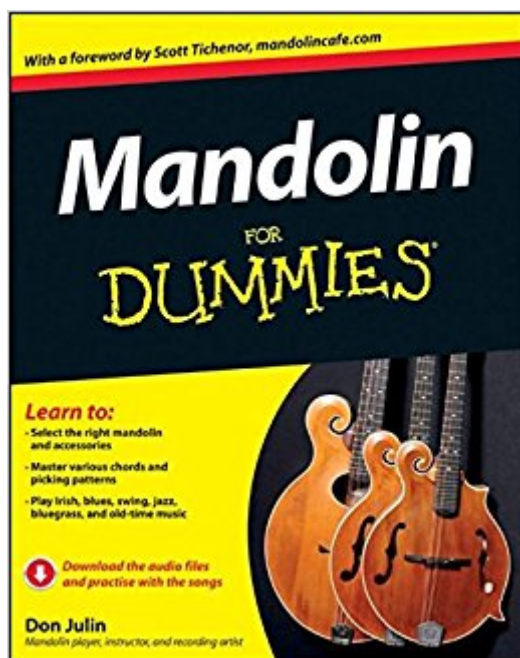


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Mandolin For Dummies



Synopsis

The fun and easy way to learn to play the mandolin The newest addition to the highly successful Dummies instrument-instruction line, *Mandolin For Dummies* gives you easy-to-follow, step-by-step instruction on learning to play the mandolin. Following the time-tested Dummies format, *Mandolin For Dummies* provides a level of content and instruction greater than anything currently available. *Mandolin For Dummies* breaks down the fundamentals of this instrument and provides the resources you need to practice and improve your ability over time. Packed with individualized instruction on key mandolin-friendly musical styles, including Irish and Celtic, "old time" American music, blues, bluegrass, swing, and jazz Files available via download provide audio tracks from the book and exercises so you can play along and build your skills -- almost 2 hours of music! Clear and useful photos and diagrams ensure you fret, strum, and pick with precision Includes a mandolin buying guide to help ensure you make the right purchases Tips on restringing mandolins and other DIY care and maintenance topics If you're an aspiring mandolin player, don't fret! *Mandolin For Dummies* has you covered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've played the guitar for years and have always wanted to learn the mandolin. But when I've tried to play it, it is so different from the guitar that I get frustrated quickly and stop. I got this guide to inspire me to try again-- and it has done that. The only thing I would have preferred (and the reason I didn't give it 5 stars) is a spiral-bound format so I could place it more easily on my music stand. It's very

hard to prop it open to the page you want. Dummies guide folks, are you listening?(December 2013 update to this review: Many helpful readers have let me know that Kinko's has a service where they will convert the book to a spiral bound format. So there you go- problem solved.) But since I have to do this myself, I'm still deducting one star from the review. :)If the mandolin is your first instrument just remember that learning to play any instrument is an investment of time, patience, and, yes, sore fingers. Those 8 strings combined with small frets can make your hand feel like a large claw trying to find the individual notes-- but hang in there. Take it easy and practice for just 15 minutes or so a day. Once you learn a few chords, you can even practice changing them while you watch TV. This guide is quite comprehensive and will cover everything you need to know about playing the mandolin. It provides good instruction on selecting the mandolin (support your local music store if you can!); helpful tips for playing (such as "listen to mandolin music"-- just like people who read a lot are better writers, people who listen to mandolin music will be better players); samples of different types of mandolin music; left and right hand techniques, etc. This book will keep you busy-- probably for at least 6 months-- maybe a year.

After I had been playing mandolin for a little over a year, I had bought a number of mandolin "how to" texts. I was looking for something beyond the basic beginner level to push me to that next step, but that was not too difficult. At the same time, I had been watching mandolin Youtube videos, and had discovered several videos by a guy named Don Julin. I liked Don's online lessons so much that I contacted him directly to buy his introductory mandolin primer, and wrote him an email suggesting I thought it would be great if he were to write a follow-up book at an intermediate level. This book appeared a few months later, and it is the book I was looking for. In my opinion, Mandolin for Dummies simply is the best overall instruction book for mandolin available today. It goes beyond the beginner level to provide a general introduction to numerous styles of mandolin playing. I love that it is not just one more bluegrass book, but introduces the player to ragtime, jazz, Irish, Brazilian, and Dawg music as well. Chapter 7 on playing "Jethro Burns"-style 3 finger chords takes the mystery (and the misery) out of learning a gazillion different chord shapes. There is also great material on rhythm, theory, scales, right hand techniques like tremolo, advice on mandolin purchase and care, etc. This is just a great book at a great price. At almost 400 pages, I have been working through it for several months now, and have still not made it to the end. Two bits of practical advice: If you're a complete novice to the mandolin, you might want to start with a very basic primer first. If you can get hold of it, I think that Don Julin's Mandolin Method Book 1 would be a great book to work through before beginning this book.

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