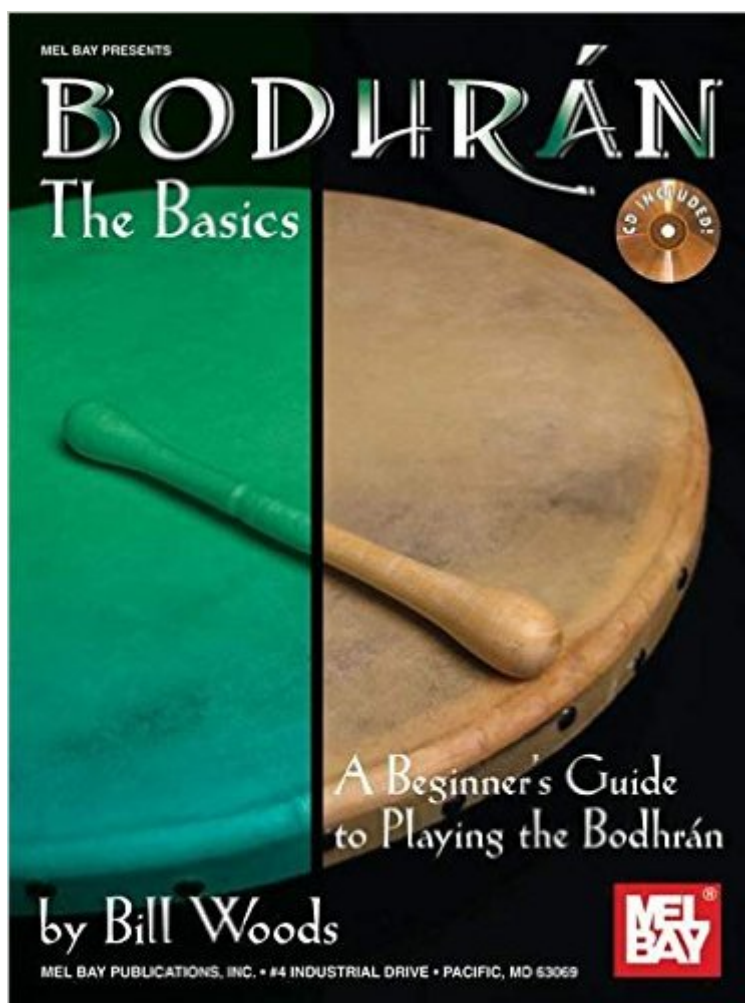


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# Bodhrán: The Basics (Mel Bay Presents)



## Synopsis

Bill Woods has used his decades of experience as a successful bodhrÁin performer and teacher to create this integrated instruction book and CD for the beginning bodhrÁin player. Using photographs, text, and audio examples, it takes you in easy steps from holding the bodhrÁin and stick through playing along with traditional Irish dance tunes. It shows you the basic accompaniment patterns for reels and jigs and demonstrates ways to make these patterns more interesting using rests, accents, and rolls. In addition to the audio examples, the CD has traditional Irish dance tunes recorded at different tempos so you can start playing along almost immediately and increase your speed as your skill improves. Also covered are the correct pronunciation of bodhrÁin, the history of the bodhrÁin in traditional Irish music, suggestions on playing with other musicians, suggestions on what to look for when choosing a bodhrÁin and stick, instructions on a simple and inexpensive way to make your own stick, and the basic structure of Irish dance tunes. An integrated bodhrÁin instruction book and CD for the beginning player Teaches the basic accompaniment patterns for reels and jigs Discusses what to look for when choosing a bodhrÁin and stick CD has traditional Irish tunes recorded at different tempos.

## Book Information

Series: Mel Bay Presents

Paperback: 24 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 8.8 x 0.4 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I found this book to be clear, concise and easy to follow. After four days of practice, I was able to produce a solid beat. After two weeks, I was able to pick up the secondary rolls that many bodhran

players have such difficulty producing. This book is well-laid out and easy to understand.

I have prior drumming experience (doubek). Remembering my initial stumbling blocks, I am adapting to the bodhran much more easily. I had my bodhran before I got Woods' book. Having used other resources, U-Tube, I was aware of what I was missing. Woods covers all the basics with clarity that leads to a reasonable depth of understanding. How to say 'bodhran'. Short discussion of history, play & style, design, purchase, and care. Only two pages of Music Theory! Basic & short! Most 'basic' books go overboard. A non-musician gets very little out of theory until it can be connected to what is heard (i.e., keep it short). A musician won't do more than thumb past such pages. A key value of this book is instruction, well-illustrated with pictures & words: Holding the drum, holding the stick, and striking. This is THE area I found U-Tube examples lacking: Still pictures clearly explained. Every sentence & photo has deliberate purpose. What beginners do wrong & how to fix it is another key instruction. How to practice. Irish dance rhythms: reels & jigs, playing with music. Elaborations: Rests, Accents, & Rolls. Then there are eight rhythms combining all that was learned. Finally: How to get better, grow with the instrument, and get involved. These lessons require use of the CD, and there are charts in the book to provide visual connection (which I need). I very much appreciate that the book is succinct. There is quite a bit to it. It is thorough. If you work your way through this book you will know all the basics needed to satisfactorily play & participate with others. I've been through all this with the doubek. I wish there were such a book for it. Very well done! I recommend buying the book before buying the drum (which I didn't do).

This is a fairly good introduction to the "basics" of the bodhran as the title implies. It provides a series of exercises to develop reel and jig beats. I'd recommend it for learning the foundations of the bodhran

While I am sure the book is helpful to users who have never played an instrument at all, it does little for someone who already knows basic music theory. It is very short in its description of how to play and is only 24 pages in total, of which only 6 pages are devoted to actual playing of rhythm. In addition, the CD will not play in my laptop as it registers as blank. I have not tried it in another system as of yet as I do not have one available aside from in my car. If the CD had worked, it might have been worth the money.

The grandson can't learn to play his Bodhran without a little direction and this book seems to be

doing the trick. Such a great sound when you know what you're doing and personally a great alternative to a drum set.

This book arrived fairly quickly. The packaging protected the soft cover book just fine. The book is extremely basic and written for the non-musician. The pictures are good and I think the CD is a good addition to the book. I am looking forward to using the CD soon.

Having never owned a drum like this before, it is helpful to get a breakdown of the basics. Plus, there is enough material to get a good start. All I have to do now is practice.

Not my favorite. The CD tracks 14 through 33 are at such a low volume you can't hear the material making it a tough for learning a new instrument. I have contacted Mel Bay and I am awaiting a corrected CD from them.

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