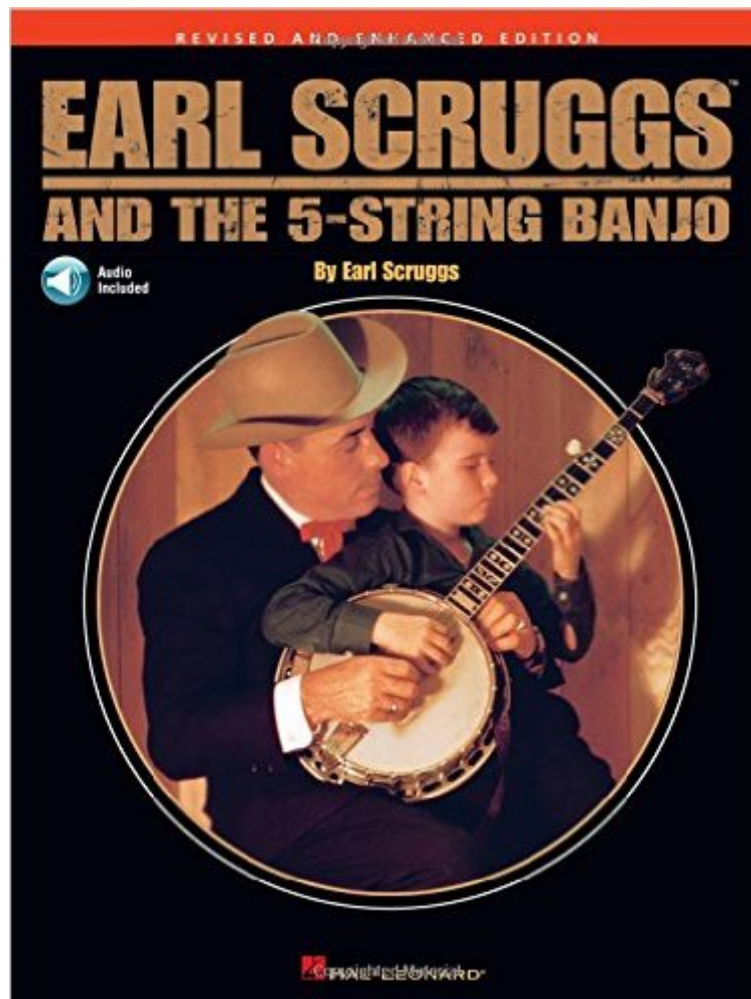


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Earl Scruggs And The 5-String Banjo: Revised And Enhanced Edition - Book With CD



Synopsis

(Banjo). The best-selling banjo method in the world! Earl Scruggs's legendary method has helped thousands of banjo players get their start. The "Revised and Enhanced Edition" features more songs, updated lessons, and many other improvements. It includes everything you need to know to start playing banjo, including: a history of the 5-string banjo, getting acquainted with the banjo, Scruggs tuners, how to read music, chords, how to read tablature, right-hand rolls and left-hand techniques, banjo tunings, exercises in picking, over 40 songs, how to build a banjo, autobiographical notes, and much more! The book/CD version includes a CD with Earl Scruggs playing and explaining over 60 examples!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (177 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Having always wanted to play a banjo and convinced by a recent birthday that life is short; I took a leap of faith and purchased a rather expensive banjo. Knowing the pressure was on to make some quick progress in order to justify the expense to my wife, I purchased several banjo instructional books. By far the most useful has been this Earl Scruggs book with CD. The text walks you very slowly and methodically through an increasingly difficult progression of skills and the audio is indispensable, providing the nuance of Scruggs' sound that I wouldn't have been able to pick up on from the printed tab alone. The audio is in Scruggs's own voice from an LP record from many years back which adds a lot of nostalgia to the practice sessions. With this book and CD learning the banjo has been as fun as I thought it would be. If I was relying on the other books I purchased I am

afraid I would be very frustrated at this point. If you are an aspiring banjo picker I highly recommend this book and CD. I am convinced that anyone who invests the time and takes each lesson slowly can become an accomplished banjo picker with this book and CD. \$30 is a small investment for the musical skills you will develop.

