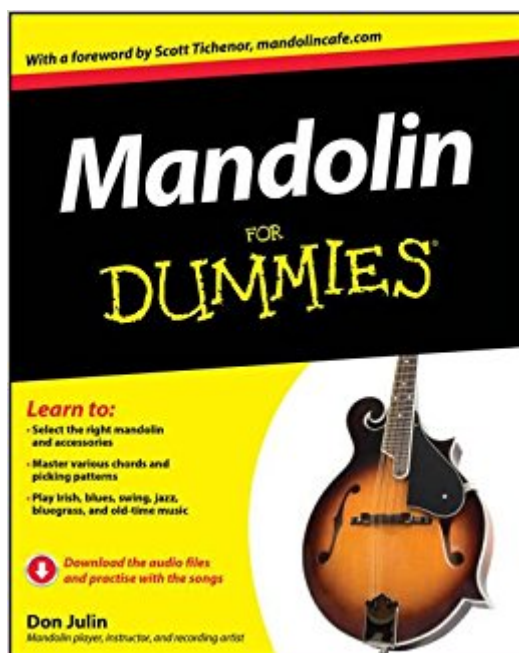


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# Mandolin For Dummies



## Synopsis

The fun and easy way to learn to play the mandolin The newest addition to the highly successful Dummies instrument-instruction line, *Mandolin For Dummies* gives you easy-to-follow, step-by-step instruction on learning to play the mandolin. Following the time-tested Dummies format, *Mandolin For Dummies* provides a level of content and instruction greater than anything currently available. *Mandolin For Dummies* breaks down the fundamentals of this instrument and provides the resources you need to practice and improve your ability over time. Packed with individualized instruction on key mandolin-friendly musical styles, including Irish and Celtic, "old time" American music, blues, bluegrass, swing, and jazz Files available via download provide audio tracks from the book and exercises so you can play along and build your skills -- almost 2 hours of music! Clear and useful photos and diagrams ensure you fret, strum, and pick with precision Includes a mandolin buying guide to help ensure you make the right purchases Tips on restringing mandolins and other DIY care and maintenance topics If you're an aspiring mandolin player, don't fret! *Mandolin For Dummies* has you covered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Learn to: Select the right mandolin and accessories Master various chords and picking patterns Play Irish, blues, swing, jazz, bluegrass, and old-time music Master the basics in no time and learn to play everything from blues and bluegrass to jazz and classical From Vivaldi to Bill Monroe, and Led Zeppelin to Nickel Creek, the mandolin has been enriching western music with its distinctive

voice for nearly three centuries. If you've been bitten by the mandolin bug and are ready to jump in with both feet, *Mandolin For Dummies* is your springboard. Been playing for a while and want to expand your repertoire of styles? No problem: Don Julin will fill you in on how to play all popular styles, including old-time, Irish, blues, bluegrass, swing, and jazz; plus a bit of Dawg music. Newcomers and old hands alike will enjoy the mandolin trivia and history liberally sprinkled throughout the book. Get acquainted; buy the best mandolin in your price range and discover how to tune and care for your new best friend Nail down your mandolin ABCs; get up and running right away with mandolin basics, including counting, tablature, chord diagrams, and more Start making beautiful music immediately; right from the start, you'll be playing basic chord patterns, backup rhythms, and simple melodies Quickly master right- and left-hand essentials; before you know it, you'll be picking and strumming, and playing open and closed fingering and articulations like a pro Get the hang of a multitude of styles; Celtic and old-time music, bluegrass and jazz; you'll get to grips with the defining techniques of the most popular styles of playing Open the book and find: A mandolin buying guide Instructions on changing strings, repairing your mandolin, and keeping it in top form How to build an accessories kit The basics of mandolin playing Left- and right-hand techniques to spice up any melody How to play many different styles of mandolin Tips for improving your playing The lowdown on the greatest mandolin players of all time

Don Julin is a professional mandolin player, instructor, and recording artist. Don has spent the last 30 years challenging the boundaries of the mandolin and developing a reputation for being one of the most eclectic mandolin players on the scene today.

I have just started working my way through this book and it is wonderful. (My musical background includes 3 years of piano, 11 years of clarinet, 1 year of bagpipes, 1 year of ukulele). The author makes the material accessible for complete music beginners, but also manages to move things along at a pace suitable for those who know more about music theory and notation. The audio recordings on the website are very useful, too. I am fairly new to the mandolin and still have a LOT of learning and practicing to do. Pairing this with the *Mandolin Exercises for Dummies* book is probably the best way to do it-- this text gives both technical details and examples to practice from, while the other book provides more practice materials for you to work with.

