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The Complete Bluegrass Banjo Method



Synopsis

(Banjo). With this comprehensive method, you get 25 songs in standard notation and tab, a CD with 77 examples, and detailed info from banjo master Fred Sokolow on a host of other topics, including: the selection, care and feeding of your banjo; tuning; reading tablature; chords; three-finger rolls; backup licks; playing in any key; picking melody; special effects; different tunings; music theory; and many more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a guitar player who uses these kinds of method books to dabble in other stringed instruments (e.g., dobro, lap steel, etc.). Sokolow's Complete Bluegrass Banjo Method provides as good a foundation on the banjo as you can get from a book. While it includes sprinklings of music theory, chord charts, and other concepts, it focuses primarily on the right-hand rolls that are at the heart of bluegrass banjo. It introduces basic rolls and proceeds through accompaniment and solo banjo exercises, using a handful of old-timey songs as the basis for presenting the ideas. He encourages you to sing many of the songs while learning the rolls; not my forte, but still useful for sharpening your technique. As you go along, he injects other little goodies (tag endings, moveable licks) to keep things interesting. My favorite thing is that the supporting CD is listenable! These books generally have a CD that features an infuriating host and cheesy sound. Sokolow is a solid player, sticks with basic acoustic guitar accompaniment, and sings in a pleasing baritone voice (when vocals are involved). What a relief! Overall, this is a well organized, effective intro banjo method at a great price.

I got a Banjo this past father's day and this book has been awesome. With the accompanying CD, you can progress at your own pace through learning chords, picking rolls, hammering-on, pulling off and playing up the neck. It explains barre chords and chord formations in a really easy-to-understand way and also includes a section on taking care of your banjo. I'm not in any danger of channeling Earl Scruggs anytime soon, but this book has done a lot to give me some good foundational understanding of playing 5-string banjo. Highly recommended for beginners.

This is the first banjo instruction book I have purchased and, even though I have bought others, I am still very impressed with how he painstakingly teaches every lick so clearly. This book makes me feel like I can truly become a banjo musician and not just a strummer. He teaches rolls, back up in regular and up the neck position, melody, and much much more. The CD that comes with it is super. The only thing I wish is that he would play some of the songs more slowly, but at least the tab is extremely accurate and allows for the learner to really "get it" over time.

I have a book about acoustic blues guitar and I learned a lot from it. When I saw that Fred had one for banjo then it was a no-brainer. As I said about the Janet Davis book...you can teach yourself if you have help from material like this. Great book and plenty of practice ideas and complete set of rolls needed.

Excellent book for learning bluegrass banjo. It's very easy to follow. I like the sequence of the presentation and also like the fact that the music is shown above the tabs, a rarity with most banjo instruction books.

I could identify his arrangements from anyone's. If you are over the beginner's stage of playing the banjo, this book furnished some really great, up-the-neck arrangements of tunes you have probably already learned in the open position. It's a great supplement to any book you already have!

I have been teaching my self the banjo off and on for a few months and have acquired a couple books. This one is very well organized. The Complete Idiots Guide is great for the initial phase of getting your feet wet with basic roles, licks, tuning etc... This book only has a couple pages for that then dives right into some fundamentals for playing backup. I think it does as good a job as any other publication in this genre of laying a solid foundation to play along other pickers. There is

enough theory to give you the tools to really blend in with other players or build your own sound. The cd is great for checking yourself and learning the timing of licks and runs. This book feeds you great relevant information in a methodical, purposeful and digestible sequence. I would recommend it to any beginner or intermediate student looking to improve their skills. Good price for a book CD combo.

A great book. Takes you step by step through how to learn banjo. It doesn't teach you very many songs, but it does teach all the techniques you need.

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