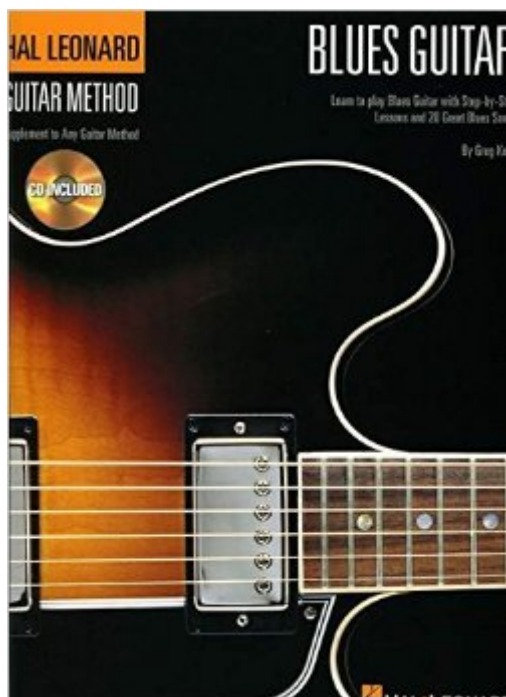


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Hal Leonard Guitar Method - Blues Guitar



Synopsis

(Guitar Method). The Hal Leonard Blues Guitar Method is your complete guide to learning blues guitar. This book uses real blues songs no corny arrangements of nursery rhymes here! (well, except "Mary Had a Little Lamb," but this is NOT the version you learned in kindergarten!) to teach you the basics of rhythm and lead blues guitar in the style of B.B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters, and many others. Lessons include: 12-bar blues; chords, scales and licks; vibrato and string bending; riffs, turnarounds, and boogie patterns; hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides; standard notation and tablature; and much more! Songs include: Boom Boom * Born Under a Bad Sign * Double Trouble * Killing Floor * Sweet Home Chicago * You Shook Me * and more. The online audio includes over 70 tracks for demo and play-along, and is available using the unique code printed inside each book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is much better than I even hoped it would be. It covers blues playing basics, puts them into real music, and has a nice progression in terms of difficulty and integrating elements. By the time you're though it, you'll have covered blues usage of techniques, the most common blues scales, common riffs, and typical riffs by a range of players from Robert Johnson to Howlin' Wolf to BB King to Stevie Ray Vaughan. The CD is essential - it's one thing to understand a concept, get fingering, etc. It's another entirely to hear a riff or a tune, and you'll find that you have to work

beyond the mechanics to duplicate the sound you hear. Speaking of real music, someone obviously had a sense of humor in putting this one together. Poking fun at the kind of tunes usually included in instructional books, they included "Mary Had a Little Lamb". But in this case, it's Stevie Ray Vaughan's version! The only thing I would pick over is that it would have been helpful for the publisher to have included a player tool with the CD rather than leave things to whatever default player you have set up on your computer. I have other instructional CDs that include tools, for example, that let you slow down or speed up the track you're playing, which really helps when learning something new. Be aware that this book is available in two physical sizes. I bought the small format book before I was aware that the larger version exists, and at the same price.

...but some sections seemed unnecessary and/or so poorly covered (e.g. blues & major scales, styles of the 3 Kings) to the point of being useless. I also found some of the recommended chord shapes problematic (making some tracks unapproachable). Good bits for me, were things like: a really good, simplified version of the SRV classic Mary Had a Little Lamb (blues style) and You Shook Me -- challenging, doable & they feel and sound good. Some other later songs seem either over simplified (e.g. Look at Little Sister and I'm Tore Down) & dull or overly difficult (e.g. Stormy Monday blues). The Harmonized Shuffle Patterns was something new & interesting. Overall a 3 or 4 out of 5. Its low cost and simplicity help offset some of its shortcomings. While certainly not a comprehensive or lush book on the blues it is not intimidating and is one to help you on the way. I prefer some other similar books in this genre but none is perfect and this one is probably worth working through.

I just purchased this book recently, and am not disappointed. The exercises in it are very good for getting a feel for Blues. One caveat: this book is probably not for the absolute beginner who is just picking up a guitar for the first time, as it does assume at least some basic knowledge. However, I'm not much more than a beginner myself, and have found this book to be quite helpful. One other caveat: this book is a fairly small format and the exercises might be difficult for some people to read without squinting. I think that there may be a larger format available. I actually like the small size, as the book fits easily into my guitar case. The CD is also nice, to be able to hear and/or play along with recordings of each exercise in the book (I also set some of the tracks for "repeat" and use them as jam tracks to practice my soloing with). Bottom line: A good little book, and worth the price.

I enjoyed the content of the book but as others have pointed out the size of the print makes this a

no-go as far as recommending it. It's painful to use. Whomever made the decision at Hal Leonard to print this book (or any book with tab in it) at this size should be fired on the spot. I want my money back.

Re print format I did check out the "large" format from the library first, then purchased this. Overall I think this format is better, but on some of the denser charts you may want to scan & enlarge for best legibility. The book goes over some basics but you need to have mastered beginning guitar to get the most from this book. E.g. the first track after tuning notes is way beyond beginner level of chord change tempo, and it helps greatly to already know how to read music and/or tabulature. The tracks are fun to play with and well recorded and add a lot to the value of the package. If you get through the entire book, having "nailed" each exercise, you will in fact be "able" to go on to do more blues playing with considerably improved aptitude and awareness of various techniques and styles within the blues genres.

This is a very solid book on basic blues rhythm playing and a nice introduction to blues lead playing. I wouldn't recommend this book to someone who has never held a guitar and is trying to self teach. But if you aren't an absolute beginner this book will get you through the basics of the structure and feel of blues guitar. As an instructor this is a great book that can be used almost right from the very start after teaching just a few basic open chords.

I loved the Hal Leonard Guitar Books 1-3 but this book is so poorly printed I had to return it. The book itself is sized quite small with microscopic text making it nearly impossible to read and play at the same time. Also the binding is so poorly done that most pages are cut off on one side as the book doesn't open all the way to see the full page. Really disappointed.

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