

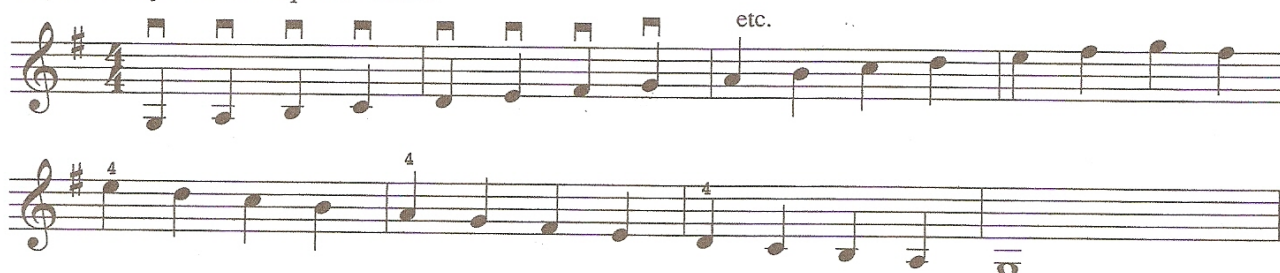
Tremolo

Because the mandolin cannot sustain notes the way a brass, woodwind, or bowed string instrument can, mandolinists use a technique called *tremolo* (TREM-uh-low) to sustain long notes. This is a rapid down-and-up picking across one or more strings. In this way the sound of a note or chord can be sustained indefinitely.

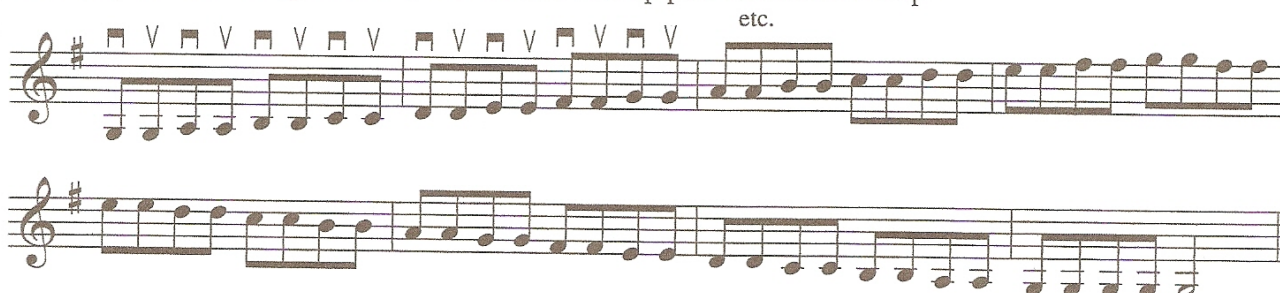
A smooth tremolo is one of the marks of a good mandolin player. It takes a fair amount of work to develop the nerves and muscles needed to produce it. Here's an exercise routine that will help develop a good tremolo. Set your metronome to a slow tempo, such as 60 beats-per-minute.

Ex. 1

Play a G major scale in quarter notes.

**Ex. 2**

Then play the scale as eighth notes, with a down-and-up pick on each scale step.

**Ex. 3**

Finally, play each scale step as four 16th notes.



Strive for a smooth, even tone. Keep the left-hand fingers down firmly; keep the right wrist relaxed, and

exercises flawlessly at 60 beats-per-minute, gradually increase the speed each day until you reach 160 beats-