

Discography

Now that we're at the end of the book it's time to think of the subtleties of banjo playing that you just can't pick up from the printed page. And that's where records come in.

You see, you already have a particular way of playing some of the standard licks you've learned here. In addition, there are probably two or three other ways of approaching these licks that you may not have been aware of. For instance, J.D. Crowe probably plays them a little bit differently than you do, as does Earl Scruggs. Then there's the question of right-hand attack. Allen Shelton plays with a tremendous amount of bounce while Ralph Stanley uses a more straightforward right-hand approach. By listening to records you can become aware of some of these nuances and choose the ones you want to add depth to your own playing. There's also the sheer excitement and pleasure that comes from hearing a great banjo break on record (or live, for that matter) and that can do more for getting this music in your soul than one hundred pages of tablature.

Although bluegrass albums are becoming more readily available in record stores these days you may still have trouble locating some of the out of the way labels. If this is the case you should write to the following mail order companies for their catalogs. Service is quick and selection is excellent. So send today to:

County Sales
Dept. T
Box 191
Floyd, Virginia 24091

Roundup Records (When ordering enclose a quarter to cover mailing
P.O. Box 474 costs).
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Southern Record Sales
42 North Lake Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

Many of the records in the following list can be ordered from these companies. The list is a representative sampling of the best banjo records on the market today. If you can only afford three or four of these I suggest you stick to the tried and true—Scruggs, Reno or Osborne. These men represent the roots of this music. So listen to them first to find out where you're coming from. Then branch out from there.

Artists	Title	Label
Jimmy Arnold	<i>Strictly Arnold</i>	Rebel 1538
Eddy Adcock with the Country Gentlemen	<i>Vol. 4: Going Back to the BlueRidge Mountains</i>	Folkways FTS 31031
J.D. Crowe	<i>Rambling Boy</i>	Lemco 525
Ben Eldridge with the Seldom Scene	<i>Recorded Live</i>	Rebel 1547/48

Bill Emerson with the Country Gentlemen	<i>Country Gentlemen</i>	Vanguard 79331
Jack Hicks with Buck White	<i>Live at the Picking Parlor</i>	County 760
Vic Jordan	<i>Pickaway</i>	API 1027
Courtney Johnson with the Newgrass Revival	<i>When the Storm Is Over</i>	Flying Fish 032
Bill Keith	<i>Something Auld, Something Newgrass, Something Borrowed, Something Bluegrass</i>	Rounder RBI
Bill Knopf	<i>On Banjo</i>	American Heritage 401-524
Jimmy Martin (with J.D. Crowe, Bill Emerson, and Vic Jordan)	<i>Big and Country Instrumentals</i>	MCA 115
Raymond McLain	<i>Raymond McLain and the McLain Family Band</i>	Country Life CLR4
Larry McNeely	<i>Rhapsody for Banjo</i>	FF025
Sue Monick	<i>Melting Pots</i>	Adelphi AD4107
Alan Munde	<i>Banjo Sandwich</i>	Ridge Runner RRR-0001
Sonny Osborne with the Osborne Brothers	<i>Number One</i>	CMH 6206
Don Reno	<i>The Don Reno Story</i>	CMH 9003
Butch Robins	<i>Forty Years Late</i>	Rounder 0086
Earl Scruggs	<i>The Golden Era</i>	Rounder 5505
(If you don't buy any other records on this list, get this one. It's Earl at his greatest in the early 50's. Not to be missed.)		
Allen Shelton	<i>Shelton Special</i>	Rounder 0088
Ralph Stanley	<i>Plays Requests</i>	Rebel SLP 1514
Don Stover	<i>Don Stover and the White Oak Mountain Boys</i>	Rounder 0039
Tony Trischka	<i>Heartlands</i>	Rounder 0062
Eric Weissberg	<i>Theme from Deliverance</i>	Warner Brothers 2683
Peter Wernick with Country Cooking	<i>Country Cooking</i>	Rounder 0006

Magazines

If you're feeling rich you can subscribe to all three of the following major bluegrass magazines. (Not a bad idea.)

Bluegrass Unlimited
Box 111
Broad Run, Virginia 22014

Pickin'
46 Ford Road
Denville, New Jersey 07834

Banjo Newsletter
1310 Hawkins Lane
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

I especially recommend the Newsletter because it concentrates solely on the banjo. Every month it contains informative articles, interviews, tablature and tips on playing. It's worth it for the inspirational value alone.



At Fox Hollow, New York

Bibliography

This book has been an hors d'oeuvre—a taste of bluegrass banjo. If it has satisfied your appetite, I am pleased. However, if you still desire the main course, I suggest you choose from the following menu. *Bon appetit.*

- Bluegrass Banjo* by Peter Wernick (Oak Publications)—This book ranges from beginning to advanced instruction with attention to all details in between. Highly recommended.
- Earl Scruggs and the Five String Banjo* by Earl Scruggs (Peer)—Here Earl has provided us with a generous sampling of his tunes and breaks, written out as he originally played them. Everyone should buy this.
- Banjo Songbook* by Tony Trischka (Oak)—Over seventy-five songs in tablature, featuring bluegrass, fiddle tunes, and classical compositions. Plus, a bonus history of the three-finger style of playing. This is an excellent way to beef up your repertoire.
- Melodic Banjo* by Tony Trischka (Oak)—A complete guide to the melodic style featuring interviews with and music of Bill Keith, Bobby Thompson, Alan Munde, et al.
- Hot Licks and Fiddle Tunes for the Bluegrass Banjo* by Bill Knopf (Chappell Music)—Bill is a fine West Coast player who has collected some of his favorite scales, licks and endings and put them into this book. With the addition of twelve fiddle tunes at the end this makes a great way to spice up your playing.
- 5-String Banjo Fiddle Tunes* (Mel Bay)—An explanation and a collection of songs in the melodic style. More choice tunes for your repertoire.