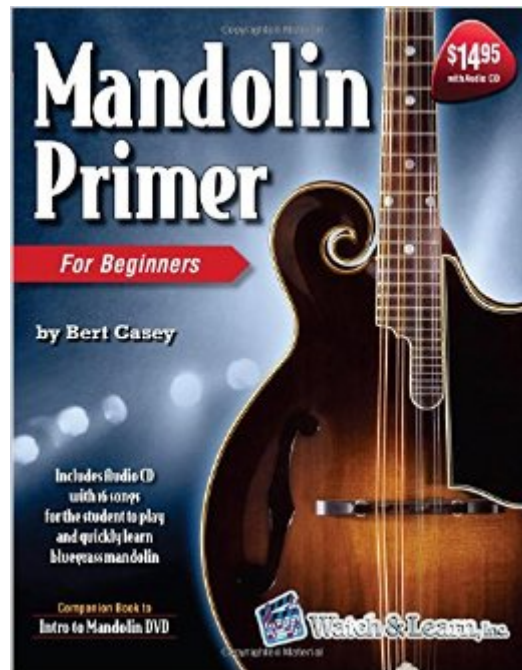


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# Mandolin Primer (Book & Audio CD)



## Synopsis

This book/CD package features easy to follow instruction for the beginner to learn bluegrass mandolin. Includes lead playing and rhythm technique, with a complete chord chart. Each song is written in music notation and tablature and the songs are played at 2 speeds on the accompanying CD (slow for practicing and up tempo for performing). Songs include Worried Man Blues, Wildwood Flower, Cripple Creek, John Hardy, Red Haired Boy, Sally Goodin, Soldier's Joy, 8th of January, Billy In The Lowground, Blackberry Blossum, Bill Cheatum, Old Joe Clark, and Salt Creek.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

We have one music store locally that focuses mainly on traditional music with traditional instruments (guitar, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, bass) and they suggest this book as the best book to start off with. After working with it for a while I'll have to agree. It starts with very basic information on how to hold the instrument and proper left and right hand position. You then start to learn basic picking technique and the notes of the strings. I like this because many books teach you how to read tablature but don't spend any time trying to teach you the actual notes both on the fingerboard and on the music staff. As you progress through the examples you'll learn the basic scales in G, C, D, and A. This will cover most bluegrass tunes. The book also covers hammer ons, pull offs, and triplets so you pretty much get a full technique workout. Then the book really starts to shine. There are 12 songs to add to your repertoire. Each song is on the CD in a slow, medium and up to tempo example. In fact, every exercise on the book has an audio example. Note, there is also a video tape

version and a DVD version of this book. The book is the same for each version, however, there is a bonus song in the book that only the CD has as an audio example. That song is not included on the DVD or Video version. So that's another nice bonus. If you want to learn to play mandolin then take the same advice I did. Get this book and work all the way through it. I think you'll enjoy it.

I have never played the mandolin or any stringed instrument before, but I feel like I'm learning quite a bit through the use of this book. The Bert Casey video makes it easier to see how to place your fingers so you should get that as well as the book/CD.

This is an excellent first book for aspiring mandolin players. It doesn't assume or require any preexisting knowledge of the instrument or musical notation since, as pointed out by a prior reviewer, it provides visual scores or tablature of finger placement. The book also provides very helpful practical tips on such things as tuning, recommending, for example, the purchase of an inexpensive electronic tuner. I followed that advice and bought a Korg CA-30 and used it not only to successfully tune the mandolin but also my guitar which I had for years previously tuned "by ear" with varying degrees of success. Mr. Casey is also straight-forward in making it clear that learning the Mandolin takes a lot of practice and, at least until you develop some callouses on your finger tips, sometime painful practice. However, if you are diligent in following his lesson plans, you will learn to play the mandolin to an extent that will amaze not only your friends but yourself.

Very good as a beginners course. It has both the standard music notation and tablature, which allows you to choose how to study. Tablature is easier and quicker to learn. This book is about the bluegrass style. The cd has all songs from the book. It's a pleasure to learn to play the mandolin with this book.

This Primer teaches you 4 major scales then immediately uses these in tunes to reinforce the scale concepts. The song collection is very good, mostly BlueGrass type tunes. I liked the 3 speeds for each of the songs with the final version of each having guitar and rhythm mandolin at full tempo so you can really hear what the tunes should sound like if you were playing with a band. The book has a lot of material crammed into 50 pages and the 74 CD tracks are really nice to hear what you should sound like. Recommend this book with CD for beginners and even intermediate mandolin players. Ed C. Fort Worth, TX

Highly suggest this book. Out of all the other books I've played with, I felt I got the most out of this book. Plus, there's a CD with it! Awesome book. Should be playin' with the pros here in about a week.....;)

This turned out to be a pretty low quality book. I taught my sons how to play guitar and so I wanted to teach them some basic mandolin as well. I thought this would be a nice combination of basics + music. It does have the basics, but even that is a bit disappointing. The "section" on chords is like 2 pages at the back and it does not even show the most basic chord forms, like the standard D and C shapes (which are inversions on the mandolin) The stuff at the beginning is basically 100% review for a guitar player. The tablature in the middle of the book isn't even written like standard tablature with the numbers on the lines instead of in between, and the songs are very basic arrangements. It's just an overall low production quality resource. Perhaps I should have just bought a book of songs with CD and then printed a chord chart off the internet.

The book every mandolin player should own. Has a CD with tunes played 3 ways, the last being with guitar up to tempo. Covers what every beginner needs, in both manuscript and tablature, with scales: C; G; D; and A and a section on strumming; and a chord chart. The tunes are: Yankee Doodle, Oh Suzanna, Worried Man Blues, Wildwood Flower, Boil Them Cabbage Down, Cripple Creek, John Hardy, Red Haired Boy, Soldier's Joy, 8th. of January, Billy in the Lowground, Blackberry Blossum, Bill Cheatum, Sally Goodin, Old Joe Clark, Salt Creek. That's 16 tunes! Plus that CD, you can't beat the price. The tunes are really great, you can also use it them on fiddle as well. I highly recommend this book!

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