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# 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

1) As one would expect from Tony Trischka, the tabs are accurate.2) The lesson progression is logical, but also permits an experienced player to dip into specific topics and expand skill sets.3) The tabs themselves are VERY clear and readable, one of the best printed examples of tablature I've come across.4) The physical binding and paper quality is very good. The publisher did not stint on putting out a quality product that will last, even with regular handling.

I have personally taken lessons from Mr. Trischka. His knowledge of the 5-string is remarkable, and

his skill is highly refined. He is versatile in many styles and his 2007 IBMA Banjo Player of the Year award is a testimony to his career. Somehow, Tony managed to pack the essence of his understanding of the banjo into this book! If you want to be a "complete" player, someone who plays great AND understands what they are doing, not just replicating something you were shown, this book will get you there.

I am taking group banjo lessons and was told to buy this book. Unfortunately I have not been able to attend all the sessions. The book is so explanatory that I can keep up by practicing at home. I am not saying that it isn't better to have a real person help also, but this book is about as close as it can come to learning the banjo on your own.

I've been playing the banjo for 35 years and I've used many training and TAB sources and this book is one of the best that I have come across. It is very complete and accurate. The accompanying CD is great and has nearly every exercise and every song in the book being demonstrated. WEB links to extended examples of many of the exercises are also provided. The paper quality is excellent. If I were to make a wish it would be to have the book spiral bound so it would lay flat on the stand. Other than that, I can not recommend this book highly enough.

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 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 are 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.

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.

I love the content. I'm a strong guitar player, but a beginner on the banjo. This book takes you through all the right steps, and does it with clear notation and text, and with fun, interesting music. I can see working from this book for a long time. The reason that I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 is the book's binding. It doesn't lay flat, which is just silly for a music book. You'll probably want some sort of music stand clip to keep it open and relatively flat. Why isn't it spiral bound?

This book is absolutely GREAT. I have learned so much from it. Tony Trishka is a wonderful teacher, no wonder Bela Fleck took lessons from him. I can only hope to be half as good as Bela Fleck someday. I highly recommend this book to any banjo player aspiring to be better regardless of their experience on the banjo.

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