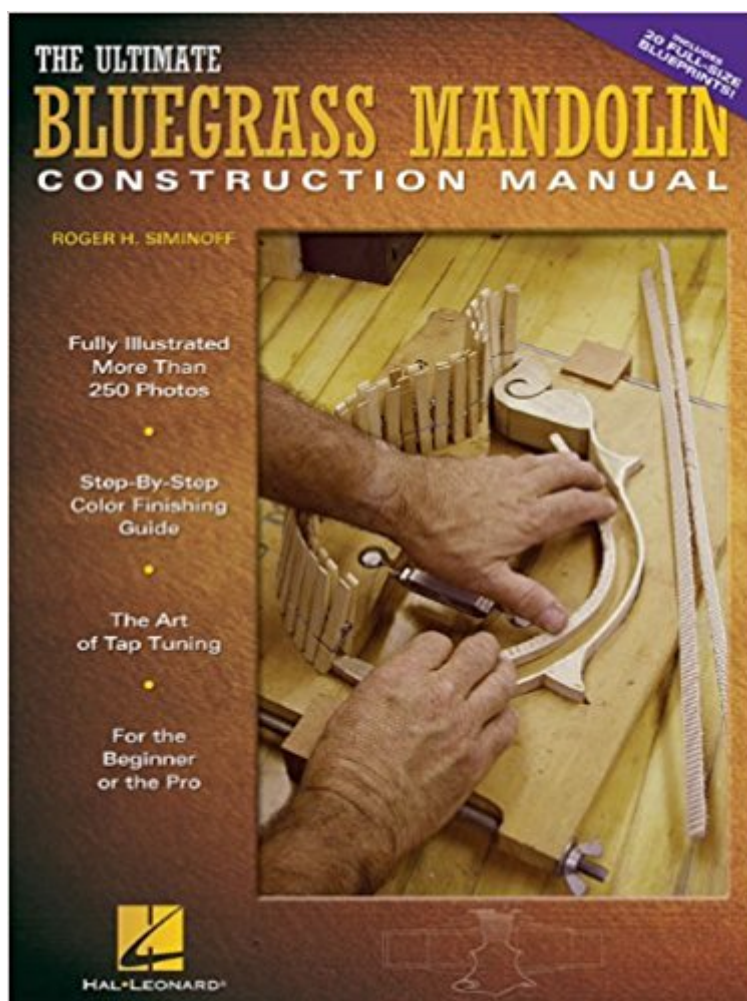


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The Ultimate Bluegrass Mandolin Construction Manual



Synopsis

(Book). The Ultimate Bluegrass Mandolin Construction Manual is the most complete step-by-step treatise ever written on building an acoustical string instrument. Siminoff, a renowned author and luthier, applies over four decades of experience to guide beginners to pros through detailed chapters on wood selection, cutting, carving, shaping, assembly, inlays, fretting, binding and assembly of an F-style mandolin. A special highlight is an in-depth chapter on the art of tap tuning. This fully-illustrated manual boasts more than 250 photos, a full-color section on the staining and finishing processes, numerous detailed illustrations, and a bonus set of 20 full-size blueprints. Spiral bound.

Book Information

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Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Mandolins #161 in Books > Arts & Photography >

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Customer Reviews

As a teen I became interested in "bluegrass" music. I learned to play guitar and bass but was eventually drawn to the mandolin - particularly the kind with a scroll and two points, like Bill Monroe played. Wanting one like it left me discouraged because I knew I couldn't afford one that was worth owning. In the late 1970's my Dad had become interested in building a violin and was well on his way to completing it. Then, after stumbling across the original, first edition of this book, I developed the notion that I would build one. Even with the book it was slow-go. Dad took pity on me and joined in on the task. As we worked we used Siminoff's book as a "guide" - just as the author had intended. Dad's earlier experience led him to do a few things differently - like using an "inside mold" versus the "outside mold" described in the book. I also made some minor modifications in the plans to

ensure symmetry apart from the scroll and points. Again, the manual serves mainly as a guide and anyone making a serious effort should learn as much as possible from any lutherie source at their disposal. Roger Siminoff's credentials as a luthier are outstanding. He's also a compelling author and he makes the reading of this work worthwhile - even if you only have a passing interest in the instrument rather than a desire to build. This book is billed as the "ultimate" manual. In the years since his original version, Siminoff has perfected his skills and has incorporated his experiences in this edition. He has expanded his discussions on "tap tuning" and "voicing." There's quite a bit of information on wood properties and their sound producing potential. (I was somewhat surprised that this edition seems to discourage the use of Douglas Fir as a sound board material since the original version seemed to encourage trying it as an alternative to spruce - but, with experience, perhaps he now feels it's best to stick with traditional woods...) Our first mandolin, completed in 1981, turned out especially well, in large part due to Siminoff's book. But as I finished school, went to work, and as other priorities came up the mandolin-building took a backseat - until recently. I had the desire to finally finish one started and abandoned years ago. That's when I found that a newer version of this manual was available. I bought this one simply to compare the two. I'd highly recommend this edition - even if you have the older one.

I bought this book to see what insight Roger Siminoff had to offer about improving tone and volume of my mandolins. There are a lot of good photos with associated discussion. I was particularly interested in the discussion on tap tuning and voicing. Unfortunately, some of the information on tap tuning was incorrect as published per discussion with Roger Siminoff and were not corrected in the 3rd printing. He has updated recommendations for both the top and back tap tuning. The discussion on f-hole sizing was interesting and useful. Overall, a good book for beginner and intermediate builders.

The best book bar none for a beginning mandolin builder. All the information you need to know to build a very good instrument, including what woods to use, how to tap tune, info on finishing, even includes scale drawings of all the parts of the instrument. Excellent

good

July, 2004 - If you are looking for an incredibly comprehensive resource for building an F style mandolin, this is the book for you! Each chapter is very descriptive and well illustrated and the

sequence of the book takes you right down the mandolin construction path, so that it is hard to lay this book down. My son and I are well on our way to building our first mandolin, and with this kind of written support, we expect the result to be nothing short of a beautiful, great-sounding instrument! The blueprints included with the book are worth the purchase price by themselves. They aren't quite as comprehensive as the F5 pro prints that can be ordered from the author, but are more than adequate. Anyone who plans to build an F5 will benefit from this book. Wood selection, tap tuning, bridge construction, it's all here. Update on June 17, 2005 - The finished product looks and sounds awesome. We still experiment with bridges, nuts, saddles, etc., but are very pleased with this mandolin's sound and finish! Great project.

Did not come with the blueprints included in the hard copy and no way to get them without additional purchase. I think Siminoff is retired now and it is impossible to order blueprints or materials from the website.

I love challenging projects, but I tend to launch forth with an excellent manual by my side. This is an excellent manual, right up there with: Building the Gloucester Light Dory (payson), or car work with a Bently manual. With this, I can do it, yet I intend to practice any challenging elements first. I feel the publishers do a dis-service to the writer and reader with comments that lead one to think, anyone can do this. You can, but it will not be casual. The less woodworking you do, the steeper the trail will be. It is a big project, but it does not require a magic wand.

A very detailed book that goes step by step pictures of how to do what with instructions. It tells of pros and cons of using different types of wood. If you play mandolin or just enjoy wood working, this is the book to get to build something of quality!

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