

'Essential Music Theory for Mandolin – Master Workshop 101' is a program designed to help a first year Mandolin student to learn how to play from the heart and rely less on printed sheet music and tablature. It is a practical application of music theory using bluegrass music and other examples that can be applied to real life jam sessions. This edition replaces the 2007 version with new text, songs and lesson structure.

Over the years, as a dedicated music teacher, my students consistently asked how to improvise more fluently on their Mandolin and to do so without the aid of sheet music, tablature or rehearsing the song beforehand.

It's amazing how many people, including music teachers, who when asked to play a tune they've not rehearsed at a party or jam session reply by saying, 'I can't because I haven't got the music', or, 'I've heard that song but never played it' or some excuse like that. If they're not in their 'comfort zone', they shy away from playing. Sound familiar? If you are one of these people, this book is especially for YOU!

The concept and purpose of this program has four goals:

1. Give the First-Year-Student a good foundation of music fundamentals; presented in layman's terms.
2. Keep music theory practical with songs and examples that can be used in the field. If you're going to spend valuable practice time working on a song, it should be something that you can actually use in a real life jam. The audio recordings are designed to give you a realistic simulation of a live jam session increasing your *courage* to get out there and play with other folks.
3. Strategically review the important principles in a progressive way to aid long term memory.
4. **Keep it fun!** If it isn't fun (and music theory is generally pretty dry), you're probably not going to continue.

'Essential Music Theory for Mandolin – Master Workshop 101' is presented like a first semester college course. The book is 425 pages, divided into 4 Units of 38 lessons. 180 audio tracks provides more than 6 hours of 'play-along music. The songs chosen are realistic examples of what you would hear at a typical bluegrass festival campground jam session. There are multiple versions of the faster songs; slow, medium and normal speed. Vocals are included with multiple mixes with and without the lead instrument and/or vocals. This way you can take the place of the Mandolin in the 'band' and also be the lead singer!

At the end of each unit, a brief review is presented to see if you remember the main points presented. Each section will be built on previously covered material and concepts helping you to develop a 'feel' for music and begin to see it in your mind. This will encourage you get away from the printed page. Over time and of course, with experience, you will actually be able to play your music more freely and from the heart. This book has been written to be fun so that you'll want to continue.

'Master Workshop 101' is the first in this series and will be followed by *'Master Workshop 102'*, the 'second semester'. This program is also available for the Banjo, Bass, Dobro, Fiddle (with and without Tablature) and Guitar.

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