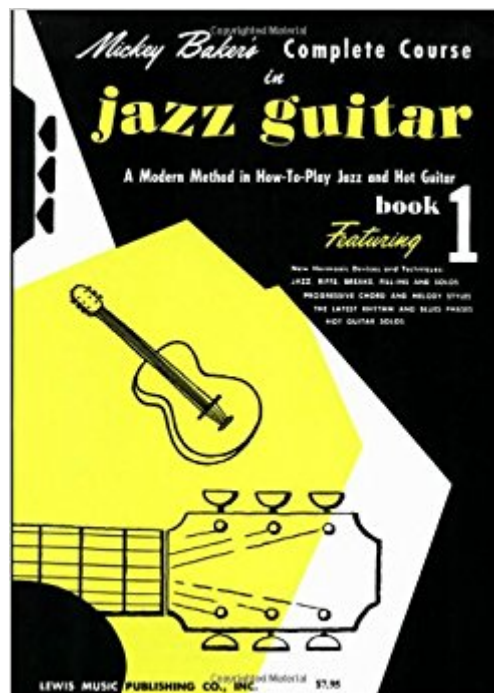




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Mickey Baker's Complete Course In Jazz Guitar: Book 1 (Ashley Publications)



Synopsis

A method in how to play jazz and hot guitar.

Book Information

Series: Ashley Publications

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Ashley Publications Inc./Lewis Music Publishing Co.; 1st Edition edition (September 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0825652804

ISBN-13: 978-0825652806

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 127 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this volume (and volume 2) 6 months ago or so and have been steadily working through the lessons. As for my skill, I'm an intermediate player with a solid chord vocabulary and a fair understanding of jazz harmony. Like most jazz guitar players, I want to know more. Aside from the low cost (\$7.95), what most inspired me to consider these books was the "subtle" endorsement given them by Robben Ford in his "Art of Blues Solos" instructional video (which I enjoyed too). Ford stated that he worked through Mickey Baker's book when he first started playing guitar and... well, Ford is an awesome player! Lesson 1 starts with Baker diagramming 26 chord forms and telling the reader to get familiar with them. The book does not use tab for showing chords, but the chord diagrams Baker provides are straight-forward. I suspect beginning players should want to break the chord forms down, by note, to learn which dotted fret is the root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, etc., for any given chord. The lessons that follow ask the reader to play melodies using specific groups of the 26 chords. Also, for some lessons, Baker asks the reader to transpose progressions from previous lessons into new keys and then practice playing them. As the lessons progress, Baker methodically introduces the reader to more chord forms, to single-note lines, chord vamps, progressions, and

more... and more... and more. As other reviewers have pointed out, there are 52 lessons in volume 1, and so there is lots to learn. The Baker books are simply designed for the reader to work at a comfortable yet steady pace, not become overwhelmed by discussions of theory, and to learn to play some cool sounding jazz melodies on the guitar. Beginning guitarists will likely have more difficulty but that would be due to a lack of mechanics than with anything else. With sufficient finger and chord exercises, playing troubles will diminish. Bob

This book deserves 5 stars, the author does a great job starting you with the basics such as harmony (including chord exercises to improve technique) and then moving along teaching you must know information for a gigging jazz guitarist like building intros, scale runs, jazz blues and rhythm changes standard chord progressions as well as more advanced chord progressions for blues and rhythm changes. I have both books by Joe Pass Guitar Styles and Book 1 by Mickey Baker and both are extremely loaded with information that cannot be easily absorbed in months maybe years. One thing that I really appreciate about Baker is that he gives you the information in a no non-sense kind of way and is strict on how you advance through the material, he advises the reader not to move on until you have completely absorbed transposition, chord changes, etc. This is great because in professional situations you need to have this knowledge second hand and ready to use in an instant. This book can be easily discouraging because you have to know how to use it, how to apply it, and how to teach it to yourself. Thankfully I am a Jazz Studies B.M and these harmonic concepts aren't so difficult to grasp because I have had music theory shoved down my throat (not forcefully but willingly). So if you decide to purchase this book have no concern it has a wealth of material and covers just about all that is essential for every jazz guitarist and if your music theory is rusty or basic definitely get a supplement to this book it will help you overall. Nobody said learning jazz guitar and Jazz in general was going to be really easy!!! On a side note I would have preferred if the author covered more on improvisation but I think he did the right thing by starting the reader on Harmony and chord exercises first because guitarists are expected to know rhythm and harmony just as well as piano players which is why I think a thorough understanding of harmony will make modes and improvisation a lot easier. Practice this stuff slow and don't get frustrated.

Love instructional manuals. My husband wanted this one and loves it. He's been playing for over 30 years but had read some reviews about this and wanted to check it out. He loves it. Rec'd in time and packaged well. Thanks so much.

Best method book for jazz. Straightforward, builds upon basics to more complex and the exercises are genius. The first exercise makes you practice a chord change essential to master. The move from Gma7 to Gma6 builds an essential coordination of your left hand with the third finger crossing behind and under the fourth finger. It's all downhill from there. Each chord change exercise drills finger movements essential to being able to do chord solos on the fly with arpeggios and scale solos coming second nature. Mickey Baker? Brilliant.

This book is getting a little hard to find. Its a great Jazz primer book. I still find myself flipping through it from time to time. Its the book that introduced me to Jazz and I've used it to introduce Jazz to my students over the years. Great book for student, teacher, and those wanting to learn Jazz on their own.

I got this along with a 3 DVD jazz guitar set from Rock House. This book is getting all of my attention.No nonsense, no hand holding explaining basic concepts you should already know (this is NOT a beginner's learn to play book). Just simple looking lessons that will stretch your playing ability.52 lessons designed to each take a week practicing 2 hours a day. So far, I'm up to lesson three, and from the looks of it, that seems about right. The lessons do go in sort of "units" though: for instance, the first lesson shows you the first 26 "essential" chords you'll need, but then the next four focus on the first six, so you can do those while still learning the later chords.For the price you can't go wrong with this book, and no matter what style of music you play or plan to play, I've never met a musician who's said he regretted time spent studying jazz.

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