I have to agree with StevieK on the book size. I have some other For Dummies books, most have

larger type and clearer pictures for the page size. The paper is also darker, like it was printed on recycled newspaper stock. This might do alright if you're young and have good vision, but when (like me) you're in your mid-50's and find it a struggle even with good light and glasses, it's a bit off-putting. That said, the contents are awfully good, and there's a lot to learn and listen to in the book and downloadable sound files. Nothing worth criticizing about the read, and it's full of good instruction and advice. Just wish two things: larger type on whiter paper, and that a CD had been included. Would give 5 stars purely for the content, but I have to take away a half star each for the two quibbles. Sorry Don, you wrote a great book, but trying to read it is making me blinder than I already am.

This is the best mandolin book ever written. It starts right at the beginning and moves forwards to other styles, influences from other countries and players. It gives us tunes, chords, rhythms, different techniques, some theory about different modes all written in a step by step logical way, that is interesting and sometimes funny and, unlike some music books very easy to read. It talks about purchasing and caring for your instrument. The thing I really like is the tracks that are built into the book for kindle users. They are so valuable for practice and you can listen to them while you read. I love my mandolin with a passion and found it so easy to play. This book has given me the materials to advance what I am doing. Don I know you will read this so I want to ask you for more. I've got your exercise book but really would like some songs to sing to, perhaps from popular artist with some of their history. All with built in kindle tracks. I'll keep my eye open for that. Let me know when you have written it. Fiona@centurylink.net. Also Don Thank you. Now I'm off to practice. Fiona

After I had been playing mandolin for a little over a year, I had bought a number of mandolin "how to" texts. I was looking for something beyond the basic beginner level to push me to that next step, but that was not too difficult. At the same time, I had been watching mandolin Youtube videos, and had discovered several videos by a guy named Don Julin. I liked Don's online lessons so much that I contacted him directly to buy his introductory mandolin primer, and wrote him an email suggesting I thought it would be great if he were to write a follow-up book at an intermediate level. This book appeared a few months later, and it is the book I was looking for. In my opinion, Mandolin for Dummies simply is the best overall instruction book for mandolin available today. It goes beyond the beginner level to provide a general introduction to numerous styles of mandolin playing. I love that it is not just one more bluegrass book, but introduces the player to ragtime, jazz, Irish, Brazilian, and Dawg music as well. Chapter 7 on playing "Jethro Burns"-style 3 finger chords takes the mystery

(and the misery) out of learning a gazillion different chord shapes. There is also great material on rhythm, theory, scales, right hand techniques like tremolo, advice on mandolin purchase and care, etc. This is just a great book at a great price. At almost 400 pages, I have been working through it for several months now, and have still not made it to the end. Two bits of practical advice: If you're a complete novice to the mandolin, you might want to start with a very basic primer first. If you can get hold of it, I think that Don Julin's Mandolin Method Book 1 would be a great book to work through before beginning this book. This no longer seems available on Don's website, so perhaps he no longer sells it, but there are others. Like all Dummies books, this book has a perfect binding, which is not ideal for reading and playing simultaneously. I used a blow dryer on the spine to melt the glue, removed the cover, used a 3 hole punch on the pages, and put the text in a 3 ring binder. The results are not pretty, but make for easier playing. Thank you, Don Julin. I await eagerly your next book -- something along the lines of Mandolin Old Time, Ragtime, and Jazz Improvization would be great!

Julin is witty and gives very clear, concise instructions. This was a great book for both honing my (meager) skills and for helping me teach my husband the basics. My only problem was that I purchased the kindle version (enhanced edition) that I thought was supposed to have the tracks embedded in it, but I had to download them. The instructions on how to do this were very clear and noted in the table of contents, so it was really not a problem. I'm not sure if that was an boo-boo or simply my misconception, or what, but it was easily remedied, and only slowed me down a little bit, as I live in the boonies and have horrible internet service, so I had to go to town hunting for free WiFi to download the tracks. (So I was forced to go drink coffee and eat scones! NOT A PROBLEM after all!)

The book seems to be well laid out, considering, and most of the information is current. I did not see any place that indicated I was ordering the British version of the book with prices in pounds, UK Web addresses, and typical Island spellings. Yes, US equivalents are provided, screwing up the flow of the book. Reminds me of the time I ordered a system administrator book and they sent me volume one of the two volume version Hey, the main title was the same. I am too picky.

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