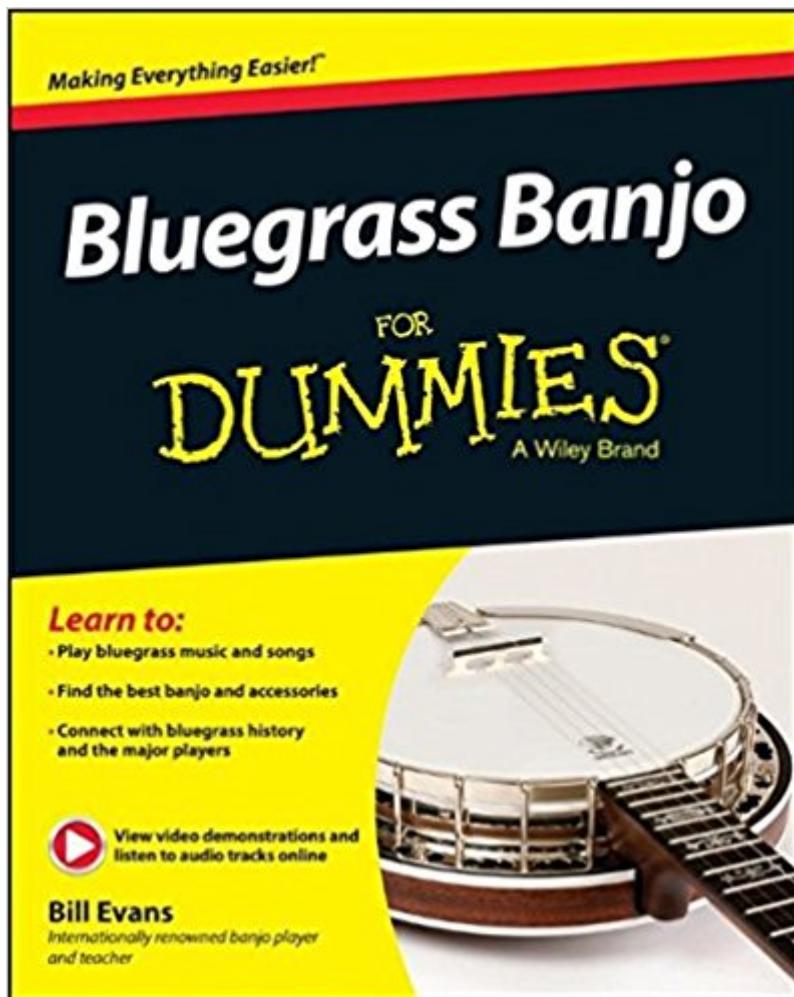


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# Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies



## Synopsis

Start picking the five-string banjo like a pro with this definitive guide to bluegrass banjo! Whether you're an absolute beginner or an experienced player, *Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies* gets you started off the right way and is your road map for mastering today's most popular traditional and contemporary banjo picking styles. Online audio and video clips combine with the book's clear step-by-step instructions to provide the most complete and fun - banjo instruction experience available anywhere! Bluegrass banjo has never been more popular and is heard today not only in country and folk music, but in jazz, rock and country styles. *Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies* provides everything you need to know to play just about any kind of music on the five-string banjo by getting you started with the roll patterns essential to Scruggs style picking. You'll then add left-hand techniques such as slides, hammer-ons and pull-offs, play great sounding licks and perform classic tunes like "Cripple Creek" and "Old Joe Clark." You'll navigate up the neck on the instrument as well as learn the essential skills you need to play with others in jam sessions and in bands. You'll even tackle contemporary banjo styles using melodic and single-string scales and picking techniques. Choose a banjo and accessories that are just right for you and your budget. Put on your fingerpicks, find your optimal hand position and start playing with the help of online audio and video. Explore the fingerboard using melodic and single-string playing styles. Accompany others in different keys with roll patterns and chord vamping techniques. Keep your banjo sounding its best with practical and easy set up tips. Bill Evans is one of the world's most popular banjo players and teachers, with over forty years of professional experience. In *Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies*, he shares the tips, secrets and shortcuts that have helped thousands of musicians, including many of today's top young professionals, to become great banjo players.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Learn to: Play bluegrass music and songs Find the best banjo and accessories Connect with bluegrass history and the major players Pick like a pro with this great guide to bluegrass banjo If the rippling sound of the banjo has grabbed a hold of you and just won't let go, you've come to just the right place to become a bona-fide bluegrass banjo player. Designed for both the total newbie as well as the experienced musician, this book gets you started the right way and takes your playing to new heights. With a fresh approach and plenty of step-by-step instruction, you'll soon be playing Scruggs-style traditional bluegrass, as well as today's progressive styles championed by players like Béla Fleck and Noam Pikelny. Bring it all back home; explore the different kinds of bluegrass banjos available, select a banjo that's within your budget, and acquire essential gear to help you get started Hit the ground running; find out how to get your banjo in tune, interpret chord diagrams and read tablature, and get started with strumming to chord progressions to popular songs Pick it solid; discover comfortable hand positions for fretting and picking, put on your fingerpicks, and start playing Make it bluegrass; add fretting-hand techniques and play songs in Scruggs, melodic, and single-string picking styles Play in a jam; sound great playing with others using vamping techniques Setup essentials; know your way around a banjo and keep it sounding its best Visit Dummies.com to: Improve your skills by listening to and playing along with audio tracks and viewing videos demonstrating concepts and examples from the book. Open the book and find: 40 classic bluegrass songs in Scruggs, melodic, and single-string styles 129 downloadable audio examples and 37 online videos How to locate chords up and down the neck of your banjo and use them to accompany others in a jam How to play great tunes in a single-string style Guidance on choosing and changing strings Banjo players you need to know and ten strategies to make you a better player

