

If you would love to play the Fiddle, and have no clue where to begin, this book is for YOU!

This program is about ‘courage’; it will take the aspiring Fiddler, step by step, from novice to a confident musician. This program will teach you to play music along with family or friends and at informal jam sessions, popular at a bluegrass festival campground.

This program is presented like a first semester college course. Each book in this series is a “unit”. The units are divided into “lessons”. Each unit and lesson builds on previous material in a steady, progressive manner. At the end of each unit, there will be a review to make sure you’ve absorbed and understand the important concepts that were covered.

There are features to this program that set it apart from other fiddle methods.

First, the focus is on building solid technique rather than just learning a lot of songs. Progress isn’t based on how many songs you know but rather how well you can play a few songs. The lessons are progressive and will help you build solid technique and knowledge of music and your instrument.

Second, “Instructor arrangements” are included with most song arrangements. These second fiddle parts will:

- Make a simple fiddle arrangement sound full and complete
- Prepare the student to listen to what’s happening outside of their performance.
- Keep it fun!

The Instructor arrangements are essentially a twin fiddle part. Later, as the student gains experience, you can switch parts and the student can play the Instructor arrangement. If you don’t have a fiddle teacher you can have a friend play the twin fiddle part. If you have no one to practice with, you are encouraged to use the matching play along audio tracks and I will play the second fiddle part.

Third, it’s important early on to understand the theory behind the music you’re learning, how it’s applied to the Fiddle and how you can use this theory to create solos WITHOUT having any sheet music. In other words, this course is designed to show you how to play from within; from the heart and to rely less on music books. Understanding how to play your music from ‘inside’ will build confidence and courage.

Many Fiddlers simply learn ‘fiddle tunes’ and if they can find someone that knows ‘their tune’, they will be able to play together. Real life is more than “scratching away” at a stack of fiddle tunes; you need to know how to blend in with others at informal jams, like campground jams at bluegrass festivals or parking lot picking and be able to play *any* song that they may throw at you. There will be some that know a song you’ve rehearsed

but then they will probably ask you to play a tune they know and love but you've never heard it before.

This program is designed to help you get out of your 'comfort zone' and have courage jamming with others that you've just met at a bluegrass festival or similar music event whether you know the song or not.

The best way to use this book is to start from the beginning and not skip any of the lessons. Then move into the next Unit building on what you've learned in this Unit.

There are play along audio tracks for the examples and songs used in the program. Listen to them to get a feel for the music. Then you will want to play along with me on the recordings. If you have the hard copy book, these tracks will be on the audio CD. If you have the eBook version, the recordings will be included with your download.

Before each example and song, there will be a short 'click'. This will set the tempo and help you know when to begin playing. There are different audio mixes. Some will be simple with just a fiddle, guitar and/or bass backup so that you can hear the fiddle clearly. Others will have the fiddle removed so that you can play along with the rhythm backup. This is very important to help develop a sense of listening to what's going on around you.

Other audio tracks will be the full band including the vocals and other instrumentation. If the songs are normally played faster, there will be slower versions to help increase accuracy.

If you don't have the guidance of a real one-on-one fiddle teacher, I highly recommend using the matching video tutorial together with this book. The video tutorial is a separate item from this book. Details are on my web, www.jaybuckey.com

The program is in six units. The next page has the complete table of contents for all six units.

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 1

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	Lesson 1: Getting to Know Your Instrument
9	Lesson 2: A Brief History of the Fiddle
10	Lesson 3: Left Hand Players
11	Lesson 4: Holding the Fiddle
12	Lesson 5: Left Hand Technique
14	Lesson 6: Right Hand and Arm Technique
16	Lesson 7: Care and Feeding of Your Bow
17	Lesson 8: Rosin
18	Lesson 9: Tuning Your Instrument
21	Lesson 10: Finding the Notes on the Fiddle
26	Lesson 11: Reading Music
30	Lesson 12: Playing the Open Strings
40	<i>Good Dogs Always Eat 1</i>
42	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #1</i>
45	Lesson 13: Timing
48	<i>Good Dogs Always Eat 2</i>
49	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #2</i>
54	<i>Good Dogs Always Eat 3</i>
55	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #3</i>
57	Lesson 14: The Middle "G" Note
62	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #4</i>
64	Lesson 15: Eighth Notes
68	<i>Mama Don't 'Low - #5</i>
70	Lesson 16: The Rest
74	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #6</i>
76	Lesson 17: The Middle "E" Note

79	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #7</i>
81	Lesson 18: The Middle "B" Note
84	<i>Old Dan Tucker 1</i>
86	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #8</i>
88	Lesson 19: Watching for Patterns
94	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 1)
98	Review Answers
99	Where To Go From Here?

