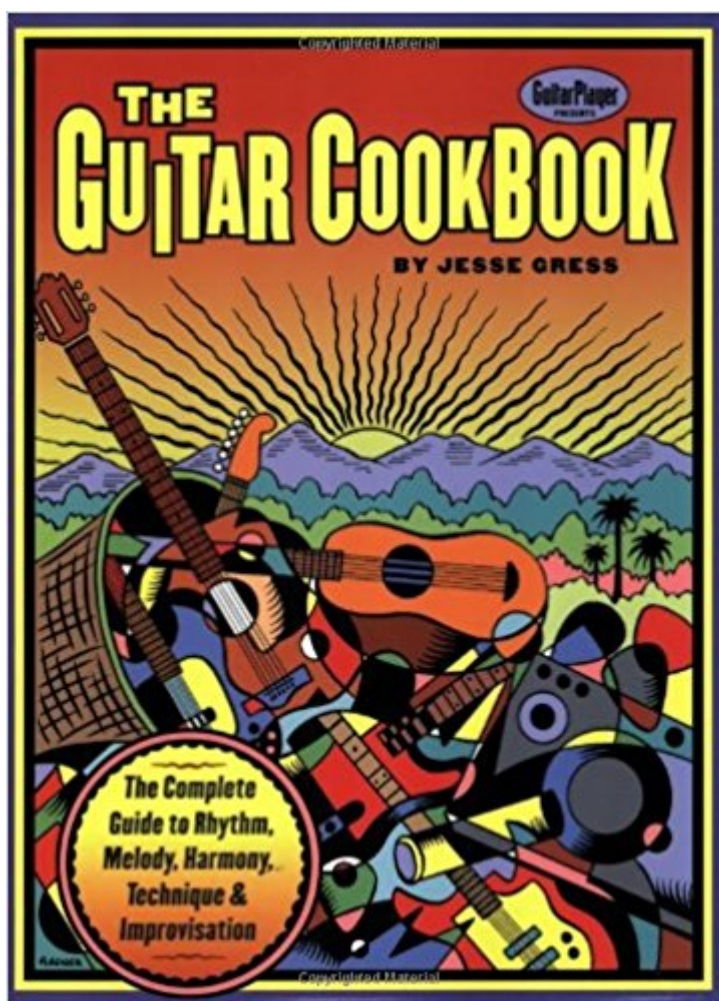


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# The Guitar Cookbook: The Complete Guide To Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Technique & Improvisation



## Synopsis

(Book). Spice up your playing with The Guitar Cookbook ! Written by Guitar Player magazine music editor Jesse Gress, this collection of "recipes" for satisfying a wide variety of musical appetites is for beginning to advanced guitarists. It covers all the ingredients for cooking up great music on the guitar: music notation, tuning, intonation, rhythm, melody, scales, motifs, harmony, ear-training, technique, improvisation and much more. Players will develop a personalized musical vocabulary; learn how to apply it to many different styles; master basic guitar techniques; and let the musical ideas sizzle!

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Backbeat Books (February 9, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0879306335

ISBN-13: 978-0879306335

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.6 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #533,574 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #576 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music](#) #748 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Reference](#) #897 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Techniques](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've been playing the guitar for years and somehow I missed this book. I wish I had found it sooner because it answers a bunch of questions I had years ago. I eventually found those answers but it took reading literally dozens of different books and tying it all together. Not an easy process. There's a treasure trove of valuable info in these pages. This book is supposed to be for beginners through advanced. And I agree with that. However I'm not sure beginners will grasp the importance of it's contents early on unless they have an instructor to help them along. I'm self-taught myself and I doubt I would have recognized the importance of what's in this book when I first started learning. And make no mistake this IS important stuff! I think it makes a great companion to a method book (I recommend "The Modern Method for Guitar" by William Leavitt). It covers an enormous amount of territory and will fill in many of the blank spaces left in method books. Try reading through the

sections doing your best to understand at a basic level what you read. If you're a beginner just don't expect to understand EVERYTHING right away or you could get frustrated. If you continue referring back to it as you go along, working through the assignments given in the book, you'll find yourself saying "Now I get it!" If you're already more advanced you'll simply be adding more powerful tools to your arsenal and becoming a more formidable artist. As others have said, each section is really a separate small book of it's own. There's a section on rhythm, a section on melody, a section on harmony, a section on technique and a section on improvisation. Having those divisions all broken down in one book can be a big help understanding how the elements of rhythm, melody and harmony apply and relate to one another in terms of songwriting. And songwriting is what this book is about if you weren't already aware. The melody section alone is worth the book's price as far as I'm concerned. The author does an amazing job presenting the TOOLS needed to create melodies. I'm impressed with how fearlessly he tackles one of the most difficult subjects you can ever try to teach. I say that because you really can't teach melody per se since every melody is unique. Harmony is a bit different. There are standard "time tested" progressions that can be learned and applied with enough effort. Chord construction is also easy enough to grasp over time. Rhythm can be learned and expanded upon as well. And I believe if you get a grip on what's covered in this book you can also figure out how to write your own melodies if that's where your talent lies. I don't know of any other book I can make such a statement about. I think intermediate and advanced players will recognize this book can potentially provide some inspiration if you're ever experiencing stagnation or "writer's block." Just pull this book out and start browsing around through some of the melodic motifs and rhythms tinkering with different combinations of notes, or permutations, and soon enough you could be back in business. By the way there's a companion to this book also written by Jesse Gress called "Guitar Lick Factory" which is also outstanding. It's the only lick book I've ever come across that provides suggested fingerings along with the tabs. That can be a big help if you're just getting started with licks. You have to commend the author for putting forth the effort he has. With both of these books there's a HUGE amount of legwork that has been done for you.

