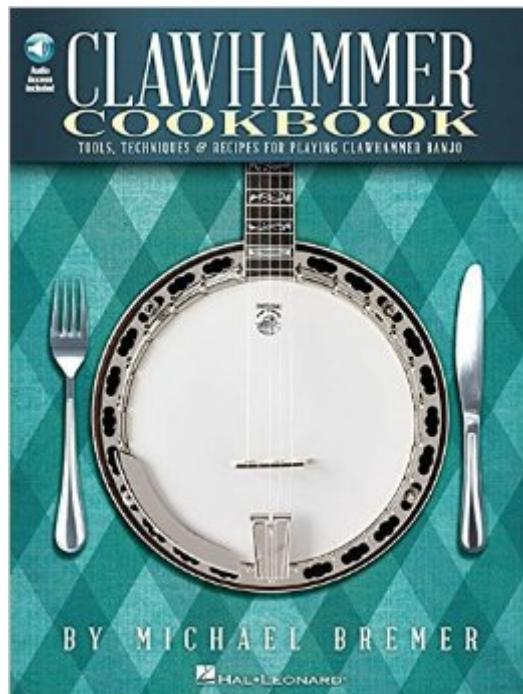


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Clawhammer Cookbook: Tools, Techniques & Recipes For Playing Clawhammer Banjo (Book/CD)



Synopsis

There are two ways to approach writing a cookbook and this goes for cooking food and cooking up some great music. One way is to give you a bunch of recipes and tell you, "Here's how to make this dish, or here's how to play this tune." Another way is to teach you how to cook. In other words, by providing you with techniques for mixing flavors, the knowledge of when, where, and how to apply heat, and ideas on how to add your own touches, you can make the dish or the tune your own. This book takes the second path. The goal of this book isn't to tell you how to play tunes or how to play like anyone else. It's to teach you ways to approach, arrange, and personalize any tune to develop your own unique style. To that end, we'll take in a healthy serving of old-time music and also expand the clawhammer palate to taste a few other musical styles. The CD contains demos of all the songs and examples to aid in the learning process.

Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard; Pap/Com edition (February 25, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 148033832X

ISBN-13: 978-1480338326

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.3 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #753,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Guitars & Fretted Instruments > Banjos #122 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos #5256 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Instruction & Study

Customer Reviews

This had the potential to be a useful book/CD. I liked a lot of the philosophy and exercises in the early chapters--the author takes the very pragmatic view that clawhammer is merely a technique that can be applied to a variety of styles of music, acknowledging that most people want to learn their own favorite tunes rather than dogmatically adhere to tradition. He also doesn't waste a lot of time covering the same basic ground that every other book and tutorial covers--he mostly presumes that you've watched some YouTube videos and understand the basic clawhammer stroke. I liked that he showed how to work up various arrangements of the same tune to suit different purposes--a

melodic version as a solo instrumental, a simple chord progression as accompaniment, a "fancy" chord progression to add interest, etc. Plus he throws out interesting/unusual ideas such as adding percussion by thumping the banjo head while playing or using a "double claw" to strike two strings simultaneously. A substantial part of the book is dedicated to double-C tuning. There are also chapters on playing for kids, playing holiday music, playing classical music, and even playing world music--these are definitely not everyone's cup of tea, obviously, but again, he's throwing out novel concepts that aren't covered in many other banjo books to get you thinking in new directions. Unfortunately, the book I received came with a bad CD that had 15 tracks on it, but every track was an empty (all 1 KB; see attached photo). I returned it for an exchange, but the replacement had the exact same problem with the CD. The CD is essential for hearing how the various tunes and exercises should sound when played correctly, and the lack of quality control on the part of the publisher was extremely disappointing.

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