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 2

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	<i>Shady Grove 1</i>
10	Lesson 1: The Tonal Center
14	Call and Answer 1
17	Lesson 2: The High D Note
21	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #9</i>
23	Lesson 3: The Pickup
26	<i>Will the Circle Be Unbroken 1</i>
28	<i>Will the Circle Be Unbroken 2</i>
29	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #10</i>
31	Lesson 4: The Waltz
32	<i>Amazing Grace 1</i>
34	Lesson 5: Phrasing with Slurs

35	<i>Amazing Grace 2</i>
36	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #11</i>
38	Lesson 6: The Pentatonic Scale
40	Lesson 7: The Middle F# Note
44	<i>Down the Road 1</i>
46	<i>Down the Road 2</i>
47	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #12</i>
49	Lesson 8: The Middle C Note
53	Lesson 9: Bow Control
54	<i>Don't This Road Look Rough and Rocky 1</i>
58	<i>Don't This Road Look Rough and Rocky 2</i>
60	Lesson 10: Call and Answer 2
64	Lesson 11: Stop Squeaking Exercises
66	Lesson 12: The High F# Note
72	Lesson 13: The High A Note
78	<i>Angeline the Baker 1</i>
80	Lesson 14: Double Stops–Open Strings
85	<i>Angeline the Baker 2</i>
86	<i>Angeline the Baker 3</i>
87	<i>Mama Don't 'Low #13</i>
89	Lesson 15: The D Major Pentatonic Scale
93	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 2)
94	Review Answers

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 3

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	Lesson 1: The High G Note
15	Getting the Most From Your Practice Time
16	<i>Shenandoah 1</i>
18	<i>Shenandoah 2</i>
19	Lesson 2: Adding Warmth With Vibrato
24	Lesson 3: The Middle C# Note
26	Lesson 4: The D Major Diatonic Scale
32	<i>Shadow Canyon Waltz 1</i>
34	Lesson 5: Call and Answer 3–D Major Diatonic
38	Lesson 6: Improvising with Upper Approach Notes
41	<i>Happy Birthday 1</i>
43	<i>Happy Birthday 2</i>
45	<i>Shadow Canyon Waltz 2</i>
46	<i>Mama Don't 'Low - #14</i>
48	Lesson 7: Double Stops–Closed Strings
54	<i>Shadow Canyon Waltz 3</i>
55	Lesson 8: Finger Exercises 1
58	Lesson 9: The Low A Note
60	Lesson 10: The Low B Note
62	<i>Angeline the Baker 4</i>
63	<i>Angeline the Baker 5</i>
64	<i>Angeline the Baker 6</i>
65	<i>Mama Don't 'Low - #15</i>
67	Lesson 11: The Low C Note
69	Jamming With Others
70	<i>Wabash Cannonball 1</i>

72	Wabash Cannonball 2
73	Lesson 12: The G Major Diatonic Scale
77	Blackberry Blossom 1
78	Lesson 13: Playing from the Heart
80	Lesson 14: Improvising with the Nashville Shuffle
82	Blackberry Blossom 2
84	Old Dan Tucker 2
85	Shady Grove 2
86	Mama Don't 'Low - #16
88	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 3)
89	Review Answers

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 4

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	Lesson 1: The Fourth Finger A Note
10	Downfall of Paris 1
12	Downfall of Paris 2
14	Mama Don't 'Low - #17
16	Lesson 2: The Middle F Note
17	Lesson 3: The C Major Diatonic Scale
18	Lesson 4: The Major Diatonic Scale Review
20	Feudin' Fiddles 1
22	Feudin' Fiddles 2
24	Lesson 5: Improvising with Upper and Lower Neighbors

