

DROP THUMBING

You either can or can't do drop thumbing efficiently. Most people can, but even Doc Watson struggled so no shame here.

Having said that, it is a fairly large part of Clawhammer, Old Time, Mountain music and the like. It really helps you move round the strings and some of the effects are simply lovely. Many top players have their own techniques based on drop thumbing but even the basic DT is well worth incorporating into your frailing.

The simple version is hitting a note with your index/2nd finger (whichever is your normal) and then thumbing another note with (surprise) your thumb. Normally 1/8 notes.

This is just adapting your brush thumb to a note-thumb so the action should be coming natural as you learn clawhammer.

The difference is that you are not brushing but down picking and the second note is not necessarily the drone G (short string).

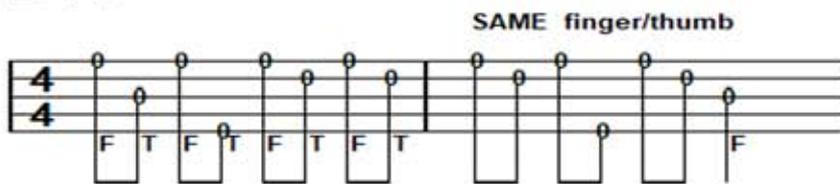
A series of drop thumbs can produce a sparkling riff or brighten up a backing run.

I definitely urge you to spend some time practicing drop thumbing. It is well worth it.

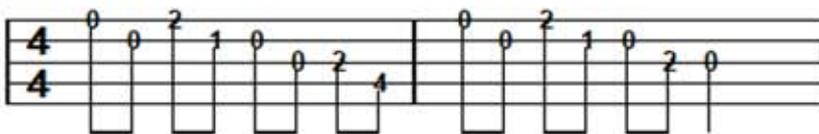
Find some practice tabs in your books or on the net.

Just to start you off try the following

DT1



DT 2



DT3

mixture of drophthumb with brush thumb