This book is not for beginners. If you are new to banjo or new to bluegrass music in general, I would recommend an easier book like those written by Wayne Erbsen or Janet Davis. This book is much better suited for someone who has played banjo for a while and has the patience to work through Earl's passages. I know everyone else loves this book and hey it is a great book if you're ready for it. But for someone new to banjo this book will intimidate you and likely discourage you. Don't jump into something too fast, try one of the other books I mentioned first. Work completely through that. Then try learning an easier Scruggs tune like Ballad of Jed Clampett (you can find tabs online). If you are able to do that song to speed, then go ahead and get this book. Otherwise, hold off. Also should point out, the CD is only for the lessons portion of the book, it does not contain any of the tunes or songs. Consequently, you'll need to purchase or download some of Earl's albums. I recommend the Essential Earl Scruggs and/or Foggy Mountain Banjo. These two albums cover about 80% of this book.

4 Stars. Great Tabs, and History, but somewhat dated even with revised tabulature. 4 Stars because I think there MAY BE more helpful beginner books. 5 Stars based on the fact it is EARL'S - and we ALL love Earl and his music/songs - there is some great stuff in here!!!!This is a great book and probably considered a MUST HAVE for a banjo student. If you are SERIOUS about the banjo, you will probably want this. There are a ton of reviews for this product telling you how great it is, so I won't say too much about that.Although updated, this book is still based on the songs and playing of Earl Scruggs, a PROFESSIONAL banjo player credited with developing this style of picking. There is a lot of things a beginner CAN learn from this book, but most of the SONGS, in my opinion, are N-O-T EASY songs to learn on or play. You will spend considerable time learning rolls before you are PICKING. Buy it if you MUST, but there ARE better beginner books, I feel, to help you get started, if you are a beginner. This book, to me, is aimed more towards intermediate pickers and the song tabs are most valuable to students who already know a few songs and are playing with at least a LITTLE experience. It does have the tabulature to many of Earl's hits, and therefore makes this a VALUABLE book. But again, you won't just jump in and start playing them.I had already learned some beginner type rolls and a couple of songs when I got this book. At about the same time, I

purchased Tony Trischka's book "20 Easy Banjo Solos." Tony's book also comes with a CD and he plays through the songs slowly and at speed. Many of the rolls and "runs" you learn early in Tony's book will be things you can build on. HOWEVER, I have heard others say they couldn't get into Tony's teaching style, so it may or may NOT be considered a "first step in playing" type book. Scruggs book also covers beginner basics, but the feel of the lessons are different. It was written earlier than Tony's book and perhaps with a somewhat PRIMITIVE teaching STYLE - not to discredit Earl, but the book is a product of an earlier era and subject to the publishing styles of the time. Don't be fooled by anything that says EASY. The banjo is not an EASY instrument for MOST of us to learn. Specially gifted people ? ... well bless your little heart...I own about 8 banjo books. The reason I am chose to comment on Tony's book, as a comparison, is because MOST people will see EARL SCRUGGS and think it is the ONE book to buy for a new banjo player. It may be - for some - however, I personally found Tony's book to be more helpful TO ME in the early to 2nd stage of my playing if you can afford a few books, by all means, get Earl's for the history and song tabs and the special "licks" that are taught. You will EVENTUALLY want this book just because it is EARL'S - and it does contain some GREAT things! But if I were a banjo teacher, I would not start my students with the material in this book. Read the other reviews as well, this is only MY opinion and may be unique to my personal experience. I hope I have helped you.

I started to play banjo or tried to play banjo in the year of 1969. My uncle got me this book and a record that you could get with the book. After a period of about two years I was playing 5 string banjo like Earl Scruggs, well almost. To make this story short, this still is a great system to learn banjo. Everett Boxdorfer

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