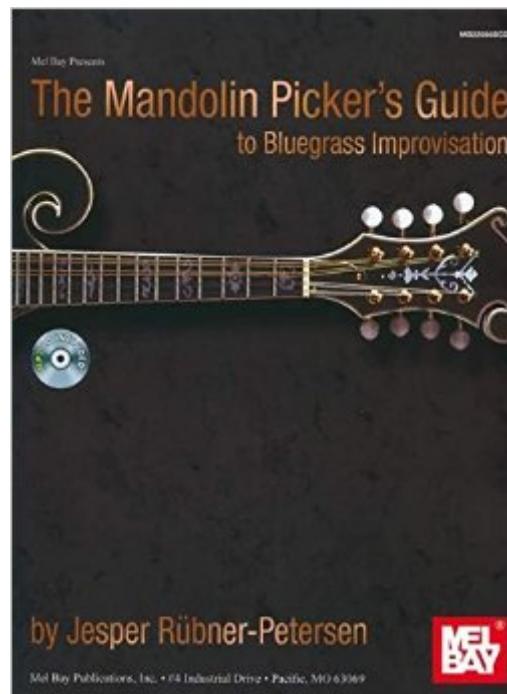


The book was found

Mandolin Picker's Guide To Bluegrass Improvisation



Synopsis

A new book on improvisation is now available for bluegrass mandolin players. Based on the concept of learning by playing, this 200 page book covers a wide range of improvisation tools and how to implement them in your playing. A large number of examples are presented in both tablature and standard notation, so that a theoretical background is not required. The small amount of theory needed is simply presented and easily learned step by step. A series of exercises designed to help the player develop improvisational skills are included in the book. As an instruction tool, the book can easily be combined with the instructor's individual philosophy or by a student wishing to study alone. The subject matter is varied in difficulty and can be used by both the beginner and more advanced player as an instructional guide and reference book. The major-themes in the book are: The pentatonic sound, scale and major-chord based improvising with any Bluegrass-Tune, Double-stop improvisation, Minor chords and Keys, The blues sound, Melody oriented improvisation, How to use: Monroe Style, Cross picking, Hot licks, how to simplify a lick, and more. MP3 CD accompanies book featuring all examples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leave it to a Danish mandolinist to create what may be the most comprehensive and useful guide to bluegrass improvisation out there. If you've gotten to the point where you can sightread music or tab in first position and are comfortable alternate picking at ~76 bpm, this is *the* book that will take you the rest of the way. Most books on bluegrass mandolin are slim volumes that focus more on playing

licks, perhaps teaching you a few pentatonic scales and throwing in a bunch of songs, without actually making a serious effort to show you how to apply the scales. This 200-page book, on the other hand, is one of the few that actually deconstructs the art of improvisation and develops an entire pedagogical approach that includes multiple ways of building solos, ample musical examples and even assignments for practice. The early chapters contain an excellent approach to applying pentatonics, and the later chapters cover monroe style, double stops, cross picking, exotic scales, reharmonization, you name it. The material is well-graded, so that you proceed in small manageable steps with plenty of advice about how and what to practice. It's obvious that Jesper Rubner-Petersen put a lot of effort into codifying his approach and creating incremental exercises, and the quality really shows. I imagine that if you really give the material the practice time it deserves, you could spend a year or two working through everything. I've also never seen a book treat harmony in bluegrass in a serious way. There is plenty of discussion of passing tones, blues scales, and what to play over those minor and modal tunes. The accompanying cd is in mp3 format (great decision) and contains 292 examples. It appears everything is in the key of A at a very reasonable ~76 bpm.

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