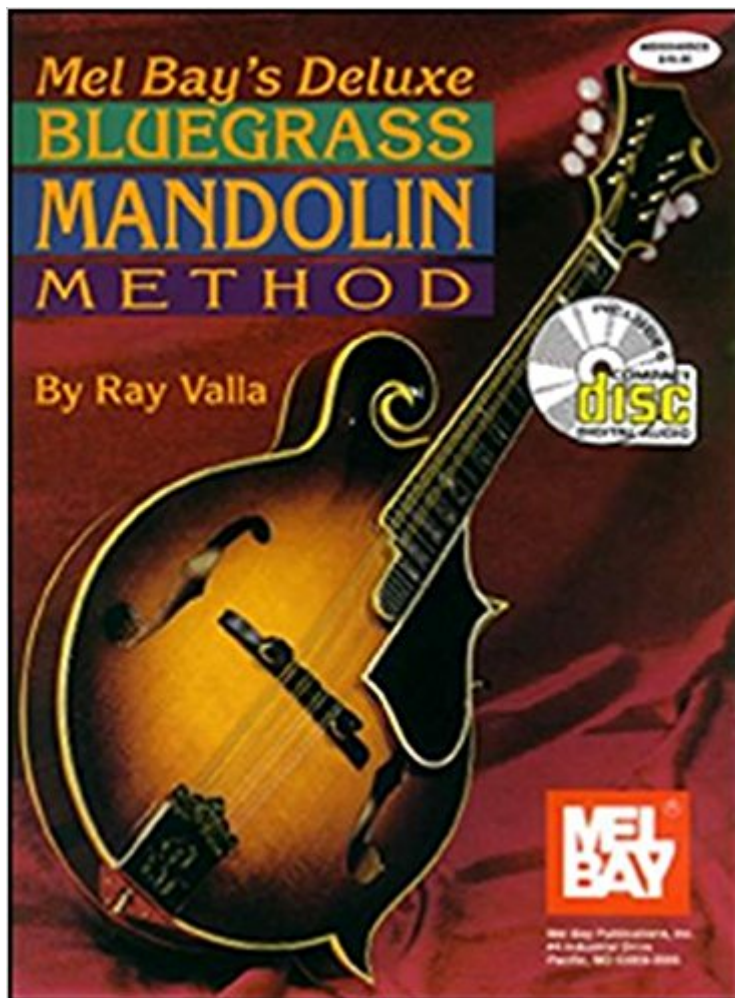


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# Deluxe Bluegrass Mandolin Method



## Synopsis

In this book, Ray Valla shares the insights of a veteran bluegrass mandolinist. This method would best be appreciated by a student with some previous musical experience, as fundamentals of note-reading on the mandolin are not addressed. This is, however, the ideal book for the intermediate to advanced player. It is filled with practical hints to improve your general musicianship and increase the speed of your progress. For example, Ray suggests learning a new tune by mastering its individual licks before attempting to assemble the whole. The book's 27 well-known bluegrass tunes are shown in standard notation and tablature with arrows indicating picking direction. Illustrated with photographs, charts and diagrams.

## Book Information

Sheet music: 72 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

The first time I saw this book was 25 years ago, when I was still learning how to play the mandolin. I liked the fact that it had very nice and sometimes unique arrangements of some of the standard Bluegrass/Old Time tunes, printed in large, easy-to-see type, with tabulature, as well as some info about mandolins and music theory. I memorized many of the tunes, and when I played them at jams and gigs, they often stood out as being more jazzy or bluesy arrangements of the old standards. Then, 5 years ago, I gave my old copy to one of my former students, who -- alas -- had landed in prison and wanted to play the mando there to pass the time. Later, I was dismayed that I couldn't find another copy of the book. So, imagine my delight at discovering recently that it had been reprinted with a new cover! Now my new students will be able to enjoy it too.... Check out the "June

Apple" and Ragtime Annie."

This is a great book for individuals new to the mandolin who'd like to jump right in and learn some bluegrass instrumentals. The arrangements are challenging enough to keep most players interest but not too difficult to discourage those just starting out. The book is written with both tablature and standard notation and the larger print adds to its user friendly format. A CD is now available and his highly recommended so the student can actually hear the tunes played at a performance tempo. The book covers some music theory principles as applied to the mandolin. I highly recommend this book.

I think this book has been out for a number of years so isn't as advanced as the Sam Bush one which is also very good. Also there's the Chris Thile tutorial, on DVD, and a great book with 2 cds by Butch Baldassari on Homespun called 30 Fiddle Tunes for the Mandolin. Along with that book this one by Ray Valla is the one I'd start out with. The tunes are all in much the same style which sort of incorporates both the melody and the rhythm together, and does so quite effectively. I was surprised because when I bought my first mandolin a few years back I bought this book partly because they had it at the music store where I got the mandolin. I say surprised because I was immediatly able to really start picking tunes with it and still use it now. There's also a good video (on DVD now I'd imagine) by Norman Blake (Homespun) with some nice old time tunes that you won't find anywhere else. Anyway, the Ray Valla book and cd, a somewhat chance buy at the time but a real winner.

This book was published in 1974. It starts basically with finger and scale exercises, then it gets straight into old bluegrass standard tunes based around different scales as it goes. It also touches on rythm and chord techniques. The CD (included) is a very handy addition to the book, as it lets you hear the application to the techniques. A good book for intermediate players interested in bluegrass.

The songs and studies are fair, but I'm not sure how this is a method. It's not like it systematically teaches you anything bluegrass music or how to improvise it. Be warned that the book assumes you know quite a lot about the mandolin already: the learning curve is quite steep. A book for intermediate players.

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