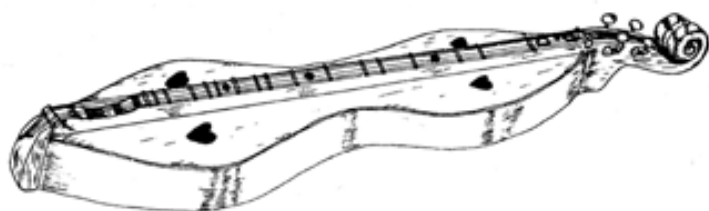


The Appalachian or Mountain Dulcimer

The Appalachian dulcimer gets its name from the region in North America where it was 'invented' - the **Appalachian Mountains**.

The instrument developed during the late 18th C, based upon various fretted zithers that had been brought to the area by European settlers.



The Appalachian Mountains



The mountain dulcimer, unlike its hammered cousin, comes in a variety of elegant shapes - such as 'teardrop', 'hourglass' & 'fiddle' - often made from beautiful woods.



The Appalachian dulcimer can also be known as:

Mountain dulcimer

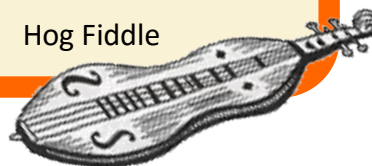
American dulcimer

Lap dulcimer

Plucked dulcimer

Fretted dulcimer

Hog Fiddle





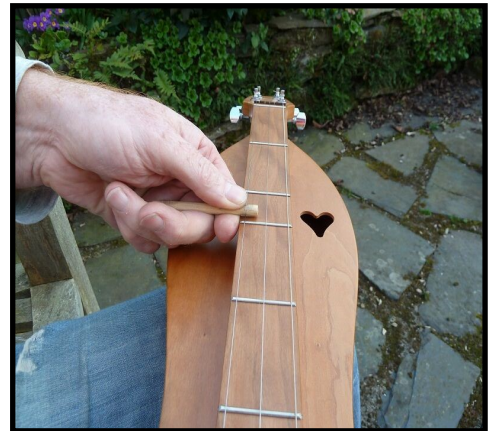
How is the Appalachian dulcimer played?

The traditional way to play the instrument is to lay it flat on the lap and pluck or strum the strings with the right hand, while fretting, or using a 'noter' (short length of wood) to press the strings, with the other.

The dulcimer may also be placed on a piece of furniture, such as a table or chest of drawers, to enhance the sound.

Some people used the mountain dulcimer for accompanying ballads, some to play hymns at church meetings and some to play the popular fiddle dance tunes of the time.

However, as with many instruments, the way it is played is more or less up to the player, if it gets the sound required!



Playing with a noter



Using a violin bow



Play guitar-style

