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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!

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