


THE HAMMER ON




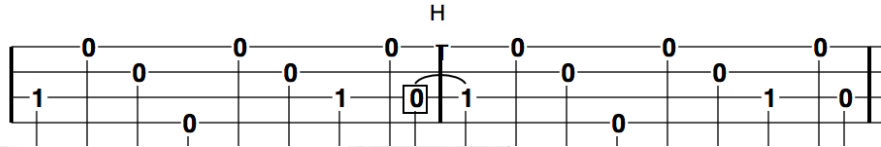
The hammer on has since been used far and wide and embellished into all kinds of wonderful music genres from Blues and Country to Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll and everything in between.

INSTRUCTION: In tab a hammer-on is shown with a letter 'H' or a tie between notes or above or below the notation on the stave. A hammer on will always start with a lower note value:

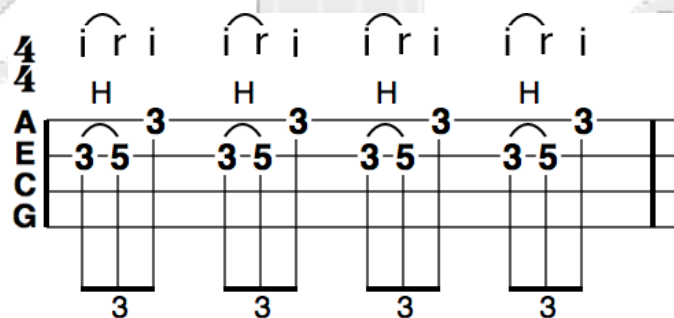
E.g. Fret 0 – 1 or 3 – 5.

In the video tutorial, I like to use a hammer-on for the A7 chord in the chorus when fingerpicking when performing the Laughing Rag.

It starts with an open plucked C string and a swift hammer onto fret 1 (of the C string) using the index finger. It comes in just before the downbeat of the first bar begins. Here's an example of the tab for that hammer on:

TASK: Have a go at playing this little Hammer-On exercise and let us know how you get on.



FUN FACT: According to Wikipedia, the term hammer-on was first invented and popularized by Pete Seeger in his book *How to Play the 5-String Banjo*. In the Banjo tutor book "Ellis's Thorough Course For 5 String Banjo" published prior to 1900, the term 'Hammer on' is used to describe the action of performing an embellishment called 'the Shake'. In the same book, the action 'pull off' is termed the 'snap'. More about that in the Ukulele Blues Booster Course coming soon. (Wikipedia)

DISCLAIMER: NO HAMMERS NECESSARY!