finger.
10. **Scruggs alternative banjo**. Thumb/index up/thumb/middle up. Repeat forever until you spouse leaves you. The alternative "ups" can be on any strings, but start on the top 2 strings.
11. **Scruggs roll**. Thumb/index/middle ----repeat that cycle ad nauseam.  
**Add later**—The roll is easy to add hammer-on; pull-off and bend.
12. **Now practise** rotating through the above 4 finger picking patterns ( 8-11 above) until the neighbours complain. Use the pinch to pause and to start (not always). Slowly and then faster. Add little melodies eventually with bass runs, hammer ons; pull offs and slides on bass notes; and then a few likewise on treble strings.
13. **Now---**practise moving between strums and picking patterns and back again; add occasional single note pentatonic scales for colour. **QED**. JHW.