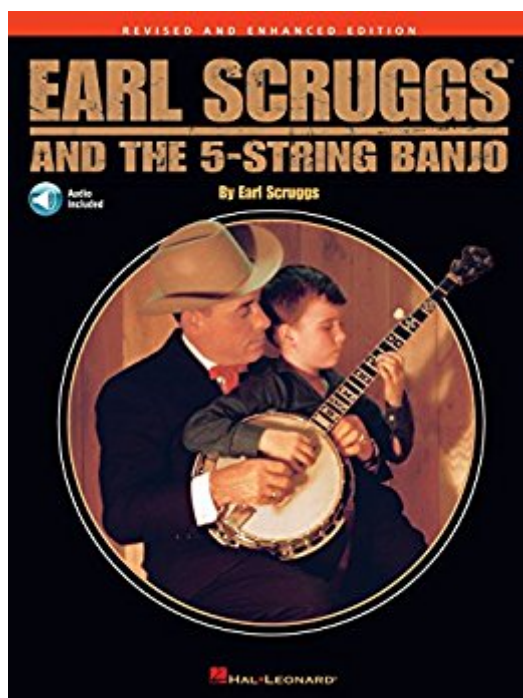


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# Earl Scruggs And The 5-String Banjo: Revised And Enhanced Edition



## Synopsis

(Banjo). The best-selling banjo method in the world! Earl Scruggs's legendary method has helped thousands of banjo players get their start. The "Revised and Enhanced Edition" features more songs, updated lessons, and many other improvements. It includes everything you need to know to start playing banjo, including: a history of the 5-string banjo, getting acquainted with the banjo, Scruggs tuners, how to read music, chords, how to read tablature, right-hand rolls and left-hand techniques, banjo tunings, exercises in picking, over 40 songs, how to build a banjo, autobiographical notes, and much more! Includes audio of Earl Scruggs playing and explaining over 60 examples!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book around 1969 as I recall my first banjo had a goat skin head on it . My mom said if I really wanted to play the banjo I had to take lessons. So I set up to take lessons for some reason I had to cancel the first lesson so the teacher said he didn't have time for me. that's when I bought the Earl Scruggs book and taught myself. Learned Cripple Creek first. but Foggy Mountain Breakdown was what I really wanted to learn after seeing Bonnie & Clyde in 1967. In the late 70s while in the

army I bought a new Gibson Mastertone for about 800 bucks its in like new condition now

I am a beginning banjo player and advanced guitar player. This book has given me a lot of great information. I did move pretty quickly through the book, but there are plenty of more advanced licks and tons of songs that will keep me using it for quite a while. The book starts off nicely. It's good to just read and get some background on Scruggs and the workings of the banjo. You probably want to get it before you buy your first banjo, so you don't just start into the exercises. Again the exercises are good. There is notation for which fingers to pluck the strings with, which was very helpful for me since I have never used finger picks. The CD is helpful for listening to the way you should sound when you get the exercises down. He does to play a bit quickly from time to time, but when you're starting out you'll probably want to play along with a slower setting on a metronome instead of the CD. There are a lot of good songs in here. The only minor complaint is that there isn't a lot about backup playing and a lot of the information is for soloing. That said, there is information on backup playing. I just wish there were a bit more about weaving melody lines into the chord playing for backup. I'll definitely keep this book around for a while.

Looks like this will be a great book to learn with. Be warned, however, that if you have the original Kindle fire or computer that is not ios, you will not be able to access the audio. I didn't notice the disclaimer until I had already purchased the book and went back to make sure I had read correctly that it was included.

Every banjo picker born after 1940, and every fan, student or performer of bluegrass music owes Earl Scruggs (1924 - 2012) an outstanding debt. Few musicians have ever accomplished for their particular instrument what Scruggs did for the 5-string banjo. He developed an extraordinary playing style from a suite of syncopated rhythmic devices that plucked virtue from the instrument's acoustic limitations, firmly established the banjo's role in the bluegrass ensemble, and revitalized the popularity of the instrument, in eclipse since the advent of swing music and electronic amplification in the early 1930s. Principal in his legacy is the instructional work "Earl Scruggs and the 5-String Banjo". Written in collaboration with Dr. Burt Brent (who wanted to expose the "anatomy" of Scruggs style) and Warren Kennison, Jr. (who transcribed the songs and exercises into tablature), the book was originally published in 1968 by Peer International Corporation and revised in 2005. The Hal-Leonard edition includes an audio CD of 60 lessons presented by Earl himself. In addition to practical lessons for playing the banjo, the book includes a treasury of autobiographical anecdotes,

a recapitulation of Scruggs' career and valuable information about the instrument itself from "Getting Acquainted With Your Banjo" to "How to Build a Banjo". There are detailed instructions for maintenance and repair, as well as intricate descriptions of optional banjo hardware, such as Scruggs tuners, capos and 5th string hooks. Louise Scruggs (Earl's wife) contributes a "Brief History of the 5-String Banjo". There are lucid, well-illustrated chapters on the elements of musical structure, chords, inversions, tunings, and tablature. And there is of course a "Song Section" featuring the rudiments of 44 tunes recorded by Scruggs that Earl invites us to "try playing". The heartbeat of the workbook is "Exercises in Picking", a 32-page section, supported by the audio CD, that provides as fine a starting point for the fledgling player as there is to be found anywhere. Atop each final measure in the practice exercises rides the laconic direction "Play many times" where the word "many" represents a value lying somewhere between 100 and 1,000,000. Earl's music is pervasive. You may not recall when you first heard it - perhaps it was "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" from "The Beverly Hillbillies" or "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" in "Bonnie and Clyde" - but you have Scruggs licks dancing in your head, as do we all. In his 2004 liner notes for the album "The Essential Earl Scruggs", Bela Fleck writes, "He creates the impression of a nonstop cascade of notes... His playing is so technically advanced, still you can hear the mud and dirt, wood and metal, flesh and bone... We're all still trying to sound like Earl." From his debut on Nashville's "Grand Ole Opry" program in 1945 until his last days, this plainspoken genius from the Appalachian foothills of North Carolina never stopped amazing the musical world. With the aid of "Earl Scruggs and the 5-String Banjo", future musicians will forever be able to locate bluegrass at its roots to cultivate their own artistry.

Did anyone ever mention the Lawrence Welk style of Big Band music? No. Did anyone ever mention Elvis Presley's method of music delivery as the Elvis method? No. However, contained within the pages of this book is the essence of the "Scruggs Style" of playing the 5-string banjo. Granted, this book gets a little deep in certain areas, but if you follow Earl's advice and practice, practice and practice, it will eventually all come together. When it comes down to the 5-string banjo and bluegrass, are you ever going to question the man's method of how he became the legend that he is? Certain sections of this book cover a bit of history which I found extremely interesting. No, Earl's wife Louise was not sitting in a rocker knitting her golden years away. She was very much an integral part of Earl's career from the start and was instrumental in making Earl a success. This book is great instruction and an enjoyable read. If, at some points, Earl seems to scramble your mind a bit, put the book aside and come back to it later. Computer geeks seem to have a low tolerance level for non-geeks. If we were to call Earl Scruggs the banjo geek, all I can

say is that he exhibits a heck of a lot more patience than any computer programmer I've come across. This book, complete with CD, is well worth the price. I'll keep it, along with my 5-string, as long as my ticker keeps ticking and my fingers keep pickin' CCM

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