

Doc And Merle Watson Eight Clawhammer Banjo Tabs: A Comprehensive Guide for Bluegrass Enthusiasts

Doc and Merle Watson are two of the most celebrated and influential figures in the history of bluegrass music. Their innovative and groundbreaking clawhammer banjo playing has inspired generations of musicians and continues to captivate audiences worldwide. In this article, we present eight essential Doc and Merle Watson clawhammer banjo tabs that will help you master this captivating style and expand your bluegrass repertoire.



Doc and Merle Watson: Eight Clawhammer Banjo Tabs

by David Brooks

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Tablature 1: "Shady Grove"

from Doc Watson - *The Essential Doc Watson*

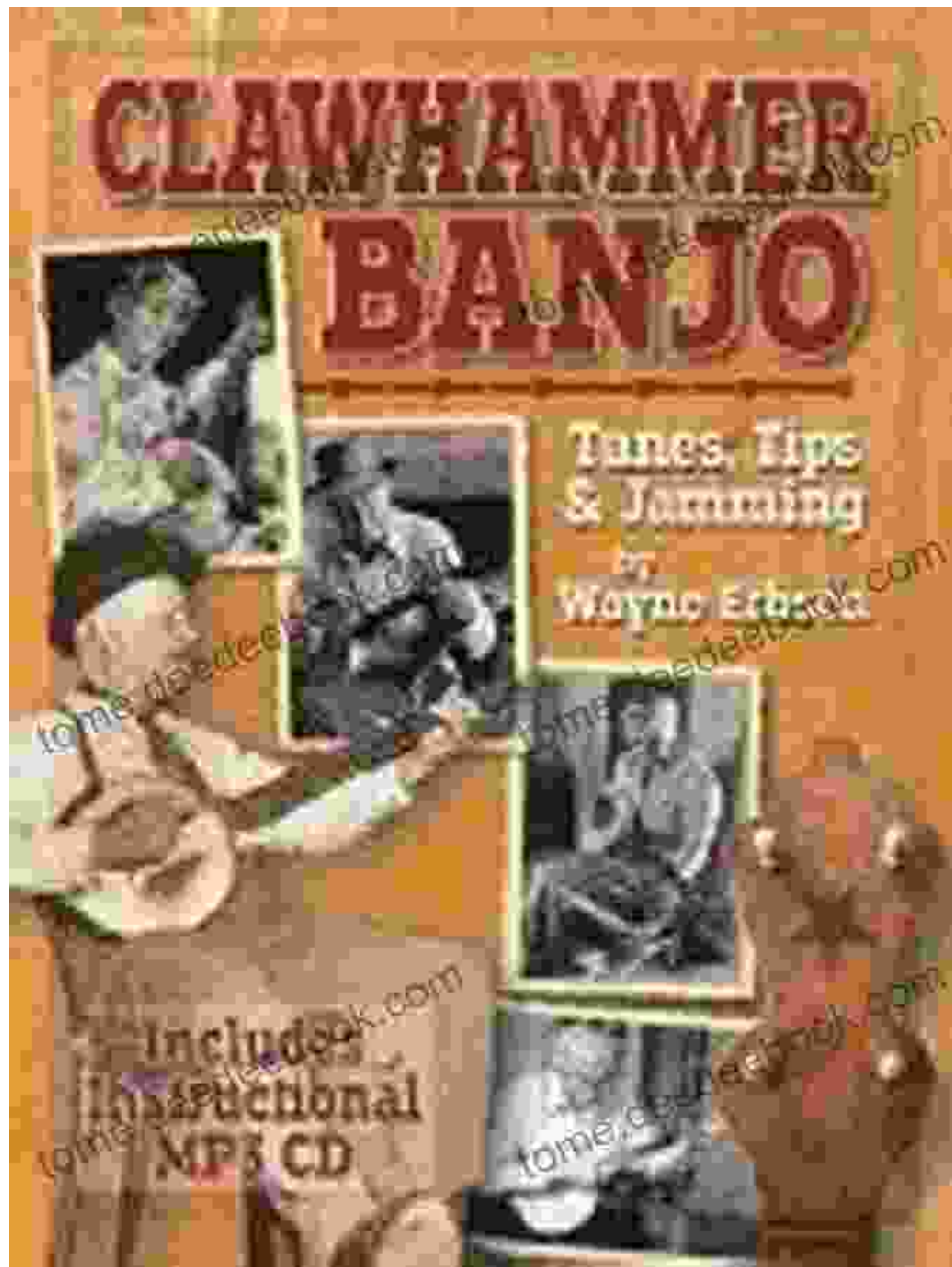
Shady Grove

Words and Music by Arhoolie Lane Watson

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"Shady Grove" is a traditional American folk song that has been covered by countless artists. Doc Watson's clawhammer arrangement is a beautiful and intricate interpretation that showcases his signature fingerpicking techniques. This tab will teach you the basic melody, variations, and syncopated rhythms that make this song so iconic.