END NOTE FOR PEOPLE READING THIS BOOK: I wanted to point out something regarding the discussion of permutations that might throw some people off. First of all don't let the geeky sounding word "permutations" intimidate you. Just understand it has to do with re-ordering, or shuffling, the notes in any given melodic motif (musical series of notes). The part that can throw you off is where the author provides an example of 24 permutations on the fretboard. If you look at that chart and try to match it to one of the motifs you may be confused. It "might" help to look at a piano keyboard. Just take the notes C, D, E and F which are white keys side by side. That corresponds to

the first 4 note motif provided in the book. On the piano you can use one finger for each note (C = 1, D = 2, E = 3, F = 4) which makes it less confusing. Then realize those notes can be shuffled 24 different ways and you can do that with EACH motif shown in the book. Then transfer that understanding to the fretboard keeping in mind you often use the same fingers for different notes on different strings. That's the part that can be confusing with the guitar. Did that make it even more confusing? I wouldn't be surprised. But if you get past that sticking point you'll see and understand that the bottom line is there are a BUNCH of different ways to order the same notes on the fretboard in a musical way. And that's where melodies lie. Also understand that the melodic motifs provided in the book are basically small bite sized portions of scales. So you can take any scale you're familiar with and start shuffling notes around within that scale the same as you do with the motifs in the book, also remembering to apply the different rhythms, until you find something melodic and musical. Here is one other illustration that "might" help you understand permutations. Think of word games like "Scramble" or "Boggle." They consist of a set of scrambled letters in a 5 by 5 matrix. The object of the game is to find as many words within that matrix as you can in a set amount of time. There may be 40 or 50 words of various lengths hidden in those letters. If you were to think of those letters as musical notes and the various combination of notes as "words" you may get an idea how you can pull melodies out of a bunch of related notes by shuffling them around.

If you play guitar and want to know a lot more about what you can do with your instrument or want to know more about how music works, get this book. Just click the "Add to Cart" button right now.

This applies only to the Kindle edition. The book itself is excellent and is so complete it may take me years to go through. But the book has a lot of diagrams and drawings and in the Kindle edition you cannot zoom in on the images. Unfortunately many of the images are unreadable at the size they are in the Kindle edition.

There's an awful lot of information squeezed into this book- scales, chords, arpeggios, modes, theory. What's missing, in large part, is a narrative to tie it all together. The guitarist approaching this book without much pre-existing theory knowledge might find him or herself lost in the details. Still, it's a fine collection of information that's still better organized than a lot of similar texts. Scales, modes and chords are presented in the "CAGED" system- a good way to organize knowledge- and simply following the text and practicing all the exercises will give the intermediate guitarist a lot of knowledge and technique to apply to further learning. I'd recommend this book to the guitarist who's

gotten comfortable with playing rock or other styles, but who is looking to explain his or her mastery of the instrument- maybe with the thought towards playing Jazz, or perhaps progressive rock. This isn't for shredders looking to master playing exotic scales at neck breaking speeds, but for the guitarist looking for a command of melody and harmony. Despite the "Cookbook" title, this is not a collection of riffs that can be immediately applied to one's playing. A lot of study and practice will be required to master what's here. But the player who masters what's here will have all the tools they need to play anything he or she might hear in their head.

This has been recommended by professional guitarists, and when I downloaded it, I realized there is a huge amount of information in this book. If you want a cookbook to an easy route to guitar mastery, continue your search for the element Un - Unobtainium. What is presented here is a common sense approach that tries to present a bunch of fingerboard concepts into something that can be used as a practice system or just a reference guide.

Full of useful information

Jesse Gress is a treasure in every regard (and a very lovely guy, to boot). Too bad I can't have him as my personal guitar teacher... this is the next best thing.

lots of info. definitely not for beginners. each page take a lot of time to digest. I'm still in the early parts of the book and there's enough info to make my mind swim. the layout so far is great. you'll learn a lot.

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