Bill Evans has helped thousands of people to play the five-string banjo through his instructional workshops, music camps, DVDs, books, and recordings. He has performed on stages all over the world, his recordings have topped folk and bluegrass charts, and he has mentored many of

today's top young professional players. Bill shares the shortcuts and secrets he has developed in more than 35 years of teaching to help all banjo players sound their best.

I purchased this book and one other, *Bluegrass Banjo for Complete Ignoramus*, just after purchasing my banjo. At the time I was not expecting to take lessons. I read this book but I haven't used it for practice. For informational purposes it seems well organized. After using the other book, free on-line exercises, and subsequently beginning private lessons I feel this book is not organized in the best manner for a complete beginner. The video and sound files are available on-line, I would have preferred an enclosed DvD because I live in a semi-remote area that does not have cable or DSL internet access. Streaming data with a mifi device is painful at times due to data limits and download speeds. The sound files can be downloaded. I can go to the library to view the video files but they are flash based and not downloadable. To date I have not been able to get permission to play my banjo in the library while viewing the videos. ;-}

This is a great book to start with, with one large caveat. For a beginner, this book starts with the right stuff - how to choose equipment, playing position, relaxation, etc. Then it sequences very nicely through the right stuff to get you going musically. The music is clear, well-written and fun. You also have access to recordings and videos via the web site (url and password included in book). Also, there's lots of great stuff about the history of the banjo, different styles, etc. My nits are as follows:- this is a lousy format for a music book. It doesn't stay open on a music stand and the pages are too small. I find myself making copies of the music and reading those instead of playing directly from the book. The kindle version is better, but there the problem is that the chart you want to read isn't always on a single page. Silly.- The recordings are excellent, but they're all very slow. That's great for learning the piece, but it would be nice to have some full-speed recordings to get a sense of what the piece really sounds like.

The tabs are so small it's hard to play and read them at the same time. It also doesn't prop open. It might be a good book but it's such an awful presentation I've hardly used it.

I purchased both *Banjo for Dummies* and *Bluegrass Banjo For Dummies*, specifically because it came with access to video and audio support. Nowhere in the description did I see "this will not work on Ipad"! I wrote to the tech email and for the *Banjo for Dummies* they gave me another link to use that worked on my Ipad. But they said they did not have that same link available for

Bluegrass Banjo book. WT? It's the same author, the same type of book, and they did not specify it wouldn't work on Ipad, and they only have a usable link for one book for Ipad users? Feeling ripped off and not a happy dummy.

Very well put together book. I am a long time guitar player but have never touched a banjo. This book takes you from the very basics and fundamentals of playing the physical instrument while including simple music theory such as chord progressions and how basic song structure works. By the end of the book you will be technically proficient and able to compose your own licks and riffs on the fly. This book is geared toward getting you able to jam comfortably with other musicians.

I have a tendency to not look at the "Dummies" Book because I think the name is degrading. However because I'm familiar with the works of the author I purchased it and Bill is the first person that explained the mechanics of various roll patterns and where to apply them. Great book.

This is a must for anyone learning bluegrass banjo. You're not going to find a more complete basic book anywhere.

Am learning to play the banjo and have many questions. This is definitely the go-to book. I recommend this seller.

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