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Easy Banjo Solos: For 5-String Banjo



Synopsis

(Banjo). Play 5-string banjo arrangements of your favorite songs from the Beatles, Hank Williams, Flatt & Scruggs, Woody Guthrie, Merle Travis and more in the updated second edition of this handy supplement to any banjo method. 16 arrangements are presented in order of difficulty, beginning with basic rolls and chords and ending with 16th notes and fret-hand techniques. Songs include: Ashokan Farewell * Ballad of Jed Clampett * Hey, Good Lookin' * I'll Fly Away * Mountain Dew * Nine Pound Hammer * Rocky Top * This Land Is Your Land * Will the Circle Be Unbroken * and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been playing about four months, using this book paired with the Hal Leonard Banjo Book 1, both recommended by my instructor (I take one 30-minute lesson a week, a mix of technique and specific songs). In most of the songs, the melody rings clearly in the banjo solo (to me, "Rocky Top" is an exception, where there appears to be a hint of the melody). The chart shows two rhythms: the melody and the solo. Play the melody (top line) first to learn the song, so you can listen for it in the solo (bottom line). When you start playing the solo, be sure to accent/emphasize the melody notes so the tune rings clear. If you're a beginner, I'd suggest also using a separate book to teach basic rolls and other techniques. I'm enjoying "Will the Circle be Unbroken," which uses a combination of forward and reverse rolls. One complaint is the song selection. Perhaps I'm a music illiterate but there are many songs I've never heard before. But there is one Beatles song ("I've Just Seen a

Face"), which I may try next. Start slowly then speed up. I start 80-100 bpm then work my way up to 130+ bpm.

It is easy to be successful with the book! Melodies are easily identifiable thus building confidence instead frustration that comes with the fluff that masks the melody as found in many other Banjo books.

I bought this book from my local music store as a supplement to my beginner book. To me, the main appeal of the book was the inclusion of an arrangement for a Beatle's song "I've Just Seen A Face" and for the song "Fly Away" from the movie "Oh Brother Where Art Thou." Many other reviewers have stated that they found the songs in this book to be difficult for beginners, however, after only 4-5 months into learning the banjo I actually thought they were too easy. In addition, the very songs I bought the book for have poor arrangements. The banjo does not play the correct melody in either I've Just Seen A Face or in Fly Away. Instead you just get a vague approximation of the song, which I just found to be frustrating. I think this is a good series for learning solo pieces, but for the cost there are better beginner performance books out there, and I know I certainly won't be buying any banjo book with Mac Robertson as they author in the near future. That being said, I did enjoy the "This Land is Your Land" arrangement, and I think i will definitely be adding it to me repertoire.

great, fun songs, made easier to learn since there is a both a 'super easy' version and a more advanced version of each song, right on next to each other, along with words. Takes some time to get the advanced versions of the tunes memorized and be able to sing the words along with it, but very rewarding once you do.

I have the other books, and this and the other solo book even out my collection. I have found them easy to follow, at least the harmony section. I am a total beginner, and this adds to my playing songs that have been requested, and that are at least recognized by my very patient family.

This book is written as a supplement to a learning method, it is useless without buying the authors other books. There are also misprints in the words to the lyrics of songs.

Other than the apparent formatting issue in this kindle issue, this book was a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Most every tune was familiar to me and the tablature was easy to read and dead-on.

I'm recommending this one for all banjo pluckers, regardless of level of accomplishment. Great fun, thank you!

Tabs and words (all verses) are provided for the limited number of songs (24) included in this banjo method supplement. As a banjo solo supplement, it is a useful addition, which fulfills its purpose adequately.

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