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# Hal Leonard Banjo Method - Book 1: For 5-String Banjo



## Synopsis

(Banjo). The Hal Leonard Banjo Method 2nd Edition is the newly updated and revised version of the original classic method. This comprehensive and easy-to-use beginner's guide is designed for anyone just learning to play bluegrass-style 5-string banjo. Inside you'll find loads of techniques, tips, and fun songs to learn and play. The book covers: the basics, tuning, reading tablature, playing chords, learning notes, learning rhythm, right-hand rolls, hammer-ons and pull-offs, pinches and slides, many classic bluegrass songs, and much more!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a great starter if you want to pick up a banjo and start pickin'. I have played the guitar for a few years so the transition was not difficult and I found myself flying through the book, I completed the book in about 2 months. The book focuses on scruggs style picking, you'll learn basic rolls and cords. After you learn the basics there really aren't many exercises. The book tends to introduce a roll pattern, suggest you practice it over and over and once you have it play the next accompanying song. Don't expect to learn to read music, everything in this book is tabbed out. Capo use is not covered either. Does not cover soloing either. For the price it's a good buy, by the end of the book you'll be able to play Cripple Creek, Do Lord, Boil Them Cabbage Down, Hard Ain't It Hard, Old-Time Religion, Comin' Round The Mountain, My Home's Across the Blue Ridge Mountains, Foggy Mountain Top, Little Birdie, Roll In My Sweet Baby's Arms, and a few others as

well. Despite it not being very comprehensive I was happy with the book and could play pretty well once I got through it. The method was very easy to follow, great for a beginner if you ask me. For the price its a great place to start and you'll be playing songs almost immediately.

While pleased with the product, I am not happy with the way this product was presented. The following is the description of the product ;;Banjo). Authored by Mac Robertson, Robbie Clement & Will Schmid, this innovative method teaches 5-string, bluegrass style. The method consists of two instruction books and two cross-referenced supplement books that offer the beginner a carefully-paced and interest-keeping approach to the bluegrass style. Now available with CD! Covers easy chord strums for the beginner; learning tablature; right-hand rolls characteristic of bluegrass; techniques such as hammer-on, slide and pull-off. Notice that the method or product indicates or describes the contents or consists of two instruction books and two cross-referenced supplemental books, now with CD. Imagine my surprise, or rather disappointment, when the packaged arrived with only book 1 and the CD. Maybe my fault for not checking for package details, but write up under product is very mis-leading.

3 Stars. A good book. Well structured. Written by a person who appreciates why music theory is just as important as instrument familiarity and motor skills are to learning how to play an instrument. Although it would be useful to the self taught student, it may be better suited to a structured class taught by a teacher. It starts a little slow and some may lose interest. A teacher would keep the material interesting and show why the material is important and where the book is going. I think most self taught banjo students want to learn Blue Grass Finger or Claw Hammer style. For Blue Grass students, they want a finger roll and a song right now. Immediate gratification. They don't always appreciate the fine points or become aware of their lack of knowledge until later. The book ends with some great songs but is also a setup for the Method 2 book. For the self taught Banjo Student, I would suggest also looking at the hard copy Janet Davis "You Can Teach Yourself Banjo" book, which includes a CD and DVD. The book starts with basic rolls and chords, and continues to up the neck positions and covers melodic styles. Each segment includes great songs which build on previous chapters. But the Davis book lacks Music Theory.

This book is a good value for your money; complete with instructional CD. Nice and easy way to learn a few basic chords & rolls as well as some additional techniques to spruce things up. The only downside is many of the tunes on the CD are actually two banjos playing. This can make it difficult

to follow along, especially as the songs become more complicated. All in all a good place to start, even if you have no experience reading music or playing a stringed instrument.

I am a professional music teacher. I teach banjo, mandolin and guitar. I use this book for most of my beginner students, especially adults. It is geared to help you teach yourself. Unlike other beginner books that want you to read music right away and leave you playing one-note-at-a-time melodies, this one teaches bluegrass techniques through tablature... rolls, slides, hammers, pinches, and uses well known tunes to help you learn these techniques one at a time. I highly recommend anyone wanting to teach themselves bluegrass banjo pick up a copy of this book.

This is a very helpful book for those who are starting from scratch learning how to play the banjo. However, I had already had about a month worth of lessons before my teacher told me to get it and the first 20 or so pages were of things that I learned in the first 2 lessons. This is a great book and it's fun when you start getting into the songs.

This is a very good foot in the door to the world of Bluegrass Banjo and banjo music. Highly recommended because of the included CD, which takes you through the book, explaining how each roll should sound.

For those wanting to learn bluegrass banjo, this is a very good basic introduction to both music theory and beginning banjo technique. Experienced musicians who are learning the banjo as a new instrument will learn quickly to skip over the theory sections. The book is well-paced and moves the student along incrementally, with the focus on good technique. The CD is a bit confusing, as it is not entirely clear how it articulates with the book, but it gives you a good idea of what you'll be able to do by the end of the book. As always, it is best to learn a new instrument with a good teacher who can work with you on technique along the way.

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