There are many types of jams... blackberry jam, strawberry jam, instrument jams! You are probably familiar with dulcimer jams, but find yourself in jam if you venture outside the safety of dulcimer festivals or clubs. My goal is to give you the tools you need to find sweet success in any kind of jam (well at least the musical ones).

**Tool #1: Prepare in advance**
- Learn chords. Be able to play in multiple keys.
- Know standard chord progressions.
- Learn basic guitar chord shapes.
- Tape-record yourself and play along or practice with a metronome.
- Make a list of tunes you are comfortable leading.

**Tool #2: Observe**
- Does everyone play lead together or do people take breaks?
- Is there a jam leader or do they just pass things around the circle?
- What style of music are they playing?
- The best spot to sit in a jam is to the right of the jam leader.

**Tool #3: Jump In**
- Ask if you can join the jam.
- Make sure you are in tune before you start playing.
- Start on the outside of the circle and work your way into the center.
- LISTEN!! LISTEN!! LISTEN!!

**Tool #4: Ask Questions**
- What key are you in?
- Are there any unusual chords?

**Tool #5: When it is your turn to lead**
- Name the tune and see if others know it.
- Tell the key and any unusual chords.
- Be prepared to tell the chord progression.
- Follow the format of the jam.

**Tool #6: Use every opportunity to learn something new**
- Jam with better players than you and watch what they do.
- Take breaks, even if you are not completely sure of yourself.

**Tool #7: Enjoy!**
- Have fun, no matter what.
- If you mess up, it’s okay... keep playing.

*If all else fails, you can always pull the “Oh no! I broke a string!” line! 😃*