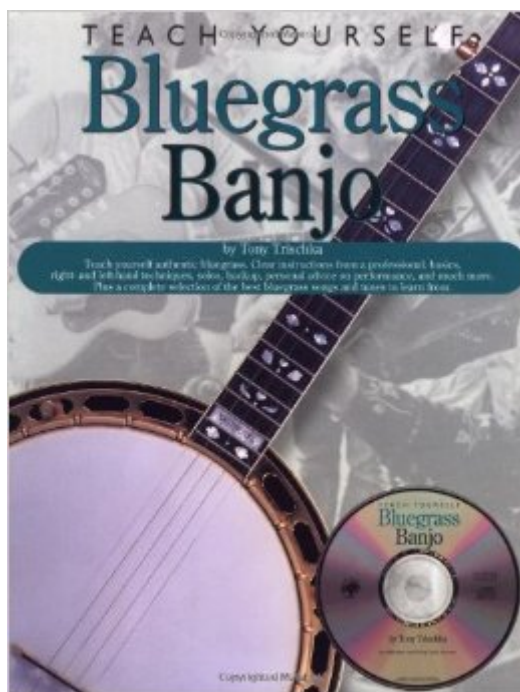


The book was found

Teach Yourself Bluegrass Banjo



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). Teach yourself authentic bluegrass banjo with this book and CD pack. The book contains clear instructions on the basics: right- and left-hand techniques, solos, backup, personal advice on performance, and much more, as well as a complete selection of the best bluegrass songs to learn from. The CD contains audio versions of the examples contained in the book and backing tracks for several songs. Written by Tony Trischka, one of the world's most innovative banjo players, who, throughout his career, has defied limitations while exploring a wide variety of genres.

Book Information

Series: Teach Yourself Bluegrass

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,175,636 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Guitars & Fretted Instruments > Banjos](#) #189 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos](#) #649 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Country](#)

Customer Reviews

The instruction in this book is easy to follow and teaches you the basic techniques you need to get a true bluegrass sound out of your banjo. The CD that comes with it, however, defeats its own purpose when Tony Trischka sings over the top of the banjo. Not only does he sound God-awful, but you can't even hear the music he's teaching you to play. Even on the instrumentals it gets frustrating because he's clearly not playing the exact same tab that is in the book. To his credit, however, every thing that is in the book, even the simplest 4 note exercises, are also on the CD. So 5 stars for the book, 2 stars for the CD, 4 stars for Tony's pickin', and 1 for his singing. Unfortunately this may be the best instructional book for bluegrass banjo beginners available. And I do recommend it. Just don't expect the CD to help you through your learning very much.

Using this book I learnt to play a pretty fast and deft version of bluegrass yardstick Cripple Creek within four months, practicing for less than an hour a day - so it must work! The first two months weren't much fun, slogging thorough a hundred different versions of the same two tunes. But it picked up half way through, when real music was introduced and it became gratifying to play and improve. One thing I should mention, everyone's been complaining that this CD's got (awful) vocals and guitar tracks masking the banjo (the very reason they bought it). This is true, it's pretty distracting. However, I ripped my version to MP3 to listen to in on my PC, and to allow me to loop small pieces easily etc (much easier than scanning on a CD player by the way). Anyway, I found out that most tracks have the banjo playing through one speaker and the guitar/vocals playing through the other. Just tip the balance of the speakers 100 % left and you've got isolated banjo track. I suppose it works for a normal hi-fi too. At least that worked for the copy of the book I bought in a music shop in Australia.

This tutorial seemed to be written well enough, but as a complete banjo newbie I found it frustrating. It's didn't seem to offer enough variety of learning exercises at each new skill, so that I felt stuck trying to learn the same example over and over. I gave up on this book and bought "A Manual on How to Play the 5-String Bango for the Complete Ignoramus" by Wayne Erbsen (...) and I'm now having a great time learning clawhammer style as well as the slides, etc. that seemed so frustrating in Tony's book. Maybe it's better if you have more banjo experience to start with.

I bought this to go along with a banjo I decided that I needed to learn to play. Assuming that it shouldn't be that hard as I already played fingerstyle guitar. I was wrong. I would agree with others that the book seemed to be well written but I am not sure that some time with a professional teacher might not have been the route to go. Not an issue for me as I just sold the whole lot and went back to my guitar.

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