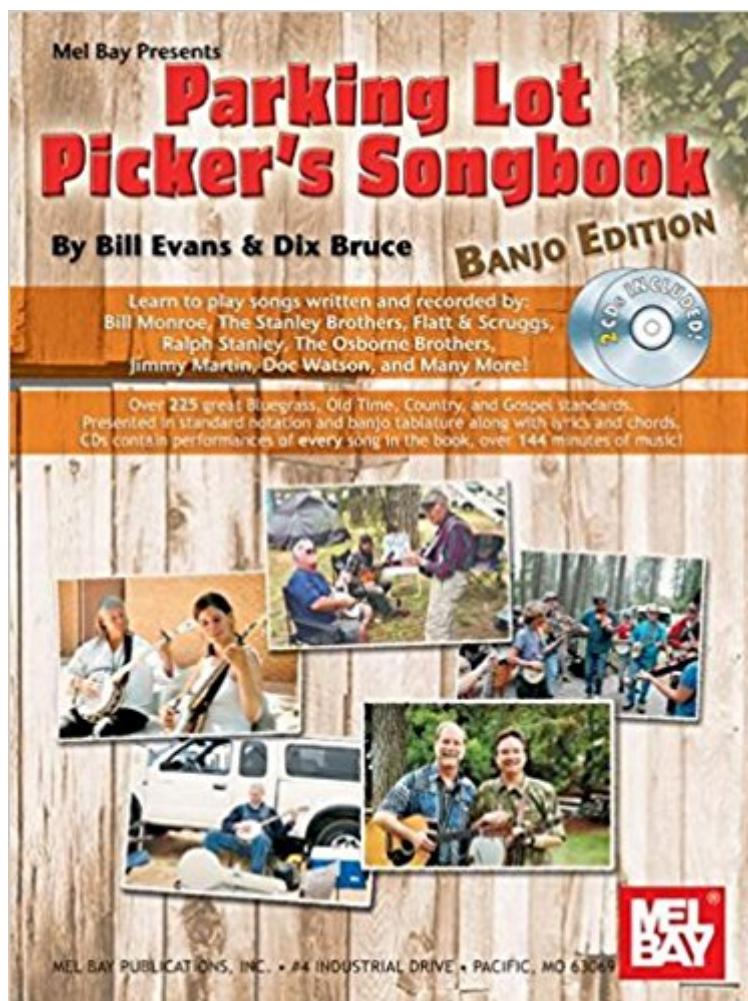


The book was found

Parking Lot Picker's Songbook - Banjo



Synopsis

A collection of over 225 great Bluegrass, Old Time, Country and Gospel standards. Melodies are presented with standard notation and tablature along with lyrics and chords. Learn to play songs written and recorded by the giants of traditional American music: Bill Monroe, The Stanley Brothers, Flatt & Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, The Osborne Brothers, Jimmy Martin, Doc Watson and many more. Also included: Step-by-Step instruction on how to transpose any song to any key! The two CDs include recordings of EVERY song in the book with Bill Evans on banjo and vocals, Dix Bruce on guitar, mandolin, and vocals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dix Bruce, a musician, composer, and writer from the San Francisco Bay Area, was born and raised in the Midwest. His interest in American folk music, jazz, and original composition are blended into a unique vocal and instrumental sound. His compositions are fresh and his energetic, exuberant stage personality, along with his driving rhythm and lead work, set the tone for a warm and exciting performance. He began playing guitar at age twelve. After college, he relocated to the Bay Area where his interest in hybrid acoustic string music led him to David Grisman's prototype quintet in the mid-1970's. Bruce eventually teamed up with the mandolinist and edited the magazine *Mandolin World News* from 1978 until 1984. In 1978 Bruce formed the band Back Up and Push to explore the emerging possibilities of swing and jazz on acoustic stringed instruments. The band toured the west coast throughout the 1980s and accompanied Bruce on his release *Tuxedo Blues*, which features

