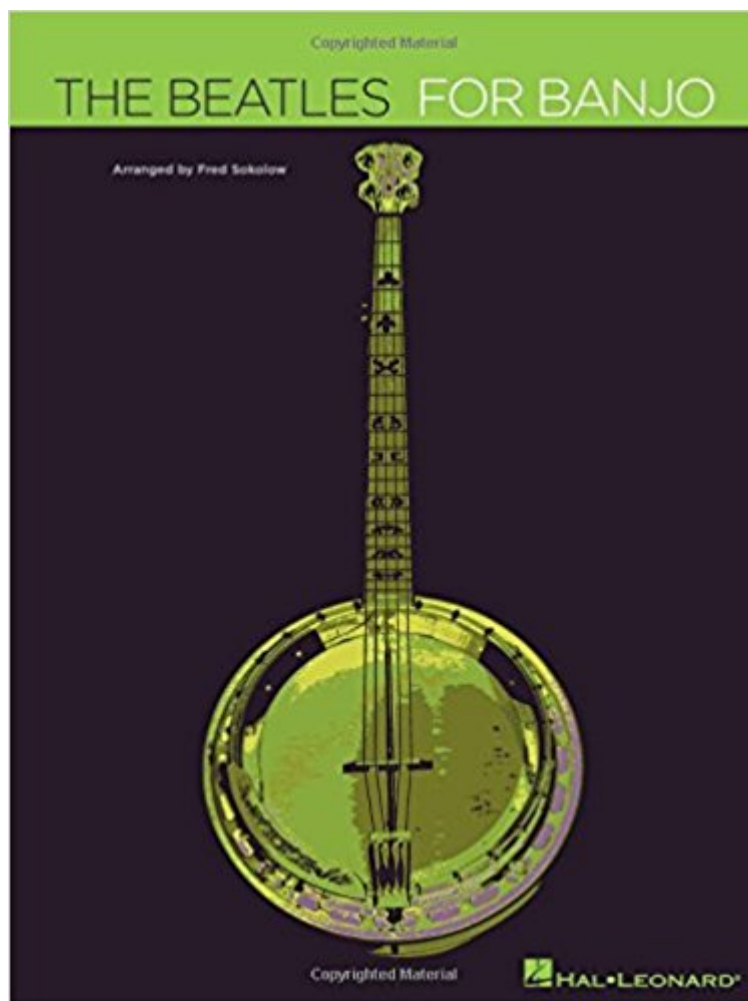


The book was found

The Beatles For Banjo



Synopsis

(Banjo). 18 of the Fab Four's finest for five string banjo! Includes: Across the Universe * Blackbird * A Hard Day's Night * Here Comes the Sun * Hey Jude * Let It Be * She Loves You * Strawberry Fields Forever * Ticket to Ride * Yesterday * and more.

Book Information

Paperback: 80 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I see other reviewers refer to this book as being for clawhammer style banjo. I am not sure why they say this. In truth, the book only gives tab for the left hand, and while a couple of the tunes might be handled better in a clawhammer style, most would be better for three finger picking. (Admittedly, the first tune is not really a three finger picker.) You will need an occasional "brush stroke" (strum) on some, or a three finger pinch, but these are some nice arrangements that deserve attention. I have no idea how Earl would do it, but one or two of these tunes in your repertoire will give something immediately recognizable by your audience, and I think they are fun to work out and play. My only criticism is that being more of a "by ear" learner I would have appreciated an accompanying CD.

I'm not going to get into the "this is frailing, no this is bluegrass" debate that seems to plague this book. I will say only this is demanding music that is not for the faint of heart. A lot of fretted 3 or 4 string plucks/strums. A lot of neck work for your non-strumming hand as well. I don't see a lot of room to add rolls or licks in to customize the tunes like most traditional banjo music (but hey, it's the Beatles - should anybody really be messing with music written by the greatest group of all time?)

This book would gain a star or two if it came with a cd to give you an idea what you're shooting for. As it is, I've opened this once or twice but it mostly collects dust.

Just received the book so I have not played the tunes yet. All are in open G tuning. Each song has banjo tab and "piano" rendition of the banjo part. Also lyrics with melody in standard musical notation, and little chord charts over the measures. There is no introduction to tell you this. I agree with other reviews in that the arrangements are not simple. A CD or mp3 download would be helpful. Overall I am glad I bought the book and look forward to learning the songs.

Lots of good and gratifying music selections for the contemporary banjo player not into just bluegrass.

Hard songs, but they sound really good if you practice them.

Based on the reviews, I might not have bought this. But since it was written by Fred Sokolow, I knew it was worth the chance. I haven't had this book very long. I have worked through "Hey Jude", and started workin through "Across the Universe". Both are great arrangements. I agree with the folks that say this is not in Scruggs Three Finger style. I can't quite say I know what style it is in. But to be able to play these songs on the banjo is very worthwhile. I probably won't work through all of the songs in the book, but I normally don't do that with any book. Knowing what I know now about the book, if I had to do it over, I would buy it again. After I first published this review, I worked more on some of the songs in this collection. I think where folks misunderstood is thinking is this Scruggs style or whatever. The reason I really like this, is because it is more written the way books have been written for finger style guitar. This is how I would classify this. If you are a fingerstyle guitarist, and are moving to the 5 string banjo, this would be the book for you. While I do totally love Scruggs style and is what drew me to the banjo, I also like other styles. This one is a bit out of the box. I actually played Hey Jude and my wife came in and commented on it. So when I played it, it actually sounded like it.

It's nice to have a starting place, but there are some questionable fingerings - not bad, just not what I would have chosen. I was hoping for more intricate/literal interpretations of the Harrison selections. It seems pretty spare. But it's nice for singalongs and parties. Everyone loves Beatles.

Good book

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