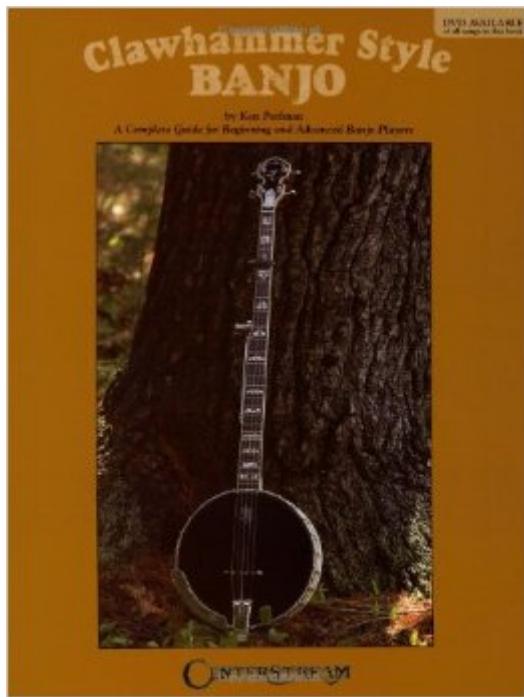


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# Clawhammer Style Banjo



## Synopsis

(Banjo). A complete guide for beginning and advanced banjo players! From Ken Perlman, here is a brilliant teaching guide that is destined to become the handbook on how to play the banjo. The style is easy to learn, and covers the instruction itself, basic right and left-hand positions, simple chords, and fundamental clawhammer techniques; the brush, the 'bumm-titty' strum, pull-offs, and slides. For the advanced player, there is instruction on more complicated picking, double thumbing, quick slides, fretted pull-offs, harmonics, improvisation, and more. The book includes more than 40 fun-to-play banjo tunes.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (35 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Ken Perlman's book has been around for almost 30 years and, with the sentimental exception of Pete Seeger's "How to Play the 5 String Banjo", is clearly the leading "how to" book on this unique style of play. However comprehensive and well written a book is if you don't get the earliest lesson down pat you're gonna be dead meat when things speed up down the road. If you don't have a competent teacher and are trying to learn from any book alone clawhammer, more than any other picking style, will beat you into the ground. Fortunately for those of us too cheap to hire an instructor Perlman has produced a 2 DVD (originally VHS) set that bests most teachers for clarity and continuity in following the text of this excellent book. I can't recommend highly enough just how effective the book and DVD combination is. You'll save years of struggle and have a great time learning this most fascinating style of play. A great book made much better with the available video.

This book is the most well organized, clear, and fun book on clawhammer I have ever encountered. If you are a clawhammer banjo teacher, as I am, this book is absolutely essential for you and your students. I especially appreciate Ken's attention to detail, the accurate rhythmic notation (which is often less than desirable in clawhammer books), and the generous amount of songs within the book. If there's a clawhammer equivalent to Earl Scrugg's book, this is it.

This book is easily the best beginner and up book on clawhammer banjo. Perlman has an uncanny ability to lay all this down and make it understandable. He brings you along in a way that you don't realize your learning and getting better. Next thing you know you're sittin on the front porch playin old songs from our past effortlessly

As a bluegrass player this book totally demystified the process of clawhammer. I highly recommend getting the DVD with the book. I was up and running in no time. I'm still working thru the book as we speak, but I feel like I have a good grip on it. Ken starts off very slow and dissects the action and rhythm of clawhammer banjo. The best part is that this book keeps giving, plenty of tunes and much to learn after you get the basics.

Pete Seeger's famous little book got me started frailing and picking, but it was this book that really taught me how to play clawhammer. Besides teaching the basics, Perlman presents a full repertoire of well-known traditional songs- enough for a couple of sets. I can't recommend this book (and Perlman's other banjo books) highly enough.

This book takes you to an incredibly advanced level from the very basics. It is hands down the best instructional book I've ever read- not just for clawhammer, but out of all books I've read for guitar, Dobro, autoharp, etc... You will be a wonderful frailer if you buy this book and stick at it.

This is an excellent book for getting going on clawhammer style banjo playing. It is the companion book to the video that came with my banjo and was well worth buying. I am an experienced musician on a number of other instruments but had absolutely no experience with the banjo. Within a week I was able to handle the basic technique and have a lot of fun playing. Great job, Ken!

I'm very glad I chose this book to get started with learning clawhammer banjo. I found it at my local

library, and quickly decided I needed my own copy. If you carefully read and practice the techniques, exercises and tunes, this book will give you an incredibly solid foundation. The book is unique in that it seamlessly progresses from the most basic introductory material all the way up to complex rhythms and techniques. There's something to be gained here for just about any player. I recommend this book for beginners with one caveat. The author does not introduce the concept of "double-thumbing" or "drop-thumb" until the second half of the book. By the time you get to that point, beginners who are following along with Perlman's recommended slow-and-steady program of study will have been playing for several months at least. In my view, holding off on practicing these techniques can make them more difficult to introduce later on. Putting them so far into the book also implies that they are more advanced techniques, when really they are rooted in the same basic clawhammer motion, just applied somewhat differently. For whatever reason, my gut instinct was to learn double-thumb and drop-thumb almost from the very beginning, and I think it has served me well. I recall reading somewhere that Perlman himself has in more recent years moved toward introducing drop-thumb earlier in his teaching as a natural extension of basic clawhammer motion, rather than an advanced technique. Some players I've met seem to be intimidated by drop thumb; I think that can be avoided by introducing it early. My recommendation is therefore, "Buy this book!". But also seek out other materials and resources (the forums at banjohangout.com are a fantastic source of information, for example). Have fun!

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