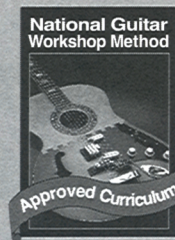


# Banjo



*for beginners*

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An Easy  
Beginning  
Method

TONY TRISCHKA





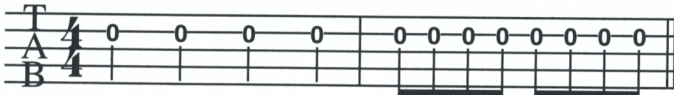
# Chapter 4

## Rolls and Melody

Rolls are right-hand finger patterns that are the building blocks of bluegrass banjo. Rolls generally use eighth-note rhythms. By now, you're used to playing four quarter notes per measure, which is equivalent to twice as many eighth notes. This rhythmic pattern of eight eighth notes, notated as two groups of four, is standard for bluegrass-style rolls.

12

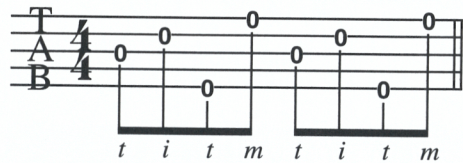
4 quarter notes = 8 eighth notes



### The Square Roll

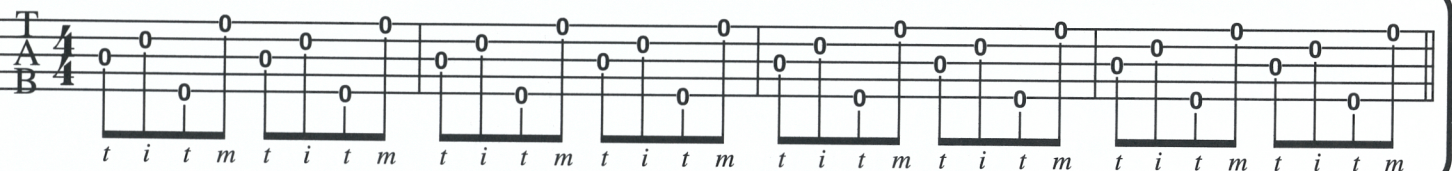
Here's an example of an extremely handy four-note roll sometimes called a *titm* or a *thumb-in-and-out roll*. I refer to the *titm* as a *square roll*, because two of them fit squarely into one measure.

13



Here are four measures of the square roll using the open G chord:

14

Track  
15

Notice in Example 14 above that we never use the same right-hand finger on consecutive eighth notes. At slow speeds this makes no difference. At faster speeds, however, having to play two eighth notes in a row with the same finger will slow you down and cause the tempo to drag. In this book, all fingerings are provided; when you begin to make arrangements of your own, you'll want to keep in mind this principle of using different fingers for consecutive notes. There are some cases in which players will "double up" on a finger, but these are fairly rare.