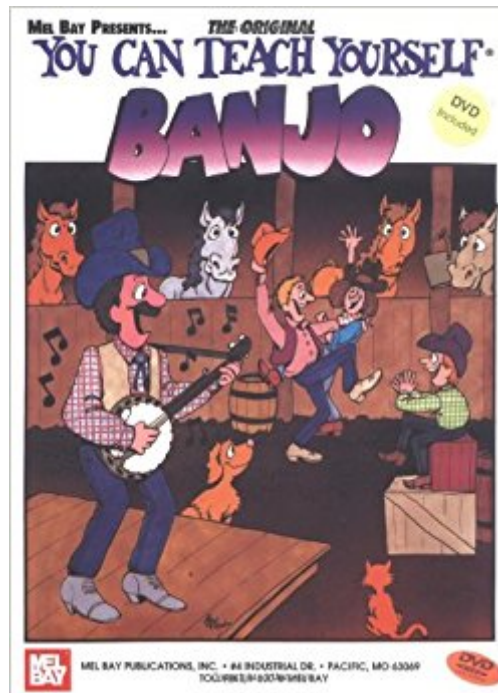




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# You Can Teach Yourself Banjo (Book/DVD Set)



## Synopsis

This is the ideal beginner's book, presenting the basics of playing the 5-string banjo in a way that is both fun and produces quick results. Janet Davis takes you on an extensive tour of this instrument's fundamental techniques as well as some intermediate possibilities including rolls, chords, bluegrass banjo techniques, playing up the neck, licks, endings, and other basic information needed to play bluegrass and melodic-style banjo. Thorough performance notes are provided from beginning to end revealing the secrets of this versatile traditional instrument. The companion DVD video is included (The DVD teaches through Lesson 22.).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Janet Rice Davis was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where music has always been an integral part of her family life. Although Janet's formal musical training was primarily in the classical field, she was fascinated with the stringed instruments, particularly those involved with folk and bluegrass music. In college she played the guitar and sang as a folk and blues musician in many of the Austin clubs, learning from such greats as Lightning Hopkins, Janis Joplin, and other well-known musicians, who played the same clubs. Today, Janet is primarily known as a bluegrass and five-string banjo specialist.

Ms. Davis does not teach or do a thorough basic music theory presentation. She assumes that the banjo student has already learned that. She does a concise job of showing the student the basics of

banjo part names and how to tune, hold and anchor your fingers on the instrument. Reading tablature, learning finger roll patterns and basic chords are next. Throughout the book she continues to progress through introducing a new concept and then giving the student a song to practice it on. I am very happy to start banjo with this instruction at my own pace. The charts of chord fingerings at the back of the book complete this work. Even after mastering all of the lessons, I plan on keeping this book handy as a reference. Well done!

Don't let the dopey-looking cover fool you, this is the real deal. I took a single banjo lesson, where my instructor taught me out of this book. The book was so effective that I ditched the lessons and just bought the book to learn on my own. I can't say enough good things about this book. Janet Davis really understands the mind of a complete beginner, while ensuring the confidence needed that she knows what she's doing. So many people feel like the banjo would be an impossible instrument to play. And friends who saw me play after just days of using this book thought that I had achieved miraculous feats. Nope. I just diligently followed along with Davis' pragmatic instructions. I'm grateful to Janet Davis her many other books; I've purchased most of them. But it all started with this one. If you want to play 3-finger banjo, you simply need to start with this book. You won't regret it, I promise.

Look no further if you are a complete beginner or, like me, an experienced guitarist. Since most of the bluegrass repertory seems to be public domain, Janet was able to demonstrate theory and technique with real songs that you will recognize. The examples are complete songs, not boring excerpts. I already had finger picking technique and fretboard experience but I soon ran into fun and challenging songs that needed some serious practice. She starts off with Scruggs style and then introduces the melodic style. I didn't know about the melodic style but now I love it. You can go a long way playing solo or maybe with a friend on guitar for a lot of fun. I have all of Janet's books and they are all wonderful. In no time you will be able to play something that your friends or family will appreciate. My copy of the book is fairly well dogeared. I love to practice everyday because the material is so rewarding and just plain fun. Be sure you have a metronome. They are free or very cheap for your smartphone. By the way, I like to play along with Band In A Box for the full band effect and to hear how the banjo sounds with background chords.

Anyone who has tried to learn the banjo has found that it is one of the hardest string instruments to become proficient at, let alone master. The layout of this book is incredibly clear, easy to

understand, and easy to follow. I'm still a banjo novice at best, but I'm making progress thanks to this book. I don't know how this book could possibly be improved upon. Thank you!

Janet is a mumblor. She mumbles and speaks indistinctly. She plays well. 77 tracks. But while some are good examples, they go much too fast for anyone to catch on. It's OK.

I am happy with this purchase. I came as expected. Thank you

I tried several instructional dvds before I found this one. They were confusing and did not go at a beginners speed. I decided to try Mel Bay's book and I am glad I did. Janet Davis is a great teacher. You have a dvd that comes included with the book to watch her play a slow version and faster version of many songs(not all songs are on the dvd). The beginning of the book shows you the basics like hand placement and lap position for your banjo. After you have learned this you learn to play roll patterns which are the most crucial element in learning to play banjo. Once you have mastered the most popular roll patterns you move onto chords, licks, slides, pinches and pull-offs. You will be surprised at how easy Janet Davis makes it to play banjo. I have playing banjo now for 4 months and I can already play a number of songs including; cripple creek, cumberland gap, blackberry blossom, good night ladies, boil them cabbage down and she'll be comin around the mountin. If you want to learn the banjo quickly and effectively you have to purchase this book. You will not be dissapointed. Happy pickin'!

I just started playing banjo 2 months ago. I saw this book and decided to give it a try. The progression of lessons is perfect for a beginner who has never played a musical instrument. I took this book to my second banjo lesson to show my instructor and found out that it is the number one book he recommends, so now he gives me homework assignments in it!

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