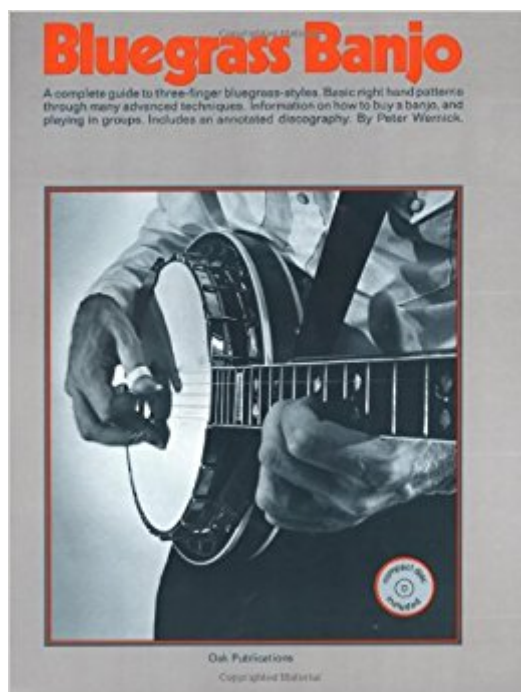


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# Bluegrass Banjo



## Synopsis

(Music Sales America). A complete guide to the 3-finger bluegrass styles. Basic right-hand patterns through many advanced techniques are covered. Includes 45 tablature arrangements from elementary to advanced, plus information on how to buy a banjo, playing in groups, and an annotated discography. The Banjo Newsletter says this book is "highly recommended without reservation." Songs include: *Ballad of Jed Clampett* \* *Banks of the Ohio* \* *Devil's Dream* \* *Little Maggie* \* *Lonesome Road Blues* \* *Rabbit in the Log* \* *Six Mile Creek* \* *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* \* *Worried Man Blues* \* and many more.

## Book Information

Sheet music: 144 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #550,167 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Bluegrass](#) #60 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Guitars & Fretted Instruments > Banjos](#) #90 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos](#)

## Customer Reviews

Tried a few books, then started working through Wernick's. Starts simple and builds up with more complex patterns and fingerings. Though originally I tired of the same few songs being repeated using new concepts, I now appreciate it as I get better at accentuating the melody within the picking. The other books I tried progressed too slow, and the Skruggs book was a little too sink or swim for me and just didn't flow well for a beginner. After finishing up through the intermediary section of Wernick's, I'm flying through the Skruggs book. Basically, I use Wernick's for study, and Skrugg's for songs. The CD is great if your not taking lessons at the same time, since you definetly need to pay attention to the timing and sounds of your rolls, pull offs, hammer ons and slides. The songs on the CD are a little too fast for the beginner to play along with, but they give you an idea where your heading.

This is a great book but you should be aware of a few issues. First of all, the CD that comes with the book was obviously an afterthought. It only has a few simple lesson excerpts on it along with a few dazzling banjo performances and is basically useless. Second, the tab is written in a non-standard format whereby the numbers are written between the lines not on the lines. This may seem to be a minor point but is quite frustrating for me. That said, the book contains some great tunes to work through. Additionally, there are some really interesting essays in the back which banjo players will find fascinating. This book has stayed in print quite a long time which is testimony to its timeless quality.

One of the classic method books for bluegrass banjo, by one of its classic players. Easy to follow progressive lessons, interspersed with plenty of tunes from the literature. This is one of the first banjo method books I used, and I had long since lost my original copy of it. I was pleased to be able to find a new copy for nearly the same price I paid originally.

I bought my first banjo in a music store in Northampton, MA back in 1976 (a Harmony, complete with plastic resonator!). Given the choice between a Mel Bay primer and this book, I opted for the latter and am glad I did. Pete covers the basic techniques in an easy to understand manner, and takes a very encouraging tone in the way he presents the material. No one book can cover every aspect of playing, but this one gives the aspiring player a good first look at how to play bluegrass banjo. Pay attention to what Pete says about syncopation - it's really important! Once you get comfortable with the techniques presented in this book, I'd suggest getting the Scruggs book, a copy of "Foggy Mountain Banjo," and really have at it!

I have a couple of Pete's video courses, and have spent a good bit of time on his website. The man knows his stuff when it comes to banjo, and is a good teacher. This is a worthwhile book. One thing as mentioned by another reviewer is that the tabs are handwritten and the fret numbers are above the strings instead of on them as is now the custom. I bought my copy used for a few dollars and it did not have the cd or record with it which was not stated in the description. However, I mainly was buying it to add to my collection of banjo books as a reference so it was not a big deal.

I'm not sure how a true beginner would rate this book highly. The problem I found with this book is that it seems to presume that the reader is already a musician, moving quickly into discussion of

things that seem to be unnecessary for a beginner to be struggling with... I gave up on the book almost immediately and used Ross Nickerson's Beginner Banjo instead. I will return to this book when I have mastered the basics of technique/method and I am at a place of being able to comprehend the more complicated considerations.

Great book for those just beginning and intermediate players. Teaches you about posture and hand position, rolls and chords, how to write melody and fill in so that you will be improvising in no time. Easy to understand. Also includes tab for beginner, intermediate, and advanced players so that you don't "out grow" this book too soon. Recommended to me by my banjo teacher, who also used this book while learning. Wish I had known about it earlier.

I learned from this book and taught from it for 30+ years. I've seen lots of others, but none were as easy to understand as this book. The included recording gives you tuning notes, all of the early examples, and then plays your first few songs with a full band. You can set the L-R balance to hear the banjo alone on one side, the rest of the band without banjo on the other, or all together in the middle. That way, you can hear the part, alone and with the band, and when you're ready, shut off the banjo and you can play along with the band. It's still recommended to take some lessons to be sure you don't develop some bad habits. If your teacher uses this book, you'll be off to a great start. One reviewer noted that the tablature is written in a "non-standard" style. Here, he puts the notes above the lines rather than right ON them. I think it's to make it a bit more readable - particularly because the tablature is hand-written. It does make more sense to put the notes directly on the lines, but I think that's minor.

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