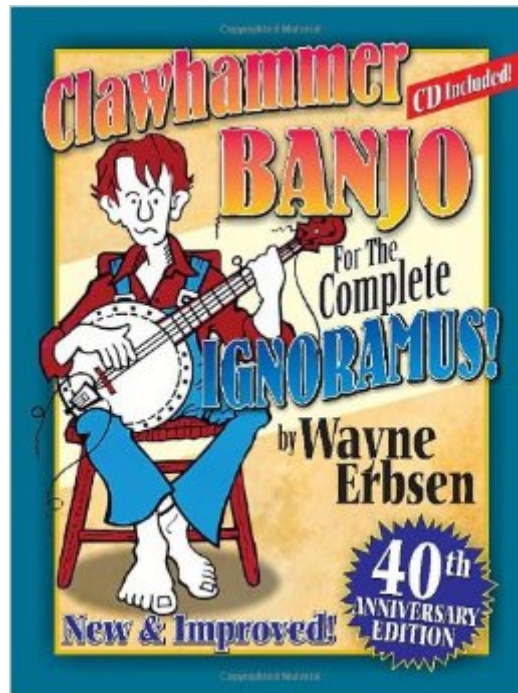


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# Clawhammer Banjo For The Complete Ignoramus 40th Anniversary Edition Book W/ CD



## Synopsis

Finally, clawhammer banjo instruction that is for 100% beginners! Originally written in 1973, this book has taught more people to play clawhammer banjo than any other book. This brand new 40th Anniversary Edition is newly updated and improved, complete with spiral binding. It contains the same friendly, clear and simple instruction as the original book, and it will teach you to play 31 old-time classics from the ground up. You will learn to play: Buffalo Gals, Cluck Old Hen, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Cripple Creek, The Cuckoo, Cumberland Mountain Deer Chase, Darlin' Cory, Down in the Willow Gardens, East Virginia, Groundhog, Handsome Molly, Little Birdie, Little Sadie, Lynchburg Town, Muley's Daughter, New River Train, Old Holly Hare, Old Blue, Old Joe Clark, Polly Put the Kettle On, Poor Wayfaring Stranger, Rain and Snow, Red Rocking Chair, Shady Grove, Shortening Bread, Sugar Hill, Swannanoa Tunnel, Sweet Sunny South, Wild Bill Jones.

## Book Information

Series: For the Complete Ignoramus!

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (71 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos](#) #56 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Guitar](#) #340 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Instruction & Study](#)

## Customer Reviews

Nothing beats sitting knee to knee with another person to learn an instrument but this book is a good substitute. I've been playing Clawhammer banjo for a few years and am more of an intermediate to advanced player, and even know this book is officially for beginners, I found this book to be very helpful in honing my techniques, seeing new techniques and learning additional songs. I especially like the fact that the lyrics for the songs is included, most books and DVD's on clawhammer banjo exclude the lyrics. I would recommend the book to anyone who plays or wants

to learn clawhammer banjo.

OK, I'll admit it. I'm a Wayne Erbsen fan. He's unknowingly (through his books/cd's) shown me the basics of banjo and mandolin and got me started down that path I've been on with guitar/bass/drums for decades. For the money, it'd be hard to find a better beginner/middle book/cd to learn with. He's also wrote several books on various subjects that are fun to read. I love bluegrass but wanted to learn an earlier style like Stringbean and Grandpa Jones used, and this book put me on the right path to do it. Like anything else, the more you practice the better you'll get and I picked up the style fairly quick by spending 30 minutes or so a day on the technique. I usually practice several different instruments and just fit this into my routine. Wayne's bread and butter is geared for beginner/middle players and he's good at what he does. BTW, if you're around Asheville, NC he also offers lessons in person for mandolin, banjo, guitar and fiddle which I believe are geared toward the total beginner.

Enhanced with an accompanying CD, Clawhammer Banjo For The Complete Ignoramus! is a basic introduction to the clawhammer banjo by Wayne Erbsen -- president of Native Ground Music and an acclaimed banjo picker in his own right! Filled with sample songs to practice by, tips, hints, and clues, advice for either cultivating "picking nails" or buying artificial nails if that is impossible, basic techniques such as different means of tuning and how to use a capo, and much more, Clawhammer Banjo For The Complete Ignoramus! is easy to use and a superb supplement, especially for the self-taught beginner.

I played electric bass for years, mainly classic rock and some jazz. After seeing the neighbors band playing old time music I decided that I could do that too. I ordered a deering goodtime banjo from and found it to be painfully more difficult to play than I had expected. I went to the local music store to buy more strings and the gentleman there, seeing I was new to the banjo decided to explain the finer points of playing the banjo. He went on to describe the various "rolls" I would need to learn. I explained that I was not playing bluegrass but rather I was interested in playing clawhammer style. He just sorta gave me a blank stare for a moment as if I were speaking some other language and then went on with his lecture about rolls. Clawhammer style is just not as common as bluegrass and consequently there seems to be fewer resources for those wanting to learn clawhammer. After a couple of days with my new banjo I had about given up and decided that the clawhammer banjo was a mysterious instrument that can only be played by a chosen few. After getting the ignoramus

book I quickly began figuring the instrument out. Soon I was playing cripple creek, old molly hare and some of the other tunes in the book. This book is great if you're a complete novice because it assumes you've never picked up a banjo before and guides you through the whole process of tuning your banjo, explaining the parts of the banjo and getting you started playing the clawhammer lick as he calls it. The tabulature in the book is great too because the tunes are fairly familiar ones yet very very easy versions of them. My only other suggestion to potential buyers would be that you go to youtube and search for "banjo bum ditty". There's a lesson on playing the bum ditty that will help you along.

OH MAN! This was absolutely fun and painless, and the perfect gradient with the perfect songs (and a cd) for picking up the clawhammer banjo! (I got this in conjunction with Dan Levenson's book, (Clawhammer from Scratch - for the clawless) (see my review - it made me a player!) Wayne's book worked along perfectly! The tab (should you actually learn it - it's totally simple when presented right!) And it was presented right - one line, simple notation, no complexity - and several songs in each tuning category - all standards at just about any jams, - they are known - The CD in it's clarity is perfect, and delightfully playable with - If Clawhammer has been bugging you, get this book - it's a rumpitious feast - and breaks it all down - ( if you WANT to play a bum ditty strum, you get it naturally, because the tunes presented are so engaging that you are greedy about playing - (and Dan's exercises from clawless) are the perfect gradient - This is a winner, and what I coach and teach out of - Do yourself a hoedown dance and get this book if you are new, total beginner, or somehow still disillusioned from other books - It will turn you into a banjo addict, facile with all tunings, and give you a real beginner but respected rep to take to the porch, or to jams -

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