29	Wabash Cannonball 3
30	Mama Don't 'Low - #18
32	Lesson 6: Call and Answer 4–C Major Diatonic
36	Lesson 7: Chords and Backup 1
39	Shady Grove 3
40	Down the Road 3
45	Old Dan Tucker 3
46	Wabash Cannonball 3
47	Mama Don't 'Low - #19
49	Lesson 8: The Fourth Finger E Note
51	Shenandoah 3
52	Lesson 9: The E Minor Diatonic Scale
55	Hey, Ho, Nobody Home
56	We Three Kings of Orient Are
58	Lesson 10: Call and Answer 5–E Minor Diatonic
63	Lesson 11: The E Dorian Mode
65	Lesson 12: The Georgia Shuffle
68	The Old Gray Cat
70	Wabash Cannonball 4
71	Mama Don't 'Low - #20
73	Lesson 13: One Finger Double Stops
75	Lesson 14: The “Jig”–6/8 Time
76	Swallow Tail Jig 1
78	Swallow Tail Jig 2
79	Lesson 15: Call and Answer 6 – E Dorian
84	Lesson 16: The High B Note
88	Garryowen 1
92	Garryowen 2
96	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 4)
97	Review Answers

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 5

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	Jamming With Others–Part 2
10	<i>Blackberry Blossom 3</i>
14	Lesson 1: Finger and Bow Exercises 2
17	Lesson 2: The High G# Note
20	Lesson 3: The A Major Diatonic Scale
25	Lesson 4: Endings
29	Lesson 5: Rocking the Bow
30	<i>Devil's Dream</i>
34	Lesson 6: Middle G# Note
36	<i>Nearer My God to Thee</i>
38	Lesson 7: Call and Answer 7–A Major Diatonic
43	Lesson 8: Playing From the Heart–2
53	<i>Happy Birthday 3</i>
54	Lesson 9: The High F Note
56	<i>Georgiana Moon 1</i>
58	Lesson 10: The Dotted Quarter Note
60	<i>Wearing of the Green 1</i>
64	<i>Wearing of the Green 2</i>
66	Lesson 11: The Tie verses the Slur
69	Lesson 12: First and Second Endings
70	<i>Georgiana Moon 2</i>
72	Lesson 13: The Middle Bb Note
73	Lesson 14: The Slide
77	Lesson 15: The Blues
79	<i>Slidin' Blues</i>
80	Lesson 16: Improvising With the Slide

82	<i>Happy Birthday 4</i>
84	<i>Wabash Cannonball 5</i>
86	<i>Feudin' Fiddles 3</i>
89	<i>Swallow Tail Jig 3</i>
90	<i>Lesson 17: Mama Don't 'Low – 21</i>
92	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 5)
93	Review Answers

TABLE OF CONTENTS - UNIT 6

Page	Title
6	How To Use This Course
8	Lesson 1: The Triplet
12	<i>Harvest Home</i>
16	Lesson 2: The Low C# Note
18	<i>Run, Johnny Run 1</i>
20	<i>Run, Johnny Run 2</i>
22	Lesson 3: Phrasing
24	<i>Georgiana Moon 3</i>
26	<i>Blackberry Blossom 4</i>
28	Lesson 4: The Low Ab Note
30	Lesson 5: The Middle Eb Note
32	<i>Lover's Waltz</i>
36	Lesson 6: The Low Bb Note
38	Lesson 7: The Bb Major Diatonic Scale
40	<i>Done Gone</i>
42	Lesson 8: Call and Answer 8–Bb Major Diatonic

47	Lesson 9: Chromatic Notes
50	<i>Beautiful Ohio Waltz</i>
54	Lesson 10: Sharps and Flats
60	Lesson 11: Fiddling in the “Twilight Zone”
63	Lesson 12: Playing a Song in More Than One Key
70	Lesson 13: Long Bow Backup
71	<i>Angel Band</i>
79	Lesson 14: The Double Shuffle
82	<i>Feudin’ Fiddles 3</i>
86	Lesson 15: Playing in Higher Positions
89	<i>Arkansas Traveler 1</i>
91	<i>Arkansas Traveler 2</i>
94	<i>Mama Don’t ‘Low #22</i>
97	How Would You Answer? (Review of Unit 6)
98	Review Answers
99	Where To Go From Here