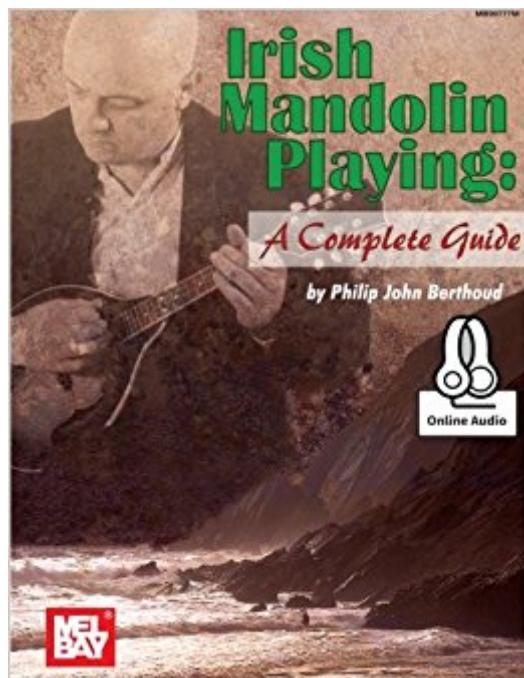


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# Irish Mandolin Playing: A Complete Guide



## **Synopsis**

This is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Irish mandolin playing. As well as being a complete guide for the absolute beginner, this book also contains a mine of information, useful tips and ideas for the experienced player. The book takes the reader from the basics of the mandolin right through to more advanced topics such as creating variations, emphasis, improvisation, playing with other musicians, practicing effectively and much more. All the tunes and key exercises in the book are included on the accompanying 63 track audio recording. There is no need to read conventional music notation as all the music is written in easy-to-read mandolin tablature. However, for those interested in learning about music notation there is a handy section on this subject tailored specifically to the mandolinist as well as a chapter on modes. Audio download available online.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Phil Berthoud was born in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1966 but has been based in England since the age of 4. Always interested in music, he took up the guitar at the age of 14 and a few years later met Matt Early, a fine fiddle player from Dublin. Phil accompanied Matt on the guitar for some years until, one night in Madrid, after repeated hearings of Tommy Peoples' High Part of the Road, he decided to take up the fiddle himself. Not owning a fiddle at the time was a stumbling block, and he filled in the time by learning the mandolin which was, at least, tuned in the same way as the fiddle. On returning to England, Phil restrung a beaten up Chinese fiddle and proceeded to soak up as much Irish fiddle music as he could. Through the London session circuit and the recordings of great

players such as Tommy Peoples, Tommy Potts, Kevin Burke and Paddy Glackin, Phil took naturally to the fiddle. These days, he spends most of his time performing and teaching on the fiddle as well as mandolin and guitar. With his wife Mahrey and John Brewins, he formed Scatter the Mud in Brighton, England and has now settled in Devon where he continues to perform with Mahrey in the duo Isle. Two children, Louis and Rhianna born in 1997 and 1999 are an inspiration to both Phil and Mahrey. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My favorite book for learning Irish style mandolin. The included CD demonstrates the unique sound and helps you developed an ear for playing Jigs, slipjigs, hornpipes and reels. Many of the same tunes are also played do you sit in with traditional bluegrass and old time sessions.

Here's how much I like this book:I have a vast collection of mandolin anthologies and methods. Once I reached intermediate level, I had no shortage of books to graduate to. This was the one I picked, even though I have no interest in Irish music.It's an impressive method. It is both a collection of songs (in standard and with TAB) and etudes designed to acclimatize the student to the Irish style. There's lots of discussion of tricky points, so at no point do you feel the book's ever abandoned you.The CD has no accompaniment: it's just the guy playing the unadorned melody.Some drawbacks:1. The guy invites you to play along with the CD but never says "1 & 2 & . . ." on the recordings, so you're gonna miss the first couple of measures as your hand moves from your mouse to your mandolin.2. I think it does a crummy job of actually teaching you how to read standard notation: there's an appendix, but a lot of stuff is covered as it comes up in the songs. It's a mess, in other words. You should probably learn how to do that before coming to this book as I imagine that if you were to come to this book looking to learn how to read standard notation, it would be quite frustrating. Thank God I learned that elsewhere.3. To my amazement the book doesn't seem to be arranged in order of difficulty. There are some comparatively difficult pieces right out of the gate, and a slew of easy ones bringing up the rear. It presents itself as a book that progresses you along, but the songs actually seem to be decreasing in difficulty!4. Not much variation in the actual songs: after a while they start sounding robotically like one another: just a simple treble line with nary a doublestop in sight, or much real variation. Is this just Irish music?

I'm new to mandolin and this guide to Irish (mostly fiddle) tunes is just what I wanted. Berthoud gets right down to business. There's a bit about holding the mandolin and the pick, but then it's right into learning tunes. Tablature and notation is available for every piece, and the only thing you need is a

mandolin and the willingness to practice. These are the sort of pieces you'd play with a guitar player or other Irish ensemble (fiddle, whistle, ex.). No bluegrass and not much chording. Perfect for what it is,

Tons of tunes, many of which are great. Also the rhythm is notated on the tablature (not just in the sheet music notation above it), which is helpful. None of the tunes leave 1st position on the mandolin, but many have intricate rhythm. (triplets, dotted halves/quarters, sixteenth notes songs in 6/8 9/8 ... ). Included CD is helpful and fun to listen to.

While I would not use this as a first tutorial for the mandolin, it is a fine collection of Irish tunes with good, concise instruction about technique. The CD presents the music in a clear, straightforward manner that conveys information to the student that notation/tab alone doesn't capture.

I played music in high school (which was many, many years ago) and still mostly remembered enough to be able to read notation. Having the tablature with the notation was very helpful for me. I found the book to be laid out rather well with the text exceptionally helpful. The best feature of this book and CD was the way Berthoud encourages the novice to learn traditional Irish music...by ear (which is the traditional way to learn after all. There's a section that discusses this). It really helped me to be able to feel the "flavor" of the music instead of just playing the notes that my classical education was trying to make me do. The aspect of not really having to play exactly what is written was rather enlightening to me. In the later sections the notation is with little ornamentation. Berthoud plays what is written and then plays it again with his interpretation with beautiful ornamentation. It isn't just showing off, it's trying to make you listen and learn...if you choose to. I found this to be rather wonderful and different than other traditional Irish books that I've purchased. I give it 6 stars for this. And as other reviewers have mentioned, the lack of an intro on the CD is really annoying to be able to play the melody or to play the chords alongside. That is really the only drawback with this item. So it loses a star. If you want to learn traditional Irish music and this is your only way to learn it, this book will not disappoint you. Playing along with the CD will frustrate you though. (A simple fix is to use some audio software and add your own intro.)

Progressive learning for the beginner. Good selection of music with notation and tabs. Challenges player to keep up with cd. Music books would all be better if they had a wire or plastic binding. this book did not.

A pretty good book with some interesting songs. Songs range from simple to complex. A lot of the tunes are in 6/8 time. My only negative is the CD, the mandolin is played solo. Even though there are guitar chords on the sheet music, I wish both instruments would have been recorded, I think it would have made this a perfect book.

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