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# The Complete 5-String Banjo Player



## Synopsis

(Music Sales America). Written by Tony Trischka, one of the leading authorities in banjo education, The Complete 5-String Bluegrass Banjo Player sets the standard for bluegrass banjo instruction from beginning to advanced. From holding the banjo and reading tablature to melodic banjo style and standard bluegrass repertoire, this book is the definitive guide to learning authentic bluegrass technique. The audio CD includes demonstration tracks of the music examples, techniques, and songs. The Complete 5-String Bluegrass Banjo Player features include: all bluegrass techniques; scale patterns; chords illustrated with photographs and diagrams; new and clear engravings; composition and arranging; improvisation techniques; the most influential banjo players' styles; and more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

TOP NOTCH LEARNING MATERIAL! i had never picked up a banjo in my Life! After watching the included DVD and paying attention to Tony Trischka's voice on the included CD and following along with the book Im playing forward backward and alternating rolls. I have learned the basic version of Cripple Creek, Goodnight Ladies. This book is awesome! I highly recommend it to anyone serious about learning to pick a banjo.

Love it

Excellent!!! I'm very happy to have this book. Thanx a lot!!!

Tony's book is amazing. Simply put it is well written and full of information and additional banjo information. I think this coupled with Earl Scruggs' book and you'll be all set!

Good.

I wasn't all that impressed with this book, and am not sure how to interpret all the glowing reviews. This book, in my opinion, is not written for the complete banjo novice, but rather for the player with some musical history in his or her background. I was expecting to learn the how, the when and the frequency of practice, for example. I did not see that information anywhere in the first 90 pages or so of the book. The author starts by offering a few songs to strum in the various cords, but he does not even demonstrate any techniques for strumming. To strum isn't defined anywhere. I suppose that most people with some musical experience know what it means to strum, but for someone like me, with virtually no experience, the notion of strumming is a new one. The book looks like it could be a great one for the intermediate player, but for me it is much too advanced. I returned it the same day it arrived.

Simply put, the value of Tony's instructional book is that there is no other book that takes you from beginner to intermediate with the breadth of styles covered. You'll find beginner books, intermediate books, and books with advanced arrangements, but nothing that covers so much, so well. I picked up the banjo about three years ago, playing only from this book, and now I'm considered an advanced player by my peers. I should point out that I play obsessively, averaging at least 20-30 hours a week on top of my full-time job. I've picked up other books after working through this one, and I was able to master some of the tunes in just a couple hours. That may seem long to some people, but I literally spent weeks working through some of the more challenging arrangements in this book. To me, the single-string lessons and tabs stand out as particularly strong and worth the investment of time it takes to learn the style. The lessons I learned from mastering "Blackberry Blossom" have carried over into countless other songs, which has allowed me to blend the more traditional right-hand rolls with the melodic style. That said, the book has some shortcomings. (1) Tracks only feature the banjo, making it hard to integrate your play with the music unless you can play as fast as Tony. It seemed to me that Tony was playing many songs over 140 bpm. Some

of his other instructional books play the recordings at two paces, once slow and once at regular pace.(2) The music theory is very thin. True, most folks aren't interested in the theory behind the music, but I've always found it extremely helpful as I think through how to improvise. It's one thing to memorize a song and another to have the knowledge to improvise in a musical setting with other players. I had very little background in music before learning the banjo, so I had to seek music theory out elsewhere. Of course, a book like this can't be expected to do everything.

250 pages, no fluff, no wide margins or wide space, just important material. Invaluable for anybody that wants to advance to Foggy Mountain or the Scruggs stuff that you grew up listening to, covers Keith melodic, single string, backup, anything bluegrass-related you could think of.

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