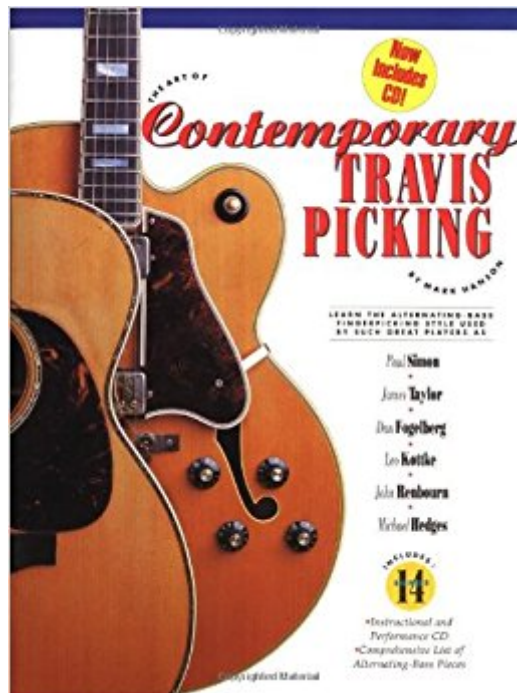




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# The Art Of Contemporary Travis Picking



## Synopsis

(Music Sales America). By mastering all techniques described in the book, you will be on your way to elevating the Travis pick from a basic chordal accompaniment to a complex solo style! Includes: 14 guitar solos; instructional and performance CD; standard notation and tablature; comprehensive list of alternating-bass pieces; detailed and thorough instruction; and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When fingerpicking comes to my mind, I think of being able to play the melody and harmony together or something close to classical guitar (my mind has been brainwashed by YouTube). This book provides training mainly for fingerpicking as backing for singing along. I suppose for what I'm looking to play, this book does provide a good foundation for it. The tunes that the author chose are very country and folk (not my usual cup of tea) which isn't necessarily a bad thing because I feel like these skills can be applied in any genre of music where you want to apply fingerpicking. When I initially flipped through the book, I thought it was kind of simplistic and disappointing. The patterns looked easy and uninteresting but the point is to master these patterns to the point that you can play them quickly and accurately and perhaps without too much thought. For me, it takes a while to play the patterns without goofing up or getting confused between all the different patterns. It looks easy but in reality, it's quite difficult to master right away. Overall, I think it's a helpful book and provides a guide for mastering fingerpicking patterns. You'll dazzle others when you've finished this book (or even before that) even if you don't like singing along. The CD is very well done. The author will play

a pattern slowly, then quickly and then will play along with a singer so you can hear how the pattern is applied. I think if you're pretty new to guitar, you can get started with this book. Before this book, I used Mark Hansen's "Beyond Basics Fingerstyle Guitar (The Ultimate Beginner Series)" which isn't necessary to start off and is pretty easy (think of it like baby steps before the actually beginning). Even if you're a seasoned guitarist but new to fingerstyle, I recommend this book because it gives a lot of good fingerpicking practice.

I bought this book thinking it would walk me through methods and technique. While it does that, it moves very fast accompanying with the CD. The CD that comes with it does a very good job at getting the basics down- the narrator talks you through every step and you actually feel like you LEARN something. But after about the third lesson, he stops talking and just says "28-B" and starts playing and you get lost. He doesn't play the new lessons very slowly to help you learn them- only about 3 or 4 times, and then he just jumps into blazing fast versions that make you feel inadequate and flustered as a new fingerpicker. HOWEVER, he does a very great job of teaching you the basics. From there, I was able to go and listen to my favorite artists and play along side of them and pick up little tricks and techniques along the way.

A great book for guitar players who want to learn Travis picking. It covers all the basics with good song examples. I've tried a lot of books and Mark Hanson's instruction style is right on the money. He starts out giving you accompaniment only examples to support a song being sung and finally has you doing a melodic version of a great blues tune. The included CD shows you what it's supposed to sound like. Once I got through this book I went on to his "Art of Solo Fingerpicking" which takes you to the next level, i.e. playing melody with your Travis style accompaniment.

What a sham! You certainly can't judge a book by its cover this time. I really expected to learn a couple songs by Paul Simon, JT and the others listed on the cover of this rag and not just a couple of crappy folk songs! Misleading at least! I may send this back. I have a Merle Travis book and it is fantastic but a little above my playing level after the third song. I really hoped this one had a couple good tunes, not for me...

This is extremely well done and easier to use than any other alternate string finger picking instruction I've used over my 40 years of guitars. His practice examples are easy to follow and practice is very productive with quick results if you put in the effort...may not like the songs but they

are familiar so you don't have to stare at the tab to figure out the next notes. I was impressed with his teaching expertise.

This is a great book for learning Travis picking. My advice is to move through it slowly, to take one pattern and work to speed before moving on. The cd that comes with it is very useful. The author plays each piece slowly and then at normal tempo. There are some examples which are not played or played only at a fast tempo. Also, I found that the sung pieces were less useful and introduced too early. But those are small quibbles. I have been playing for a number of years and finally gotten around to finger picking. I am really enjoying the experience..

I started playing guitar about a year ago to do something in my free time while in graduate school. I first started out with Hal Leonard Guitar Method Complete Edition. Don't get me wrong, that book is very good if you are a beginner and want to learn the basics of playing guitar. But I don't think it teaches playing chords very well. I got almost through book two before I found it sort of boring to get through. I don't really like most of the songs and I wanted to play something a little more adult than a very short version of Joy to the World. I was really interested in travis picking so I picked up Mark Hanson's book and my ability to play chords improved dramatically over a very short period of time. This book has been awesome and I haven't touched my Hal Leonard book since. The songs are more fun to play and it is really easy to learn. It jumps into chords right away and doesn't really teach notes, but it is all tabbed. The one thing I wasn't too thrilled about was the singing on the CD. It doesn't really get in the way of hearing the song, but the singing is just awful. Hanson couldn't find someone with a more appealing voice? Other than that, the book is excellent for anyone interested in learning how to travis pick.

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