many of his original instrumental and vocal compositions. Dix Bruce has done studio work on guitar, mandolin, and banjo and has recorded two albums with mandolin legend Frank Wakefield, six big band CDs with the Royal society Jazz Orchestra, and his own collection of American folk songs entitled My Folk Heart on which he plays guitar, mandolin, and autoharp as well as sings. In 1991 he contributed two original compositions to the soundtrack of Harrod Blank's acclaimed documentary Wild Wheels. he has released two CDs of traditional American songs with and originals with guitarist Jim Nunally. Dix arranged, composed, played mandolin, and recorded music for the CD-ROM computer game "The Sims" for the Maxis Corporation. His music is featured on a virtual radio station within the game. Mr. Bruce currently has over twenty publications in print with Mel Bay. He has also written for Acoustic Guitar Magazine, FRETS, Bluegrass Unlimited, and The Fretted Instrument Guild of America. San Francisco Bay Area musician and Virginia native Bill Evans has been involved with bluegrass music and the banjo for over thirty years as a player, teacher, writer and historian. He occupies a unique niche in the banjo world: celebrated world-wide for his traditional and progressive banjo styles as well as his innovative original compositions, he also enjoys a reputation as an outstanding instructor and workshop leader. He authors the popular "Off The Record" instructional column for Banjo Newsletter magazine and has released two critically acclaimed banjo CDs, Native and Fine (Rounder 0295) and Bill Evans Plays Banjo (Native and Fine 906-3) in addition to appearing on CDs by Dry Branch Fire Squad, Bluegrass Intentions and Due West. Bill has three instructional DVD projects available from AcuTab Publications and is one of the artists included in the Mel Bay book Banjo 2000. In addition to teaching at bluegrass and banjo camps all over the world, Bill co-hosts the annual NashCamp Banjo Retreat, held each fall in Cumberland Furnace, TN.

The sound recordings are quite good. Be aware, however, the purpose of the recordings is to provide an idea of how each song should sound, in case you're not inclined to count out songs the songs. The recordings go by quickly, with only the first verse of each song. The tablature is basic melody only and written in the first position. Consequently, some of the songs have tablature beginning in the first position with the higher notes on the high D string an the higher frets. This is the only reason I did not give this book 5 stars.Overall though, this is a quality book and worth the price, especially if you are unfamiliar with these old songs.

This collection is a great source for picking up a song on the fly or as a reference to recall music I haven't played in awhile. I was initially hesitant to buy this book because there were a few bad

reviews. Upon further investigation and giving the prospect some thought, this book is perfect for the banjo picker that wants to learn the music. It includes the melody lines, lyrics and melody line in tab form, but not the complete note by note tab you'd find in other banjo books. In my opinion, that is a big plus because as a banjo picker I want to improve my musical skills. Working through the melody lines with various rolls and riffs to find the best combination for ringing out the melody keeps me from becoming dependent on tablature. The CDs provide enough sound to figure out what rolls can bring out the melody. I'm glad to bought this book - it will probably be the only one I use/reference when I go to ABC next year.

My son is a starting bass player, studying in the orchestra at school. I wanted to play some tunes with him, but he had trouble working from a lead sheet. With this book, he has simple notated bass parts to work from. This has led to our being able to play together (along with his younger brother on drums), and we now have a regular hootenanny at our home! The bass parts are serviceable, and well within the grasp of a bassist who can read simple notation.

Nice to have a book for the bass player. It's a great beginner book, has some nice walks and gives a starter something to work with while playing in a group. Plus once you get comfortable with the songs you can add some extra spice to jazz it up.

If you want to learn a song and pick it out yourself then this book is good. It has notation and tab but is strictly the melody, no rolls, etc. I like it because I am trying to improve my ability to learn by ear and make up my own tabs in my mind. The melody notes help me to see the tune in it's simplest form. It also has 2 CD's that plays a short verse and chorus of the songs so you will know how it sounds if you don't know it. Recommended for those who want to make their own tab and play by ear.

Do not buy this book if you have any plans of playing with others. Few of the tunes are actually in the key that they are traditionally recorded or played in at jams. Sure you can transpose but at that point, you might as well just learn them by ear. This is just added weight on my bookshelf.

Quite a few good bluegrass tunes. However, the bass version does not provide much for any bassist other than a beginner. If you know how to play the 1st & 5th notes of the chord on beats 1 & 3, buy the guitar version

Songs are 20 to 30 seconds long and none really follow the actual sheet music in the book just improvised fiddling which is great for listening but not great as a learning tool. Also, several of the songs in the book are in different keys for different instruments.

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