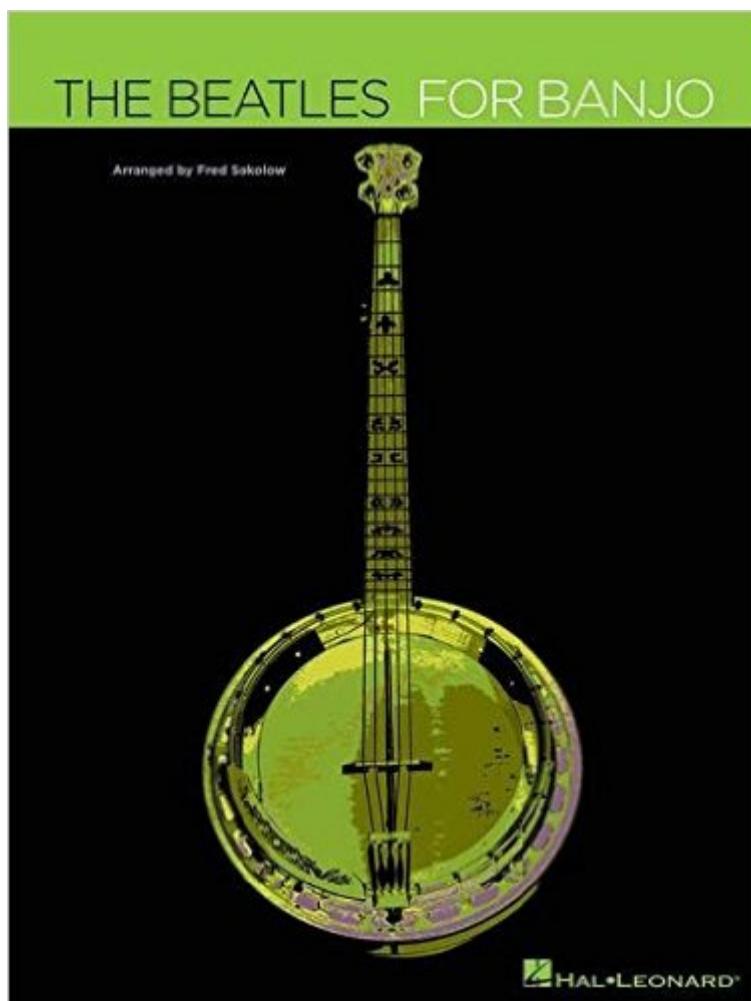


The book was found

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

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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.

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 working 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.

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.

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.

The sample tune appears to be written in what I would call "Seeger style" where picking and brush strokes are combined, rather than traditional 3-finger (Scruggs, Keith, Reno...) or old-time (clawhammer, frailing) styles. As a current 3-finger picker (and ex-clawhammer), I intend to substitute 3-finger pinches in place of the brush strokes. If a strum on 4 strings is called for, I will have to choose the best sounding 3 of the 4 (which I have done successfully in other transcriptions). I look forward to receiving the book and will comment more when I try out more tunes. (BTW, I didn't hesitate too long in selecting this book based on my satisfaction with other banjo books by Fred S. that I own.)

Thank you Mr. Sokolow. For a boomer banjo picker your book is fun from cover to cover. There are two clawhammer style pieces. You might be able to do them in an up-picking style. The rest are

what might be called guitar style.

This is not a very good banjo book for Beatles Music. It is not easy to play the songs the way they have them written. It is definitely not for bluegrass banjo players. I wish I had known this before buying it.

Love it. Please release more books with more songs. The Beatles have such a large amount of songs, 10 more books could be released and I would buy all of them.

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