

Hints for Learning a Tune on the Dulcimer:

1. Look for patterns and repetitions.
2. Memorize small blocks of numbers - often it will involve 2 measures.
3. Develop muscle memory for small sections. Decide on which fingers to use and stick with it.
4. Learn 1 block, learn another block, hook them together.
5. Find some “hooks” for each section. (a hook is one thing {a number, a position, etc.} that gets you started on a tune or section)
6. Sing or vocalize the numbers.
7. Sing the tune or the numbers all during the day - (even while driving)
8. Always play with a steady beat - do not speed up on easy parts & slow down on hard parts.
9. Do not always start at the beginning of the tune. Play the part that gives you trouble first sometimes.
10. Listen.
11. Think!
12. Don't think - eventually the muscles can take over.
13. Play just before you go to sleep.
14. Leave your dulcimer out and easily accessible.