

### **C. Percussive Effects ...Chopping, Cutting, Muting.**

These various effects (chopping, cutting, and muffling) are like percussion instruments; they have sound but not pitch, they flavor the rhythm without changing it directly. They are useful as accent elements, too.

#### **1. Chopping:**

If you are muffling all the strings with the left hand (touching but no pressure), and at the same time, you strum, you get a snare drum like sound, which we will call a "Chop." You can let your hand "flop" over and muffle open strings, if you are fingering a chord, or let an unused finger drop down to touch the strings if you are holding a single note. You can also single note Chop by just dampening one string with the finger that was fretting that string, which has the effect of "erasing" the note you were fingering.

#### **2. Cutting off:**

Finger a note, strum down once, and then, while the note is still ringing, ease up on your squeeze, stopping the note abruptly. This is most noticeable if you ease up right after strumming, cutting the note off short. The other strings will still be ringing, but your melody will have a staccato sound, with each note cut off. It will not be very dramatic with just one note, but if you play a whole series of notes, cutting off after each one, the melody will feel very different. The music term for this is **Staccato**. If you keep strumming after you cut, you have a single note "chop" happening. The Cut and following single note Chop work very well together.

#### **3. Muting (or Muffling):**

You can get some delightful plunky sounds by resting the side of your hand on the strings just in front of the bridge (the sound hole side). This is best done with your hand stationary, resting on the strings just in front of the bridge as you pick individual strings or do small strums, or you can also try it "on the fly" as you are strumming more vigorously. A variation on this trick is to place a small piece of masking (or other non-residue) tape on the strings, right in front of the bridge, or even overlapping the bridge. Every note you play will have a muted, "pizzicato" sound. Experiment!

### **D. Special Left Hand Effects...Sliding, Hammering on, Pulling off**

There are some special melody effects that can add more interest to what you are playing. These effects are done with the left (fretting) hand. They involve getting two notes for one strum; they are really both a rhythm effect and a melody effect.

#### **1. Sliding:**

Finger any note on the first string, and strum down once; then, immediately, slide your finger up (or down) one fret. You have to keep squeezing while you slide, you will hear a second note for the price of one strum. Sliding up (toward the sound hole) is a little easier to do. END OF SAMPLE