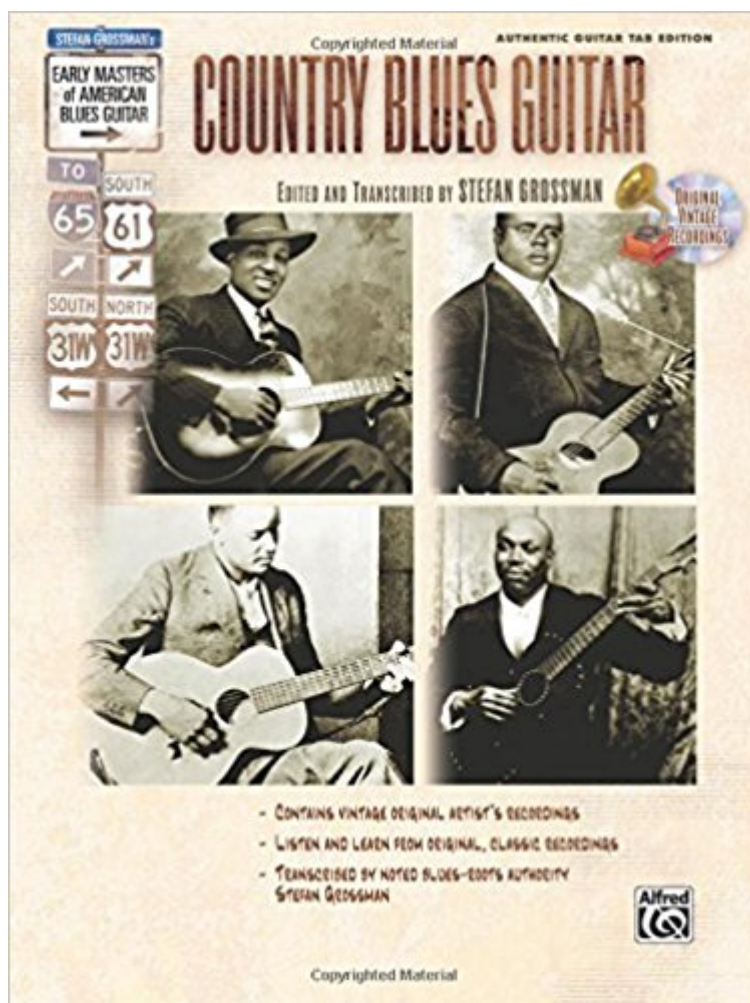


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# Stefan Grossman's Early Masters Of American Blues Guitar: Country Blues Guitar, Book & CD



## Synopsis

The Early Masters of American Blues series provides the unique opportunity to study the true roots of modern blues. Stefan Grossman, noted roots-blues guitarist and musicologist, has compiled this incredible collection of 22 songs by 8 legendary early "Country Blues" guitarists. In addition to Stefan's expert transcriptions, the book includes a CD containing the original artist recordings so you can hear the music, and feel the music, as it was originally performed. Artists: SCRAPPER BLACKWELL: (Blue Day Blues; Kokomo Blues); BLIND BLAKE: (Georgia Bound); BIG BILL BROONZY: (Big Bill Blues; Mississippi River Blues; Mr. Conductor Man; Saturday Night Rub; Stove Pipe Stomp; Worryin' You Off My Mind); REV. GARY DAVIS: (Cincinnati Flow Rag; Italian Rag; Sally, Where'd You Get Your Liquor From; Two Step Candyman); BLIND LEMON JEFFERSON: (Easy Rider Blues; Hot Dogs; One Kind Favor); LONNIE JOHNSON: (Go Back to Your No Good Man; Life Saver Blues); CHARLEY JORDAN: (Hunkie Tunkie Blues: Keep it Clean); JOSH WHITE: (Jesus Gonna Make Up My Dying Bed; Little Brother Blues).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Early Masters of American Blues series provides the unique opportunity to study the true roots of modern blues. Collect all 8 books in the Early Masters Of American Blues Guitar Series; "Delta Blues Guitar", "Country Blues Guitar", Anthology Of Country Blues Guitar", Mississippi John Hurt", "Rev. Gary Davis", "Lonnie Johnson" and "Blind Blake". Available on .Com and published by Alfred

Publishing. .

A few disclaimers are in order. First, I bought an older (1969) version of this book, mine did not come with a CD, but this isn't a problem, since I have at least some of the songs on various Blues CDs by the original artists. Second - and this should probably always be mentioned in reviews of music books - this is NOT a book for beginners, you need to have at least, say, 2 years of guitar under your belt. Also, Mr. Grossman does not transcribe entire songs, he transcribes parts of songs in advance. Most Blues follow a pretty simple structure, so if you're an intermediate guitarist, you should be able to figure the rest out for yourself, or, in true Blues fashion, improvise something that's close enough in spirit, if not note for note. Speaking of notes, there's standard notation, which is what I'm using, and then there's a tab-like system of Mr. Grossman's own devise, which shouldn't take too long to get used to for those of you who use tab. It almost seems as though the author was trying to come up with some sort of hybrid between notation and tab. The song selection is pretty good, some of the most important figures of early Delta style are represented, it's a nice, if not too in-depth introduction to playing this fundamental style on guitar.

If you want to learn how to play the Country Blues, this is a great start. A nice variety of artists from Scrapper Blackwell to Josh White. Each artist comes with a little history and couple of songs to represent his style. Blind Blake's Georgia Bound and Jefferson's Easy Rider Blues are a couple of my favorites. The tabs are easy to follow, there's a Cd with instruction and lyrics to the songs. This book is a gem!

If you really want to learn the fundamentals of acoustic blues guitar, I would highly recommend you the audio-books lessons by Stefan Grossman Guitar Workshop series ("Delta Blues", "Shake that thing: The Guitar of Mississippi John Hurt, vol. 1", etc.); they are an extraordinary option. Grossman will teach you full songs NOTE by NOTE, finger by finger, bar by bar with careful attention to details, at slow and full speed, and explain (and suggest) proper fingering and alternate ways of playing a chord or a lick. The lessons are complementary from one book to another: the licks that you will learn while studying Charley Patton will provide you with a solid foundation and help you a lot when trying to learn new songs by other artists (Willie Brown, Tommy Johnson, and Son House). And while I accept that this may sound obvious to some readers, the true is that you don't get this whole perspective and coherence from other DVD's and instruction books in the market (Mark Galbo, Keith Wyatt, Fruiland Jackson). Grossman also includes an audio of the songs by the original

performers. You can't go wrong: Grossman's audio books are three hours long and they will provide you with an encyclopedia of guitar licks and blues repertoire at a minimum cost. You should also consider the DVD lessons ("How to play blues guitar", "Fingerpicking guitar techniques") but only after feeling comfortable with at least one book and a half of the audio-book series. The DVD lessons are great but you will need a quicker eye and a finer ear to "catch" all those small details that in the audio book lessons are fully explained.

Old time blues beginnings. Lots of fun.

Excellent blues book. Would purchase again.

Stephan Grossman has many years experience playing guitar and learning Blues Guitar from the masters. His books reflect his knowledge and experience. The pieces are actual transcriptions of various Country Blues artists, and they include clear explanations, background information, and even a CD of the artists playing each song. You couldn't go wrong with this or any of Mr. Grossman's method books.

Because it is not to forget the beauty of the blues originals

Very good

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