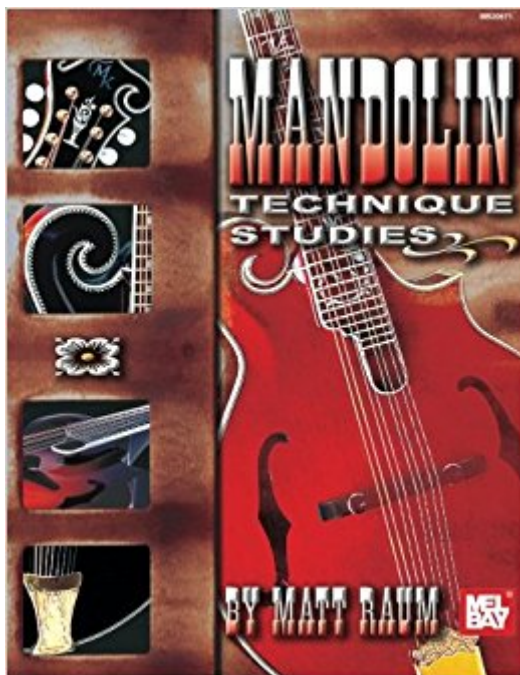


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# Mel Bay Mandolin Technique Studies



## Synopsis

An in-depth study of mandolin technique. Included are chapters on arpeggios, shifting, triplets and chromatics. Each chapter contains numerous practice studies and concludes with a fiddle tune arrangement showcasing the skills discussed in that chapter. A great resource for intermediate to advanced mandolin players of all styles. Ideal for those who want to take their playing to the next level.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I agree with the previous 3 reviews. It's an extremely useful "no-frills" book of technical exercises. I've been playing mando for 3 years, and I use this every day. Raum wastes no time with jokes, pictures of mandolinists, irrelevant stories, or transcriptions of fancy solos from famous players. It's "all meat, no filler". Although the exercises themselves are challenging, Raum's presentation feels simple, clear, and focused, like an ideal live teacher. He explains why each particular skill is important, and presents a song or tune showing how it's used. It's ideal for intermediate-level players. Beginners are likely to feel overwhelmed, and would better off focusing on correct body and hand positions, chords, and some simple tunes. Pluses: All exercises and tunes are in large print, with both standard notation and tab. Spiral bound, as all music books should be. Minuses: As mentioned by other reviewers, the pick direction symbols are backwards throughout, and there's no CD. I also have the more recent Don Julin book, "Mandolin Exercises for Dummies". I use the Raum book a lot more. I'm sure there's lots of good stuff in the Julin book, but it's massive--over 200

pages--and feels overwhelming and intimidating to me. It's also hard to read--it's on cheap paper with tiny type and musical notation. It does have downloadable audio files for all the exercises, though. I plan to buy Raum's Vol. 2 I'd had given 5 stars except for the pick-direction screw-up and the lack of a CD. (Raum's website does not acknowledge either problem.)

I've played mandolin here and there over the years. So recently, I decided to dive in and get a good instrument and devote some time to getting better than just "capable". Since one of the functions of mandolin is to provide not just more chord texture, but oftentimes a melodic counterpoint, and solo chores, it's important to have good technique in how to play single note passages, to be comfortable playing everywhere on the fret board. This book is not exciting and fresh. It is a manual to help you develop better dexterity and capabilities. As the title says, it's a technique book. I teach music (guitar, bass, piano for over 25 years), and I know when a book is worthwhile. This book, though "dry", is worthwhile to help you develop good single note playing skills, develop good fingering practices (some are not so intuitive as you might think), and just improve your overall skill level. Just start out using the following approach: 1) learn the runs, then, 2) play them at a reasonable tempo - with a metronome; 3) as you master each tempo point, raise the tempo by only 4 beats per minute, master that speed, then increase tempo by only another 4 bpm, master... repeat. It will take time, but if the Bluegrass blinding speed thing is your goal, it will require you to not abandon technique for the sake of speed. Don't let slop become part of your "style".

Serviceable, economical, lucid, friendly book dense with good advice and good tools. Beginner to intermediate, better for curious adults, and nothing fancy in a \*good\* way--probably the most grounded of the mandolin basics books. Matt Raum matter-of-factly helps train up the right hand, the left hand, and the musical brain (there's a nice introduction to basic theory). He even writes well--comes across as unpretentious and smart, making the book approachable as well as useful. Without wasting any time it will start you toward inventing licks, understanding runs, knowing the fretboard. And you'll have two versatile hands. \*And\* you'll play nice mandolin music. All this for 11 bucks? Good deal! If it matters, you \*won't\* learn about holding the pick, buying an instrument, the difference between A- and F-Styles, how to restring or other general mandoliniana. And you won't jump right into playing Boil 'Em Cabbage Down. This is a straight-up exercise book. Now here's the One Thing: if you're experienced with stringed-instrument music, I have some bad news. The picking marks are backwards. Downstrokes are marked with an upstroke mark V, upstrokes with the heavy downstroke mark. It will drive you nuts. Mel Bay, you were asleep at this wheel. Oh--and \*if\*

you play a lot of Celtic music, you might quibble with him about the main way of picking triplets. But isn't music all about arguing over little things? Yes it is. Good book you'll learn from.

One of the few mandolin books in my collection that is, on the whole, not mistitled -- with the caveat that there sure is a lot of text interlarded for something that is supposed to be a collection of etudes. It really is a collection of etudes for the mandolin, but for advanced players: running the scales without using open strings, running the scales higher up in the neck, exercises to strengthen the fourth finger, etc. It is not an anthology of songs, though there are a couple of songs here. Most of it's analogous to Hanon's exercises for the piano, although not quite at that level. A lot of practice with shifting up the fretboard. There is TAB throughout and it is spiral bound. As far as I know, there is no edition of this book that comes with a CD. All single-note stuff: no work with chords.

A lot of great information presented in an organized manner. However, the entire book is in tabulature with no accompanying cd. I read music, and am also playing a mandola as my first and primary instrument. Reading this tab with the translation I have to do with my instrument is just too much for me. If I had a mandolin and didn't read music, I would give this 5 stars.

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