

Finger Buster #1 for the Plectrum Banjo-by Ron Hinkle

Why!?!? Because it's there! Every other instrument I know of has "technical studies"; why not the plectrum banjo? It is a real musical instrument, after all. You may never use these particular patterns in a song anywhere, but I'll tell you what; having the *ability* to play these will certainly enhance and simplify what you *do* play, plus help you to learn some theory along the way! I will be creating and posting more of these in the near future; you better get to work so you can keep up with me! I intend to be the best plectrum banjo musician that I can be; I would love some company on that quest to push me.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems of four measures each. The first system features chords C, Dm, Em, and F. The second system features chords G, Am, B°, and C. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with fingerings (1-3) indicated above notes. The bass staff shows a bass line with a mix of down and up strokes, and some notes marked with a '7' for a natural harmonic.

*These patterns are based on the Modes, and on the chords given; notice that there are no sharps or flats anywhere.

*Resist the temptation to leave fingers in place while playing through the shapes.

*Pay strict attention to the fingerings shown, and strive to keep your fingers as close to the strings as possible.

*Spend as much time as needed on the more-difficult patterns, then practice as a complete set. The more you do it, the easier it gets!

*Use all down strokes until you have learned the fingerings, then work in down-up-down-up picking and gradually increase the speed.