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Online audio is included with this book. This recording can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. The symbol at the top appears next to every example that is on the recording. Use the audio to help ensure that you're capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track number next to the symbol corresponds directly to the example(s) you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune your Dobro to the audio.

**GETTING
STARTED**

HOLDING YOUR DOBRO

There are two ways to hold your guitar: sitting and standing. The sitting position is the most stable and best way for a beginner to play.

Start by sitting down in a comfortable chair and be sure both feet are flat on the floor. Lay the guitar across your lap with the body on your right leg and the neck over your left. The neck of the guitar can be angled outward as needed for comfort.



Sitting.

To stand with your guitar, you will need a strap made for the lap-style Dobro. These straps can be found at music stores that cater to acoustic instruments. Hook the hole in the strap onto the strap button on the bottom of the guitar and tie the string around the headstock. Adjust the strap so that it places the guitar at about the same position as it was sitting down. Be sure that your right arm goes under the strap and the guitar is angled slightly away from you, as shown in the photo.



Standing.

ROLLS

A roll is a right-hand finger-picking pattern. The three-finger roll, of which there are several kinds, is used by most Dobro players. It was borrowed from banjo pickers, most notably Earl Scruggs. Josh Graves,

who played with Earl Scruggs in the Flatt and Scruggs band, was one of the first Dobro players to be heard using this style. The exercises that follow will show the basic three-finger roll patterns and variations.

Forward Roll Track 11

Reverse Roll Track 12

MINI MUSIC LESSON

The Sharp Sign

A sharp sign # raises a note one fret. For example, if the natural (not-sharped) note is on the 1st fret, adding a sharp in front of the note means to play it on the 2nd fret.

MINI MUSIC LESSON

Notes on the 5th and 7th frets

Some of the following examples are short exercises for using the forward roll and reverse roll combined with the steel. You will be using the steel on the 5th and 7th frets to play these notes.