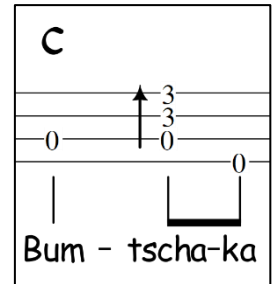


Step 3: the „-ka“¹

Now, on to the last part of the „Bum tcha-ka“: The infamous „-ka“. It is so special because it is not played with the index finger, but the thumb. Also, we don't use the thumbnail, but pick it rather conventionally. And one last thing: The „-ka“ will mostly use the high G string, at least for now.

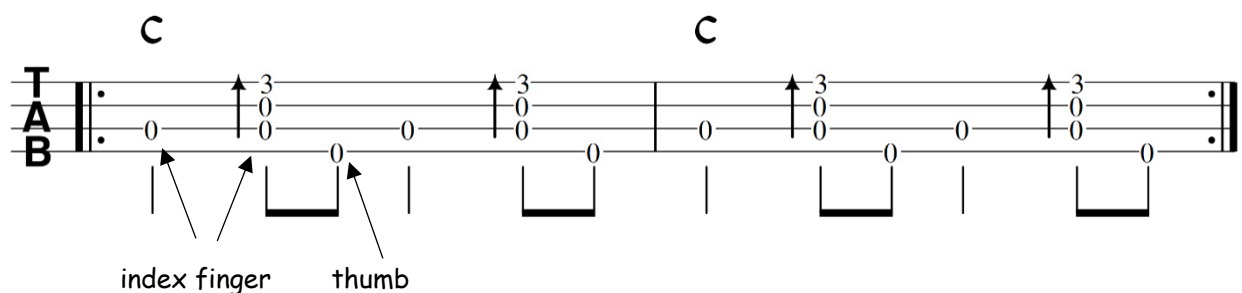


The „-ka“ has to be played extremely economically. Otherwise we will never be fast enough to let the Clawhammer really groove. Attention:

1. The thumb is already resting on the high G string after the last hit.
2. Now we pull the „claw“ back for the next „Bum“.
3. During this motion, the thumb casually picks the high G string. This picking motion melts together with the pull-back motion, so that it's barely visible.
4. The claw posture is maintained throughout the whole motion.

You should absolutely watch the video to understand how to put this into practice. Do the following exercise really slowly and be self-critical: Can you hear every string? Is the rhythm right? Does the thumb really come to a rest after „Bum“ and „tcha“? Do „tcha“ and „-ka“ really consist of a single motion?

Exercise 26:



This exercise is the basis for everything else. Practice it over and over again until it has become second nature to you. Even after you have started accompanying songs with this pattern - take a few minutes every day practicing this basic groove. Best would be to use a metronome. And increase the speed very slowly. Promise?

¹ You can find the video for this chapter on <http://www.tinyurl.com/ukefire5>.