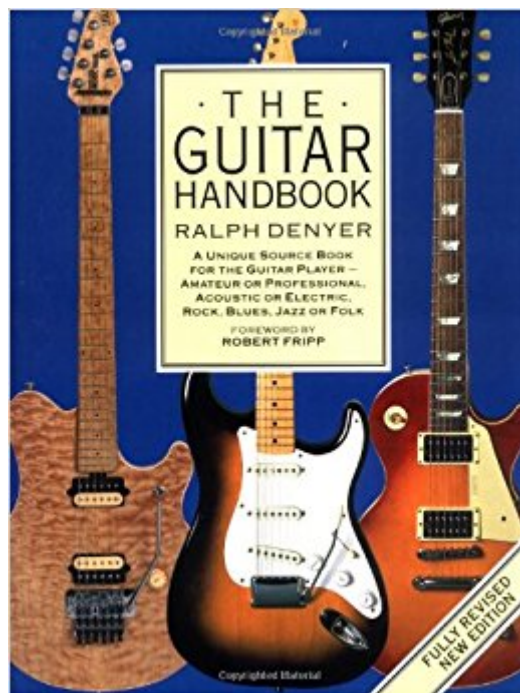


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The Guitar Handbook: A Unique Source Book For The Guitar Player - Amateur Or Professional, Acoustic Or Electric, Rock, Blues, Jazz, Or Folk



Synopsis

The most comprehensive resource available for beginning and experienced guitarists alike, whether acoustic or electric. Completely redesigned and with many more full-color photos than the original, this new edition surveys recent models and profiles current masters, includes an expanded lesson section, and encompasses 10 years of technological change in recording and amplification.

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Customer Reviews

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RALPH DENYER was a vocalist and guitarist for Blonde on Blonde, a psychedelic rock band that formed in Newport, South Wales in 1967. The group disbanded in 1972.

The best book on guitar basics I've ever had. I got this book 30 years ago and it has been my first resource for anything guitar for three decades. When I lost this book, I immediately ordered another. I would hate to be without it. It covers the basics of guitar construction, history, chords, scales, recording and more. It is a solid starting point for almost any question one might have about guitar, from playing to repairing, from tradition to modernity. Great book.

I took up guitar playing back in India in the 80's and taught myself how to play using this book, then life took its course and brought me to the US and I quit playing till last month. I picked up this book again (photocopies of most sections as it was not available except in the library in my hometown) and started playing again. The book is timeless and covers scales, triads and chords systematically by building the right theoretical underpinnings allowing one to play melody and rhythm while having a solid understanding of how to compose for the guitar. It covers tremendous ground that I have not found in any other book since encountering it in terms of playing guitar. If you want to learn guitar from the very basics to the most advanced concepts in order to play your own music, buy this book! You will not regret it! I am buying this book today at long last!

This book is written in a style that is pleasant to read and easy to understand. I haven't read it completely yet, but so far so good. I've learned a lot of useful things. There're some books you buy and they just sit on the shelf collecting dust like "The Jazz Theory Book" which I just couldn't get into because it was too heavy and overwhelming for my music education or rather lack of it. I'm not saying it's a bad book but just that you need to be ready for it. Now this Guitar Handbook right here, it doesn't expect you to have a particular level of musical education. All you need is to enjoy playing guitar and have the desire to improve your playing. You sort of pick it up and read it and learn new things when you have the time. Or when you want to know something you go through this book and likely to find it. Author explains things adequately and concisely. It starts with some history about the guitarists we all know and love, but it's not about things like what so and so likes to eat for breakfast.. but rather useful things such as where the artist is coming from (musically) citing their inspirations, playing styles and types of guitars they've used. This is useful info, because it gives you ideas about your own styles and musical directions. After that there is a section on what makes up the guitar, its parts and their functions. Also very useful for several reasons such as knowing the guitar you already own, maybe changing certain things to improve the sound. As well as giving you an idea of what to go for on your next guitar. Then goes the section on playing the guitar. This is the main part of the book and it tells you How to play the instrument. It explains the notes, various chords, their relationship. All this with nice diagrams and pictures of how to press the strings etc. You then learn about the actual notes on the staff, time signatures and all the technical things associated with that business. Then you learn The scales, major/minor/etc. It gets even more technical after that. Then there's a section on guitar electronics/effects/amps etc. Also introduces the reader to microphones, recording, mixing. Nice overview. The book ends with a Chord Dictionary

(diagram of a chord with finger positions)Some of the portions of this book are clearly designed to be studied like the part where you learn to actually play the guitar, and understand how the notes and chords work. Yet other portions are more for reference purposes, such as where the guitar's physical design and electronics are explained. This book has proven useful to me and I enjoy reading it -- so 5 stars! Another book I recommend is "The Mixing Engineer's Handbook". Although it has nothing to do with guitar-playing, it's also a great book and a must, if you are going to record.

What makes this book great is that it is an "Instant Reference" type book. You can go right to a subject, Read a paragraph or two. And get the information that you most likely are looking for. If not, then keep reading. I have the original edition of this book. And my friends rave about it. Not only does it cover the history of some great players at the beginning. But it goes into simple explanations of complex musical theory (a subject most non-music reading musicians don't want to tackle). But that is where this book excels. It doesn't bog you down with heavy theory. Instead it gives you a few paragraphs of explanation. And then leaves you with the option of learning more. This is a Must Have Book on any serious guitarist bookshelf.

Before you purchase, be sure you know which edition you are ordering. The original (pub. 1982) is invaluable, but the revised edition (pub. 1992) is even better. The covers pictured do not assure which edition you are ordering. You must check the ISBN. The book provides the technical application for all things guitar for the beginning, intermediate, as well as the advanced guitarist. I am a teacher (though not specifically music). The book's pedagogy is well laid out with the text, illustrations and diagrams serving to inform and encourage increased familiarity with the subject. The chapters are arranged so that it serves a reader's immediate quest and then continues to function as a resource for years to come. So, how does it improve on such a satisfying product experience? John Garrison at MajRThrift went the above-and-beyond distance to guarantee that the book I sought was the one that he delivered. It took extra diligence, because it turned out not to be the book he had in stock. (That ISBN element is especially critical with a used book.) Subsequently, he invested countless hours tracking the publishing data, contacting publishers and other book sellers. He found it. It was worth the delay. Now that I have the book, it remains for me to do the study, practice, and dedication to realize my aspirations: expand the sounds I imagine and bring them to be shared with other musicians and audiences. Five stars for Ralph Denyer and his book. Six for John at MajRThrift, who facilitated its arrival at my door. Tom Blanks, teacher, reader, guitar learner

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