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Complete Tenor Banjo Method (Complete Book Series)



Synopsis

The finest tenor banjo method available, this text represents Mel Bay's own approach to fundamental musicianship for those desiring to play tenor banjo. This book is the standard by which others are judged. Easy-to-understand and thorough in its approach, this method addresses both melody playing and chord strumming. Through numerous studies, folk songs and several duets, students are systematically introduced to the various notes and positions on the tenor banjo fretboard. Photos of the fretboard fingertips aid in learning the proper hand positions. Once in two volumes, this method is now presented in its entirety in this single comprehensive edition. In notation only.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mel Bay was born on February 25, 1913 in the little Ozark Mountain town of Bunker, Missouri. He bought a Sears Roebuck guitar at the age of 13 and several months later played his first "gig." (He recalled playing until his fingers were raw!) Mel took up the tenor banjo shortly thereafter and continued to play both instruments. During his teenage years Mel played with a wild assortment of bands and characters in rural Missouri. Perhaps no "gig" was as strange as the job he landed with, in Mel's words, "a snake oil salesman." This flamboyant peddler would pull his ostentatious Pierce Arrow automobile, complete with steer horns mounted on the grill, into the center of a small, rural town. Mel would sit on the car and play up a storm on the tenor banjo. After a crowd gathered, the

peddler took over and began extolling the merits of his "wonder elixer." In 1933 Mel Bay moved to St. Louis and began his professional career. He played with numerous local and traveling bands. In addition, he landed staff guitar jobs on several radio stations. Mel fronted his own trio (piano, bass, guitar) and played steadily for 25 years! He was equally adept on most fretted instruments and played mandolin, uke, Hawaiian guitar, tenor and plectrum banjo professionally. While Mel was actively pursuing his playing career, he continued to teach as many as 100 students a week. He decided to begin writing instructional materials due to the difficulty encountered by guitarists at playing good sounding chord forms in rhythm sections and due to the poor note reading ability prevalent among guitarists. After the war Mel was asked to write instructional materials on guitar for GI's wanting to learn music under the GI Bill. In 1947 Mel formed his own publishing company and wrote his landmark initial book titled The Orchestral Chord System for Guitar. (This book is still in print under the title Rhythm Guitar Chord System and continues to be one the finest rhythm guitar chord texts available!) His Modern Guitar Method was penned shortly thereafter. For years Mel traveled from town to town talking to guitar teachers and players and showing them his publications. At one time Mel claims to have known virtually every guitar teacher in America on a first name basis! The guitar and Mel Bay books caught on in a big way in the 1950's. Things have continued to grow ever since. Mel used to sell D'Angelico guitars. At any given time he would have 5 or 6 "lying around the house." Mel played professionally on his New Yorker model but his favorite was the initial Mel Bay Model crafted as a gift for him by John D'Angelico. This famous guitar had all of the main features of the New Yorker but was a "cut away" model and had a slightly thinner neck. This instrument has been pictured on the Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method for decades. Someone once calculated that sales of guitar books written by Mel Bay have exceeded 25 million copies. When asked, Mel frequently said that he quit counting long ago. Sales of his Modern Guitar Method have alone surpassed the 7 million mark. It is safe to say that Mel Bay is one of the pivotal figures in the world of guitar music and instruction in this century.

Tenor banjo methods are not easy to find, because the tenor banjo does not seem to have the popularity it did in, say, the 1920's. (Not to be confused with Irish Tenor Banjo, which is tuned differently). I inherited a 1928 tenor banjo in cherry condition when my father passed away. It seemed such a shame to have such a beautiful instrument, and not be doing anything with it. This Mel Bay method is perfect particularly for anyone who has some musical experience on another instrument. Published in 1968... so, no CD included, but this method takes you through basic chords as well as scales, both major and minor, in every key. It covers both tablature and chord shapes, as

well as some nomenclature that is specific to banjo playing. I would highly recommend this method for anyone who has a tenor banjo.

This is basically Mel Bay's Complete Mandolin Method, which I have. It does work out fine for TB, and Mandola, which is why I bought it

I didn't learn tenor, and I gave the book to the tenor owner. They love it. I am not a fan of Mel Bay Methods. But I am also not a classic learner.

Great book for an adult beginner. Although the earliest copyright is 1968, it has been around much longer...withstood the test of time...the best things usually do. My father used this method book in the 1950s. If you like your guitar and want to try something that always sounds happy, highly recommend a 4-string tenor banjo and Mel Bay's method books. This complete method book starts at the beginning with simple melodies and string introductions...then on through to much more advanced chord progressions and exercises. I also have (and recommend) Mel Bay's guitar and ukulele method books. Some come with CDs and DVDs. Have fun...happy strumming!!

good for learning basics but nothing fancy

I am an instructor of many instruments. One, of which, is a five string banjo. But I am expanding into the four string banjo which is really a hoot! The book is well written, just like all other Mel Bay products.

I'm playing my banjo tuned like an octave mandolin. This is a great book, but I decided to use a mandolin method, just so I'd be playing in the right keys. Actually, I'm using a combination of the two books. Works for me.

Mel Bay Tenor Banjo I and II combined. Working through this book with due diligence should give the practitioner a good fundamental knowledge of the Tenor Banjo. From there it's up to learner how far they wish to take it. Solid foundational instruction.

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