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Dulcimers Around the World

Is the dulcimer called a 'dulcimer' everywhere in the world?

No, the instruments in the hammered dulcimer family are known by various names...

Hackbrett (Germany, Switzerland)
Salterio (Mexico, Spain, Italy)
Santur or Santoor (Iran, India)
Yangqin or Yang qin (China)
Cimbalom (Hungary)
Sandouri (Greece)

Tsimbaly (Russia)
Chang (Uzbekistan)
Khim (Thailand)
Dan Tam Thap (Vietnam)
Hammered Dulcimer (UK and US)

The hammered dulcimer around the world is the same basic shape - *trapezoid*

 but each instrument can vary in size, tuning, layout, playing position and number of strings per note.

This means that, for example, a hackbrett player cannot easily play a yang qin...

Not to be left out, the Appalachian dulcimer can also be known as:

Mountain dulcimer American dulcimer
Lap dulcimer Plucked dulcimer
Fretted dulcimer Hog fiddle



'Yang Qin' (in Chinese) means 'foreign instrument'

Yang Qin



Santoor





Hackbrett



Khim

'Hackbrett'
(in German) means
'chopping board'!

