

I buy blue Herco Flex Nylon Thumb-picks 50 or 100 at a time. I give them away at my workshops for many years. I got to see/hear & meet Doc Watson 2 times in 1970, at the Family Dog venue out on the Great Highway in SF. The 2nd time I chatted w/him after his show I asked him about his blue thumb-pick. He put one in my hand & said, "Here, take this, try it out, it's nylon, adjustable, use warm water to tighten/loosen the fit, then cold water to 'set it' where you like it, & it will never break ... you'll have to lose it." (The latter a joke, we shared the laugh.) "Thanks so much, Doc!" ... & I've been using that kind of thumb-pick ever since, & giving 'em away ever since, just as Doc kindly gave me one so many years ago.

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My wife & I saw Doc & Merle in concert two times in 1971 at the Family Dog venue in San Francisco. Once in early in the year/Jan., & again in the fall/Sept./Oct. Both times we sat on the floor, 'first row', middle, about 3ft. in front of them, right at Doc & Merle's feet. We were fortunate to be able to go backstage to meet/visit with them backstage after both concerts. After the second concert, backstage, when I asked Doc about the blue thumbpick he was using he said, "It's a Herco Blue Flex Nylon thumbpick. NOT plastic. They're the best, lightweight and durable. Here, take this one. I think you'll like it." And Doc handed me the thumbpick. I thanked him profusely. I couldn't wait to get home & try it out. I pulled out my guitar to try out the thumbpick Doc gifted me as soon as we got home after the concert. Doc was so right. I loved it right away. It felt really comfortable, lightweight, & never gets 'hung up' on the strings. I've been using Herco Blue Flex Nylon thumbpicks exclusively ever since. I buy them in a bag of 50 or 100 at a time, & for the past 49 years I've given them away to everyone who attends my guitar instructional workshops ... I've given away many hundreds of them in gratitude for, & in honor of, Doc having 'changed my 'guitar picking life' by giving me one so many years ago.

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