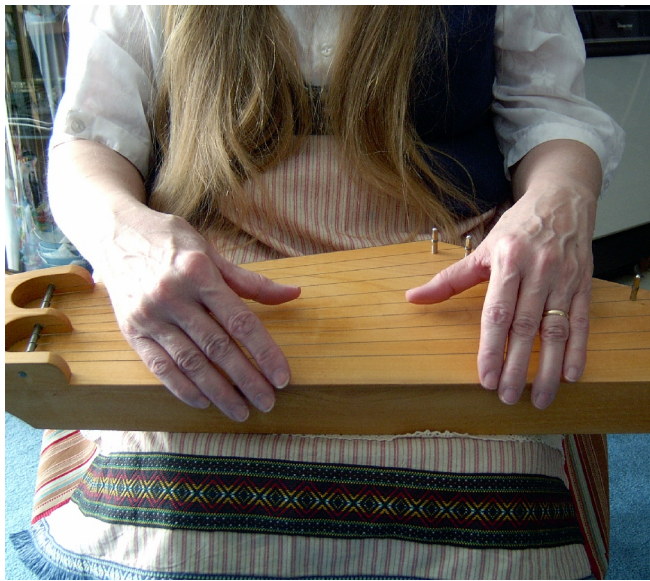


Day 2



Let's Get Ready To Play



Holding Your Kantele

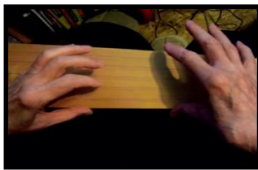
Most kantele players hold their kanteles on their laps. Although there is no one right way to hold it, a kantele is usually held so that the shortest string is closest to your body. You can also play your kantele while standing up, by placing it on a table in front of you.

The important thing is to find a comfortable position. Use a chair without arms, if you play while sitting down. Your shoulders, arms, wrists and fingers should feel relaxed, not tense. Whatever position accomplishes this, is the right one for you.

Finger Positions

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to fingering, but those who use "standard" fingering positions say it's easier to remember the melodies. I use a thumb-plucking style when I play, and have never had any problems remembering melodies or finding the strings.

Playing a Five String Kantele



Video demonstration



Standard fingering assigns a different finger to play each string.

- string #1 - D - right hand index finger
- string #2 - E - left hand ring finger
- string #3 - F - left hand middle finger
- string #4 - G - left hand index finger
- string #5 - A - right hand thumb

Hold your kantele on your lap with the shortest string closest to your body, and use the pad of your finger to pluck each string.

1. Use your right hand thumb to pluck the shortest string, or string #5. You pluck the string by moving your thumb away from you, down and across the string.
2. Use the index finger of your left hand to pluck the #4 string, by moving the pad of your finger across the string towards your body.
3. The middle finger of your left hand plucks the middle string the same way.
4. The ring finger of your left hand plucks the 2nd string of the kantele.
5. The index finger of your right hand plucks string #1 -- the longest string. Some players use the middle finger instead.

Finger Position Exercises for Five String Kanteles

These exercises will help you learn the names of each string and which finger to use while playing them.



Exercise #1 - Use the accompanying sound files to practice these exercises.

Place your fingers over the strings as shown in the picture above. Then...



Use your right hand index finger to pluck the longest string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: D, D, D, D



Use your left hand ring finger to pluck the next string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: E, E, E, E



Use your left hand middle finger to pluck the middle string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: F, F, F, F



Use your left hand index finger to pluck the second string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: G, G, G, G.



Use your right hand thumb to pluck the shortest string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: A, A, A, A

Exercise #2 - Use the accompanying sound files to practice these exercises.



Pluck each string, starting with the longest string and ending with the shortest string while saying each name: D, E, F, G, A.

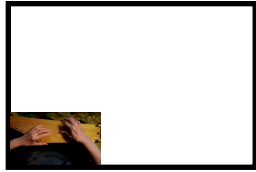


Now pluck each string, starting with the shortest string and ending with the longest string while saying each name: A, G, F, E, D.



Play these strings up, then back down the kantele, while saying their names out loud: D, E, F, G, A; A, G, F, E, D.

Playing a Ten String Kantele



Video
demonstration



Standard fingering assigns a different finger to play each string.

- string #1 - A - right hand middle finger
- string #2 - B - right hand middle finger
- string #3 - C - right hand index finger
- string #4 - D - right hand index finger
- string #5 - E - left hand ring finger
- string #6 - F - left hand middle finger
- string #7 - G - left hand index finger
- string #8 - A - right hand thumb
- string #9 - B - right hand thumb
- string #10 - D - right hand thumb

Hold your kantele on your lap with the shortest string closest to your body, and use the pad of your finger to pluck each string.

1. Use your right hand thumb to pluck the three shortest strings, located the closest to your body. You pluck the string by moving your thumb away from you, down and across the string.
2. Use your left hand index finger to pluck string #7. You pluck this string by moving the pad of your finger across the string towards your body.
3. Your left hand middle finger plucks string #6, by moving the pad of your finger across the string towards your body.
4. Your left hand ring finger plucks string #5 the same way.
5. Use your right hand index finger to pluck the #3 and #4 strings.
6. Use your right hand middle finger to pluck the two longest strings, #1 and #2.

Finger Position Exercises for Ten String Kanteles

These exercises will help you learn the names of each string and which finger to use while playing them.



Exercise #1 - Use the accompanying sound files to practice these exercises.

Place your fingers over the strings as shown in the picture above. Then...



Use your right hand middle finger to pluck the longest string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: A, A, A, A.



Use your right hand middle finger to pluck the second string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: B, B, B, B.



Use your right hand index finger to pluck the third string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: C, C, C, C.



Use your right hand index finger to pluck the fourth string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: D, D, D, D.



Use your left hand ring finger to pluck the fifth string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: E, E, E, E.



Use your left hand middle finger to pluck the sixth string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: F, F, F, F.



Use your left hand index finger to pluck the seventh string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: G, G, G, G



Use your right hand thumb to pluck the eighth string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: A, A, A, A.



Use your right hand thumb to pluck the ninth string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: B, B, B, B.



Use your right hand thumb to pluck the shortest string four times while saying the name of the string out loud: D, D, D, D.



Exercise #2 - Use the accompanying sound files to practice these exercises.



Pluck each string, starting with the longest string and ending with the shortest string while saying each name: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, D.



Now pluck each string, starting with the shortest string and ending with the longest string while saying each name: D, B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A.



Play the strings up, then back down the kantele, while saying their names out loud: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, D; D, B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A.