

B) Staccato via right-hand dampening: The first and second fingers of the right hand quickly alternate and rest on the plucked string, stopping vibration a moment after being plucked. This is in contrast to the normal legato technique where the next finger to pluck hovers over the string to be plucked. The speed with which the fingers alternate determines the duration.

3. Dead Notes

Dead notes have little or no pitch content, and are excessively dampened by the undersides of the fingers of the left hand and/or right hand palm or fingers. Dead notes are notated with a crossed-out note-head. (See Chapters 4 and 18.) Try Exercises 9-8 and 9-9 for examples of how to apply dead notes in a non-slapping style.

The different types of dead notes are:

A) Dead notes via left-hand dampening: Two or more finger tips/undersides touch the string being plucked in order to prevent either a true note or a harmonic from sounding.

B) Dead notes via palm muting: This technique probably yields the most pitch content, and can be heard sometimes in the bass lines of motown, reggae, ska and salsa, where there is pitch but little or no sustain. The outside edge of the right palm lies across the strings while the



Photograph 9-1: Palm muting.