Tablature 2: "Whiskey Before Breakfast"



"Whiskey Before Breakfast" is a lively and energetic tune that has become a bluegrass standard. Merle Watson's clawhammer playing is characterized by its driving pulse and intricate syncopations. This tab will guide you through the driving rhythm, hammer-ons, and pull-offs that give this song its infectious energy.

Tablature 3: "Black Mountain Rag"

from Doc Watson - *The Essential Doc Watson*
Black Mountain Rag
 Words and Music by Arthur Lane Watson

Musical notation for guitar, including a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The score is divided into sections labeled 'A', 'B', and 'C'. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The music features complex melodic lines and intricate fingerpicking patterns. The score is divided into sections labeled 'A', 'B', and 'C'. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The music features complex melodic lines and intricate fingerpicking patterns.

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"Black Mountain Rag" is a traditional fiddle tune that Doc Watson adapted for the clawhammer banjo. His arrangement is known for its complex melodic lines and intricate fingerpicking patterns. This tab will challenge your coordination and dexterity as you navigate the shifting rhythms and subtle variations in this classic tune.

Tablature 4: "Doc's Guitar"

Doc and Merle Watson

Eight Clawhammer Banjo Tabs

with Lyrics



By
David Brooks

"Doc's Guitar" is a tribute to Doc Watson's love for the guitar. This clawhammer arrangement showcases his ability to emulate the sound and phrasing of a fingerstyle guitar. This tab will teach you how to use hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides to create a rich and expressive sound on the banjo.

Tablature 5: "Sitting on Top of the World"

from Doc Watson - Doc Watson

Sitting on Top of the World

Words and Music by Walter Jacobs and Lerma Carter.

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"Sitting on Top of the World" is a poignant and heartfelt ballad that has been recorded by numerous artists. Doc and Merle's clawhammer rendition captures the song's emotional depth and beauty. This tab will guide you through the delicate fingerpicking, subtle dynamics, and flowing melody that make this song so unforgettable.

Tablature 6: "Row Jimmy"



"Row Jimmy" is a traditional folk song that has become a staple of the bluegrass repertoire. Doc and Merle's clawhammer arrangement is known for its rhythmic drive and energetic interplay. This tab will teach you the syncopated strumming pattern, hammer-ons, and pull-offs that create the distinctive sound of this classic tune.

Tablature 7: "Shady Grove Breakdown"

SHADY GROVE in Dm7 Tuning

"Brad's Dm7 Tuning" (FDACD)

Arranged by Bradley Laird

Version 1

Version 1 musical notation. The first staff shows a sequence of notes with fingerings: 0-2-0, 2-2-0, 0-0-0, 2-5-5, 5-7-7, 7-7-7. The second staff shows: 10-10-7-7, 5-7-5-0, 0-2-2, 5-2-2, 0-0-0, 0-3-0. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Version 2

Version 2 musical notation. The first staff shows a sequence of notes with fingerings: 0-0-0, 2-0-2, 0-0-0, 2-0-2, 5-7-7, 7-7-7. The second staff shows: 10-10-7-7, 5-7-5-0, 0-2-2, 5-4-3, 0-0-0, 0-3-0. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

"Shady Grove Breakdown" is a lively and up-tempo instrumental that showcases Doc and Merle's exceptional musicianship. This clawhammer arrangement features intricate fingerpicking, syncopated rhythms, and driving bass lines. This tab will challenge your technical skills and help you develop a fluid and dynamic clawhammer style.

Tablature 8: "Merle's Breakdown"

Doc and Merle Watson

Eight Clawhammer Banjo Tabs

with Lyrics



By
David Brooks

"Merle's Breakdown" is a tribute to Merle Watson's innovative and virtuosic clawhammer playing. This arrangement is characterized by its rapid-fire picking, complex syncopations, and intricate melodic lines. This tab will test your dexterity, timing, and ability to execute advanced clawhammer techniques.

These eight Doc and Merle Watson clawhammer banjo tabs provide a comprehensive to their iconic style and will help you develop your skills as a bluegrass musician. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, these tabs will challenge your technique, expand your repertoire, and ignite your passion for this captivating instrument. Embrace the legacy of Doc and Merle Watson and embark on a musical journey that will enrich your life and inspire countless others.



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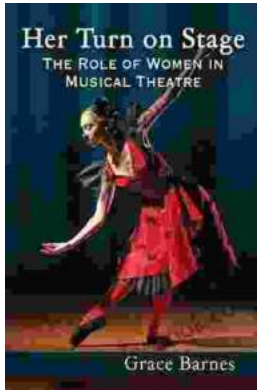
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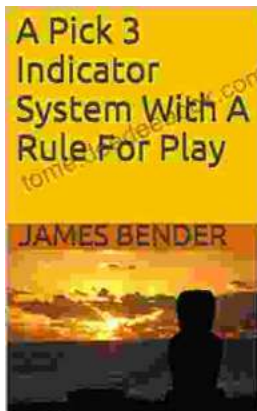
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