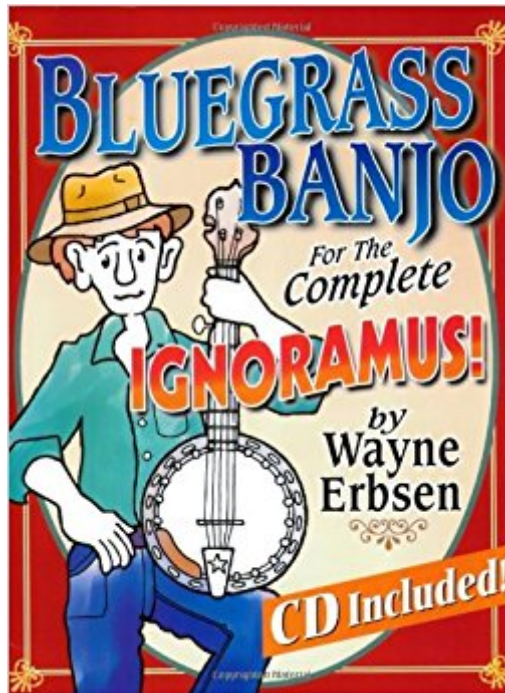




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# Bluegrass Banjo For The Complete Ignoramus (Book & CD Set)



## Synopsis

Teaches the plain, naked melody to 23 easy bluegrass favorites without the rolls already incorporated into the tune. Wayne shows simple ways to embellish each melody using easy rolls. With Wayne's unique method, you'll learn to think for yourself! Learn how to play a song in different ways, rather than memorizing ONE way. Includes an audio instructional CD with 99 tracks!

## Book Information

Series: For the Complete Ignoramus!

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Best Sellers Rank: #30,305 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos](#) #35 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Guitar](#) #264 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Instruction & Study](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is probably the ultimate beginners guide for how to play Scruggs style. You start out with a simple melody line which you later can add the, ice cold licks, the cool licks, the warm licks, the hot licks and in the end the RED HOT LICKS. This is a little book with a great layout. I think everybody from 5 years to 110 with some reading skills and a CD player can learn to play bluegrass banjo with this book. --Ivar R.

I am 60 years old and never held a banjo, much less play one, until my wife gave me one for Christmas 2013 . For that matter, I've never played any sort of instrument, other than plunk around with my brother's ancient guitar as a kid, which frustrated me and I quit. I can't read a single note of music. This book is amazing and was apparently written specifically for me. The book (and it seems the banjo world as a whole) uses "tablature" diagrams to show you where to hold each string for a

note or chord, and does not use music notation. And, fantastic as it is....about 80% of bluegrass uses only three chords, one of which is "G", which is the "open" (unfretted) key that the banjo is tuned to , so that leaves two chords to learn. The book starts off with very simple tunes, the banjo equivalent of "chop sticks" and then adds "rolls", "pinches", "reverse rolls", "slides" and other tricks to add spice to the tune. The book comes with a CD that plays out each lesson and all the variations so you can get instant response....basically it tells you "this is what this lesson should sound like".....note by note....at a pace you can replicate....so you will know whether or not you are doing things right. Bottom line is I was able to play at the pace of the book within a day or two of practice....one tune at a time mind you. I'm on my sixth song....after one month....practicing about 30 minutes a day. I'm far from being any sort of musician, but this book has allowed me to realize the sort of satisfaction that always eluded me as a kid....I can't wait to pick up the banjo each day and push my abilities to the next level. I am really satisfied with this book and the gift that it has brought me.....I guess I'm becoming a musician of sorts....even my wife is excited about the results. I bought several "how to play" books after the banjo arrived, but all the others were too complicated for me....this one really "strikes a chord" in me....and I'll use this one until I've mastered all the tunes. If you're a complete ignoramus like me, you'll really like this book.

I recently purchased a Bajo and this book breaks everything you need to know to get you started. I highly recommend anyone to purchase this book. It comes with a instructional CD to help you along the way so that you have a better understanding. When you pick up your banjo pick this book up as well and you will be happy you did!

This was great when i first started. I worked with the book for about 2 weeks and reading tab isnt for everyone but this book makes it easy. I switched after making through half the book and went to learning by ear using the murphy method, which for me was better. I would recomend this for anyone starting out on the banjo , covers your basic rolls and helps you play a song in many different ways, the cd is super helpful so you can actually know wha the song is supposed to sound like. After awhile though you need to hear other people play so you can make your banjo pop when picking. I still use the book for a reference and play through some songs to keep my abiltiy to read tab up to speed.

I have high hopes for this book. I tried the 5 - string banjo several years ago, but the melody always seemed to get lost in the right-hand maneuvering. Erbsen concentrates on the melody first, and

then adds various tweaks that enhance rather than smother the original musical thought. I'm enjoying the process, and that should help produce better results.

This a great book to learn if your just starting! sent it to me on a turtles back so I got bored waiting on it and bought earls scruggs book from a local store, its also a good book but teaches you to doggie paddle then throws you in the shark tank, it'll make a good second or third learning book. The ignoramus book does a great job keeping it as easy as possible, building you up at your own pace but still keeping you enertained. I was first disappointed at how short it was but the way it is written is why its short, one page gives a beat, the next page tells you how to dress that beat 5 different ways. So you get 5 pages worth of learning in 2 pages. I do have a short attention span so as I read thru this one im reading others and trying to learn cripple creek, but when I cant keep my head above water and start getting aggravated, I fall back more on this book to prop me up and keep me progressing. Great job on this one! I also like reading the brief history of the songs, it gives a nice break in the practice.

I bought myself a 5-string for my birthday and this book. Erbsen does an amazing job progressing from complete ignoramus to decent picker. I really like the way the book is organized with a handful of classic songs in their simplest possible versions, and then Erbsen's suggestions about ways to really turn the turns into respectable bluegrass pieces. Honestly, if you can master a handful of techniques you can play most bluegrass pieces on the banjo. This work by Erbsen is a solid corner stone for someone completely ignorant to the art. A growing player will obviously want more, but that discussion is outside of this review. Bottom line: if you're new or interested in getting started, buy a cheap banjo and this book. Honestly, we both know you spend \$20 on stupider stuff. Pick on.

Five minutes into reading this book I understood more than I have after years of watching videos. The language he uses is so easy to understand and it's simple in the best ways possible. The cd is easy to follow along with as well. I've already bragged to my sister at what a great buy this is. I'm eager to keep learning now that I have confidence that it's possible.

I have been trying to learn the Banjo for a few years now. Even gave up for a time, until I found "Bluegrass Banjo for the Complete Ignoramus!" it has helped to a point that when I play it sounds like a song LOL. I recommend this book to all of you out there who have been trying to play the Banjo. This book with the CD really work. The first time I bought this book I got the Kindle addition

with out the CD and it helped so so. But the CD does help so I recommend the Hard Cover book.

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