

## INTRODUCTION

Historically, a specific style of music, the related guitar playing technique and the gear used to create that style developed together. Music styles along with related techniques & gear are still taught together in most guitar instructional material. Today, many musical compositions fuse two or more of these styles in a single musical arrangement. That is, combining unique music styles in creative ways. So too, the developers of new instructional material need to provide methods that systematically help the guitarist develop and implement a “Universal Picking Technique” for performing the music.

The Strum-N-Comfort Picking System was developed to accomplish two important goals. First, the versatile & comfortable pick, along with this free form instructional method, takes the guitarist through important skill development steps. The method facilitates them in a process to bring multiple pick hand techniques together. Secondly, the various Crossover Pick models are designed for the discriminating professional guitarist that will select and task the pick to meet new musical challenges. Visit [www.strum-n-comfort.com](http://www.strum-n-comfort.com) for more information regarding the selection of Crossover Pick models.

Furthermore, every guitarist must have a “Bag of Tricks” -so to speak- at the ready when playing opportunities present themselves. Included in this “Bag of Tricks” are talent, musical knowledge and gear. The gear, such as, various guitar models, effect pedals, amplifiers, microphones, recording equipment and picks are all important. Most critical, however, is the guitarist’s attitude & talent. That is, the musician’s confidence, universal playing skill and musical creativity.

The actively performing guitarist must apply a "Universal Picking Technique" at a proficient level in order to perform the blended style arrangements that we see increasingly created. Success depends on the guitarist's ability to bring together the many left and right hand playing techniques, live effects devices and picking gear (see side bar: Pick or Plectrum).

In conclusion, Universal Picking Technique method from Strum-N-Comfort Picking Systems was developed to help the musician acquire the advanced playing skills required to perform the complex variety of music arrangements that exist today.

### **Pick or Plectrum**

**The guitar pick or plectrum used in a musical composition for guitar influences both tone and playing technique.**

**There are three basic types of picks in use today. They are:**

- 1) Flat Pick**
- 2) Thumb Pick**
- 3) Crossover Pick™**

*The Crossover Pick™ is a hybrid of the first two pick types. That is, a flexible pick that attaches to the players thumb for the purpose of facilitating the blending of unique playing techniques.*