



## IMPROVISATIONAL MOTIFS

(1) A good starting point is to simply pick a chord (three or more notes) that you can play in many different positions around your dulcimer. I like Am.

(2) The next thing to try would be to pick an easy chord progression. For example, D-D-D-AD, G---D---G---D-G-, Am---G---Am---AmGAm, or D-G-A-D-.

(3) Scales. Pentatonic (i.e., C,D,E,G,A,C'), Major, Minor (i.e., ABCDEFGA'), Jazz (C,D#,F,F#,G,Bb,C'), Hungarian Major (C,D#,E,F#,G,A,Bb,C'), etc.

(4) Ostinato. An ostinato is a clearly defined melodic phrase which is persistently repeated. For example, use the following figure for your ostinato. Play it a few times, change something and play that a few times and then come back to the ostinato.

R

**LEYENDA**

(5) Pick a drum rhythm and apply it to the dulcimer.

L<sub>1</sub> IR L<sub>1</sub> IR

**HAMZA**

X X X X X beat

(6) Hand separation technique. Try this figure with different notes from Am.

L<sub>1</sub> IR IR L<sub>1</sub> IR L<sub>1</sub> IR IR L<sub>1</sub> IR IR L<sub>1</sub> IR IR

X X X X beat

(7) When improvising on blues, rock or songs in a minor key try this scale. 1, 3b, 4, 5, 7b. In the key of D that would be D, F, G, A, C, D'.

*Rick Fogel*