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# Blues Banjo: Lessons, Licks, Riffs, Songs & More



## Synopsis

(Banjo). Best-selling author Fred Sokolow teaches you how to play blues on the banjo with this instructional book and audio pack! You'll learn: how to play the blues in several banjo tunings; how to play in the styles of blues greats like Mississippi John Hurt, Lightnin' Hopkins, B.B. King, Skip James, and many more; licks, scales, chords, turnarounds and boogie backup; several approaches to soloing; how to ad lib blues licks and solos in any key; how to play the blues up and down the neck; and more. Includes these classic blues tunes: Ain't Nobody's Business \* Careless Love \* Frankie and Johnny \* John Henry \* The Midnight Special \* Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out \* See See Rider \* St. James Infirmary Blues \* St. Louis Blues \* and more. Also includes chord grids, standard notation and tablature, audio tracks for all the songs, licks and exercises in the book, with banjo and vocals. The price of this book includes access to audio tracks online for download or streaming using the unique code inside the book! Online audio is accessed at [halleonard.com/mylibrary](http://halleonard.com/mylibrary)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Most of the populace is unaware of the banjo's history with the blues. Bluegrass? Beyond a doubt. Country? Certainly. Folk. Fine. But, the blues? Every time I have told people that I wanted to learn the blues on the banjo, I have been met with mockery, derision, and disbelief. If you have similar desires, if you want to explore the range of this instrument beyond the common, or if you love the blues and want to learn it on a new instrument, you should consider this book. Fred Sokolow starts

with basics, but he does seem to assume that the person using this book is not a total beginner. This is fine for me, since I would classify myself as intermediate, but it is something that the potential buyer should know. The first lesson involved playing some chords, and he does not actually show the fingering until a page or two later. Also, you should know how to read tablature, and should be aware that blues banjo is neither clawhammer, nor Scruggs style, but instead uses the thumb, index, middle, and ring fingers to pluck the strings. Anyway to continue, Sokolo begins with some basic rhythm strumming to the 12 bar and 8 bar blues. The I, IV, V chord progression. A basic minor blues scale. He writes is examples in both standard notation & tablature. And best of all, the book comes with a code to allow the user to either listen to his examples online or to download them! This last quality is immensely useful. While I still use CDs for listening in my car, I find that the use of downloadable files &/or cloud storage to be better for my current needs when practicing. Furthermore, this book promises to teach me what his previous banjo blues book (Ragtime, Jazz, & Blues for Banjo) did not ... how to play my own licks and riffs and to improvise! The previous book gives a nice selection of music to learn from those styles, but what I really wanted to know what how to play along, not just build my repertoire. (Mind you, the aforementioned book is very good. I highly recommend it.) I have only had this book for about a week, but I already find myself in love. Thank you, Mr. Sokolow! Long may you play, and please keep these books coming!

Sokolow is a productive musician and writer. He's written so many instructionals on so many musical topics I was somewhat leery about buying this, assuming it might have been dashed off. But instead, now that I've lived with Blues Banjo for some time, I'm grateful for the effort that went into making this book. It does a masterful job of introducing classic blues riffs and licks, as well as using accessible blues songs that walk a student through increasingly complicated examples. The recorded samples that come with the book are essential--I know they've helped me affirm beat, speed and emphasis. So I have nothing but praise for this dude. He knows what he teaches, and his efforts to illuminate blues playing on a 5-string banjo pay off nicely. My only complaint? Fred, if you're listening, it's time for a "Blues Banjo II" book!

Good book. I would have liked it better with a CD I could play in my car & CD player instead of computer access. I would gladly payed more is the Price had to be higher

something I need to do.... I haven't sat down with my banjo yet to learn it.

Excellent teaching method - I hope to improve on the instrument enough to take full advantage. Still struggling through it as a beginner.

lots of good info.

I purchased (and subsequently returned) the Kindle version. The audio files DO NOT WORK with Kindle for PC and the images are very small. I tried this again with my Kindle for Android, and again the audio files did not work and the size was very small. Perhaps it will work for an Apple device, but it is very disappointing.

This is a great resource for learning the blues in regards to the banjo. A person will learn how to get down with it.

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