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The Fiddler's Fakebook



Synopsis

From the author's preface: "This book was conceived four years ago, almost to the day, at a time when I was teaching fiddle and mandolin in New York City. It was my idea then, with my students in mind, to compile a book of the most often played, most important and most interesting fiddle tunes from the various Celtic and North American traditions. The tunes were chosen by cataloging a large number of recordings by tune title. A tally was taken to find out which had been recorded most often. This established a foundation of material that could not be left out. To this list I added the names of other pieces which had not been recorded as frequently, but which I knew were played regularly and with respect. I admit to sprinkling the collection with a few lesser known tunes which happen to be personal favorites, but I am sure they will hold their own when placed next to the old war horses of the fiddler's repertoire. . . . Although I started out with my students in mind this book has turned out to be the book that I've always wanted and I hope that it will serve the advanced player as well as the beginner."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was recommended to me by my fiddle teacher shortly after I first started taking fiddle

lessons. That was six years ago, and I drag this book along pretty much anytime I travel just in case I'll have time to play a fiddle tune (of course, it helps that I also bring along my violin! ;-)). It has held up very well – no rips, no tears, no frayed edges, and no pulling away from the binding. I have been very satisfied with how well this holds up – it's well worth the investment that way. The one down side to the construction of this book is the type of binding. Yes, you can read all the music, but it doesn't lay down flat, which can be somewhat problematic, especially when new. This can be remedied by taking the book to a local office supply place, like Staples, and having them shave off the binding and put in a spiral binding so it lays flat (Note: BE THERE when they do this, our local Staples totally screwed mine up, shaved off way more than needed and ended up having the spiral go right through all the measures on the inner margin. I was NOT a happy camper, but I like the book so much I got another one). Potential buyers should be aware that each of the pieces are written down the way a particular fiddler played it, not the "original/core" of the tune. That doesn't make it wrong or right, just something you should be aware of upfront.

This is THE book to have for anybody who likes to play traditional mountain/Celtic/Bluegrass music! This book was originally recommended to me decades ago, by a fiddler who hosted a huge, community jam session, every week. This book was the only one that they used to play from, as it had the most, commonly recognized versions of a majority of traditional tunes. Also, there were enough tunes in there to keep a large group playing for weeks without ever repeating a single one! The version I bought years ago (and made the mistake of lending to someone, so I never saw it again!) had a plastic ring binding. The newer edition that I bought recently to replace that missing volume has a book binding. But, it still lies flat enough that it doesn't fall off a music stand. I had previously bought the mandolin player's version of this book, which is written in tablature. But, I only ever use this one, because it has the actual notes and chords in it. It is an incredible resource that I refer to all the time. In fact, if I could only have one music book to play from, this is the one that I would want to have. It's a definite "must have" for every "Old Time" music lover!

I ordered this because of the reviews it had received. Wow, I love this book so far! I just received it and I've already added 2 new songs to my repertoire, super awesome. I thought I was receiving copy with the regular binding but the 3rd party vendor sent the spiral bound version for only 13 bucks which is even more super awesome! I definitely recommend for anybody looking for a solid source for fiddle tunes. Most tunes can be found on YouTube with tutorials for beginners also. This is NOT a lesson book, it is a collection of traditional fiddle songs. Enjoy!

This is a great collection, according to my (incredibly talented) Celtic-bluegrass fiddle teacher - and it's easy to use. Only thing I wish was that it was a bit smaller on the page, and spiral bound - at 8.5x11 I could scan and carry on my smartphone or tablet; it's not light or easy to carry.

I play the mandolin but I am tired of publishers thinking that mandolinists are some sort of inferior type of musician who all need tablature or they can't play. There is a "Mandolinist's Fakebook" but it has tablature in addition to the actual music -- this is a much better book for both fiddlers and mandolinists who can read music because it's printed much more clearly and is easier to play from for any musician who can read. Excellent assortment of songs and excellently printed. My only complaint is that it doesn't come comb-bound or coil-bound. But I've got a wonderful copy shop nearby so for a few dollars I had this book coil-bound and now it's an ideal book! The only thing better would be if they would release an ebook version so I could take it with me on my iPad!

Thought I was buying a spiral bound version. Also found cheaper after I ordered it but this came from the UK so not worth returning.

I have lots of fiddle books. When someone told me about this one I thought not another book and I have most of the stuff. Well I can't say I have most of the stuff now that I have the book. For a fiddler this is like THE book. And very informative too. Would have been nice had they kept the spiral binding, that would last longer.

Added as one of my go to references, but don't expect hard core traditional renderings here - these are bluegrass re-workings of those ancient Irish and Scottish tunes, purposely made more accessible to Americans. Very well arranged and with a wide assortment of styles represented this book can serve as a nice reference to the aspiring traditional or Americana minded musician.

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