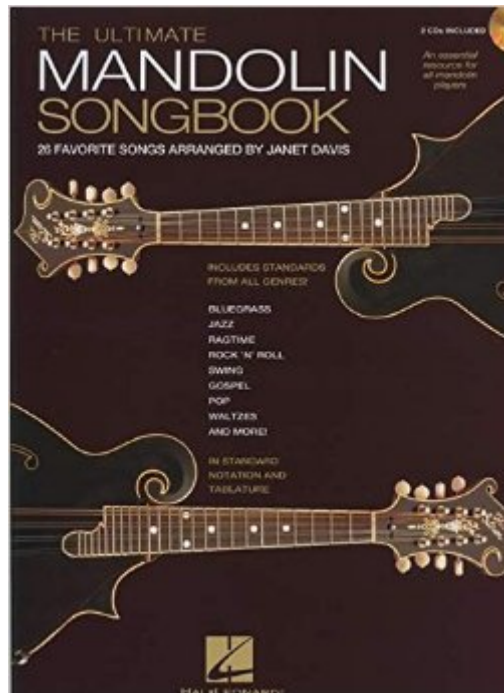


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# The Ultimate Mandolin Songbook: 26 Favorite Songs Arranged By Janet Davis (Book & Online Audio)



## Synopsis

(Mandolin). The Ultimate Mandolin Songbook contains multiple versions varying in difficulty of 26 of the most popular songs from bluegrass, jazz, ragtime, rock, pop, gospel, swing and other genres, in both standard notation and mandolin tab. The songs are arranged by Janet Davis to appeal to players of all levels, and the audio features her performing demos for listening and playing along. Arrangements in the book feature alternate licks, endings, segues and turnarounds for improvising. Picking styles include: tremolo, Monroe style, fiddle style, double stops, crosspicking, triplet style, jazz style and more. The songs are in various tunings and keys, and the lyrics and history are included for each. Songs: Alabama Jubilee \* Autumn Leaves \* The Entertainer \* Great Balls of Fire \* How Great Thou Art \* Limehouse Blues \* Orange Blossom Special \* Rawhide \* Stardust \* Tennessee Waltz \* Yesterday \* You Are My Sunshine \* and more! Audio is accessed online for download or streaming and features PLAYBACK+ tools such as looping, tempo adjustment, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The title of this book is misleading. This is a book about improvising on mandolin. There are other books that teach how to improvise. You can try "Mel Bay presents Mandolin Picker's Guide to Bluegrass Improvisation" but it is limited to bluegrass music. The complete method book "Mel Bay presents Getting into Jazz Mandolin" is all about improvisation but it has a jazz emphasis. "The Ultimate Mandolin Songbook: 26 Favorite Songs Arranged by Janet Davis" is an intermediate level

book. You should know how to play chords and know the fretboard reasonably well to get the most from this book. Janet Davis has not limited herself to one genre but demonstrates bluegrass, jazz, ragtime, rock, pop, gospel, country, folk, blues, and swing. The book is over 200 pages and there are 2 CDs. It is crammed with alternate beginnings, fills, licks, endings, and turnarounds, in standard and tab notation. There is so much notation that not all of finds its way to the CDs. It had been my intention to work my way through the book in short order but in the 3 months I've had the book, I've barely tapped the surface. Although it would be best to work your way from beginning to end, I have found that you can skip ahead to your favorites. This book is a treasure trove of exemplary musical instruction and is an incredible bargain.

First of all, I'm a middling mandolin player. I'm not a rank beginner, and I do a bit of mando picking in a little Irish band. I enjoy experimenting with improvising on different types of tunes, but don't have any real idea what I'm doing. That's why I like this book and CD set so much. For an "ultimate" songbook, 26 doesn't sound like a very large number of tunes. However, the book is well worth the price. For each tune, Ms Davis gives you a fairly plain, unadorned version of the tune first, and you can listen to it on the CD. Once you're comfortable with that, she gives you a LOT of alternative licks which you can substitute for certain measures of the tune, adding to the tunes' interest. Then, she gives different versions of each tune, in varying styles such as Texas swing, jazz, romantic, etc. Again, you can listen to the different versions to help you get them under your fingers. It's like having a talented teacher by your side saying "OK, that sounds good. Now try playing it THIS way". I'd highly recommend this book.

I purchased this book about six weeks ago and I have been playing and studying the pieces out of it every day now (sometimes all day!). I love this book very much but when I first got it I laughed to see musical phrasing referred to as "licks". I guess most American mandolinists TODAY are guitar players and that is their "musical language". I am just thrilled with this book and it lives up to its name: Hal Leonard, The Ultimate Mandolin Songbook by Janet Davis. I feel like I have discovered some "real mandolin treasure tunes" (like the very first tune Alabama Jubilee that is just a brilliant simple tune in its "unembellished state" ---- that is true musical genius!) There are so many high drama tunes suited for the mandolin in this book I will be studying it for the next few years --- excitement beyond belief! I highly recommend this book to all mandolinists --- especially for women: it is high drama without killing your left hand on 5-fret stretches that men land so easy!

This book is definitely not for a beginner in my opinion, but the arrangements are good and fun to play. I am a beginning mandolin player, but I've played guitar for 50 years so I'm used to using a pick and already have conditioned fingers. I like the way Ms. Davis provides multiple arrangements for each song so you get a real feel for the fretboard for each one.

I'm more or less a beginning mandolin player, although I have a little bit of other musical background. This book probably would mean more to someone who understands the most basic theory (nothing advanced at all). The thing I like best is that each song has several versions to learn, each with a different style, plus several alternative licks for most of the songs, so that anyone can get good use out of the book, no matter what your experience level with the instrument. A beginner could learn lots, and even an experienced player will pick up stuff that is new to him, too. The only reason I didn't give it five stars is because it will take years to drain this resource of all the goodies in it, and I hate to rate any book before I have finished the final chapter.

It's going to take a while to work through this book, but I really like the way it's put together. Hat's off to Janet Davis, this is helping me to grow my repertoire and is a great tool for mandolin study. I might add my personal bit of advice for mandolin students, (or any instrument I suppose) It is very helpful to use a playback program that will allow you to slow, I mean really slow down the tempo of the sample song without changing the pitch. The samples that come with this book seem to be great, however I still slow them down and work on a few bars at a time. Thanks again!

This is not a book for beginners. When you get song books, what you buy is the sheet music for the melody, but rarely is there anything for crosspicking or variations on chords and melodies that you often hear in bluegrass tunes. If you are a beginner, I would suggest the Hal Leonard beginner book and then move on to this one.

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