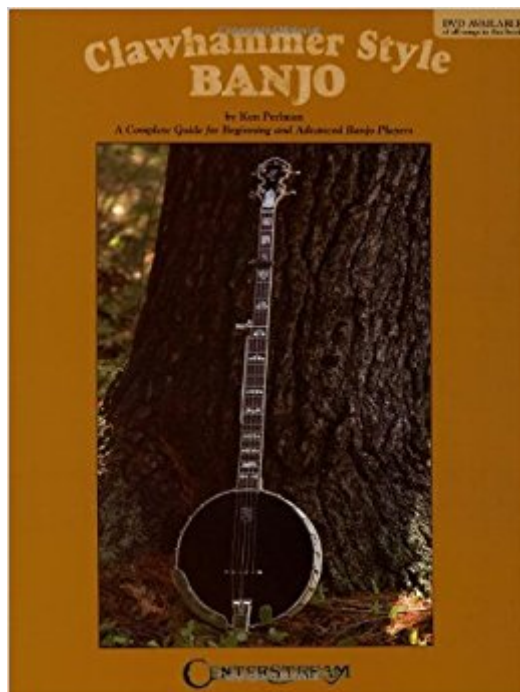


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Clawhammer Style Banjo



Synopsis

(Banjo). A complete guide for beginning and advanced banjo players! From Ken Perlman, here is a brilliant teaching guide that is destined to become the handbook on how to play the banjo. The style is easy to learn, and covers the instruction itself, basic right and left-hand positions, simple chords, and fundamental clawhammer techniques; the brush, the 'bumm-titty' strum, pull-offs, and slides. For the advanced player, there is instruction on more complicated picking, double thumbing, quick slides, fretted pull-offs, harmonics, improvisation, and more. The book includes more than 40 fun-to-play banjo tunes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm very glad I chose this book to get started with learning clawhammer banjo. I found it at my local library, and quickly decided I needed my own copy. If you carefully read and practice the techniques, exercises and tunes, this book will give you an incredibly solid foundation. The book is unique in that it seamlessly progresses from the most basic introductory material all the way up to complex rhythms and techniques. There's something to be gained here for just about any player. I recommend this book for beginners with one caveat. The author does not introduce the concept of "double-thumb" or "drop-thumb" until the second half of the book. By the time you get to that point, beginners who are following along with Perlman's recommended slow-and-steady program of study will have been playing for several months at least. In my view, holding off on practicing these techniques can make them more difficult to introduce later on. Putting them so far into the book also

implies that they are more advanced techniques, when really they are rooted in the same basic clawhammer motion, just applied somewhat differently. For whatever reason, my gut instinct was to learn double-thumb and drop-thumb almost from the very beginning, and I think it has served me well. I recall reading somewhere that Perlman himself has in more recent years moved toward introducing drop-thumb earlier in his teaching as a natural extension of basic clawhammer motion, rather than an advanced technique. Some players I've met seem to be intimidated by drop thumb; I think that can be avoided by introducing it early. My recommendation is therefore, "Buy this book!". But also seek out other materials and resources (the forums at banjohangout.com are a fantastic source of information, for example). Have fun!

I'm a 60something mid-beginner and have used several beginner books and online lessons over the last few months. I had hit a plateau until I discovered Ken's book. The fact it was written 25 years ago is a plus. I enjoy Ken's lingo as a "young up and coming" banjo master. I have really benefited from the videos, which have been converted to DVDs and are indexed for easy practice. The video and book are sold separately and well worth the investment if you are serious about clawhammer banjo.

I have used quite a few books but I think this one is best the way it teaches. Exercises and songs progress in technical difficulty. Good book for beginners and moderates but as with most books, you'll have a tendency to move faster than you should. In my opinion more exercises in each stage of progression would be helpful. I had to make up my own exercises and discipline myself from trying to progress to the next technique too fast. Does not emphasize playing by ear so you need to find other means to teach you that.

Good book but previous knowledge is required. Not for the self taught beginner.

If you're only wanting a beginner's entry level method to the clawhammer banjo style, you should really look elsewhere. This book is really more of a master's degree textbook for the clawhammer banjo style. It's VERY detailed, with fairly advanced musical theory for a style that's after all, a "down home" musical form. Persons wanting a beginner's level introduction to clawhammer banjo, might do better to watch/listen to David Holt's Homespun DVD "Getting Started on 5-String Banjo"

This is the 3rd clawhammer banjo book I purchased. The first was a total fail and the second one

got me playing but in a very simple way. When I purchased the book I decided to pretty much ignore everything else I had learned (since it was not all that good to begin with) and start fresh. I am progressing slower than my previous book but I think in the long run it will make me a better player. I do wish it had a CD of music/examples (like other books have) but there is a companion DVD set available which I will be purchasing as well.

Ken Perlman's book has been around for almost 30 years and, with the sentimental exception of Pete Seeger's "How to Play the 5 String Banjo", is clearly the leading "how to" book on this unique style of play. However comprehensive and well written a book is if you don't get the earliest lesson down pat you're gonna be dead meat when things speed up down the road. If you don't have a competent teacher and are trying to learn from any book alone clawhammer, more than any other picking style, will beat you into the ground. Fortunately for those of us too cheap to hire an instructor Perlman has produced a 2 DVD (originally VHS) set that bests most teachers for clarity and continuity in following the text of this excellent book. I can't recommend highly enough just how effective the book and DVD combination is. You'll save years of struggle and have a great time learning this most fascinating style of play. A great book made much better with the available video.

I've been trying to learn Clawhammer from the internet for about 8 months. While I've picked up a lot, having a "guide", as it were, and focused exercises makes a world of difference. This is a great place to start.

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