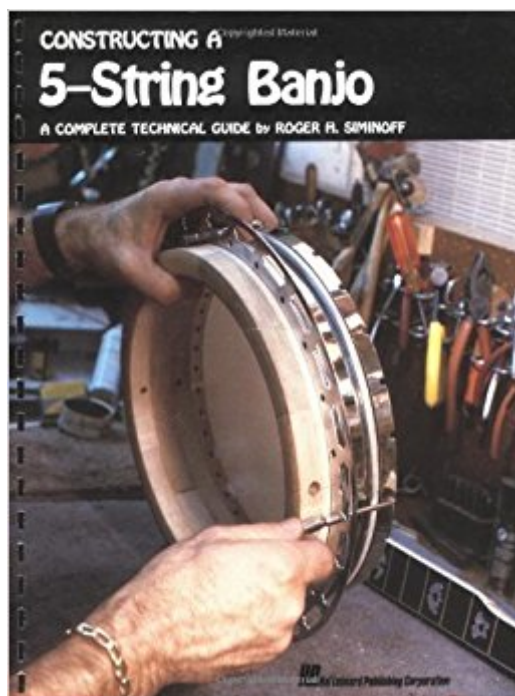


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# Constructing A 5-String Banjo: A Complete Technical Guide



## Synopsis

(Reference). Just as in his other book, *Constructing a Bluegrass Mandolin*, Roger's simple and concise step-by-step instructions show you the how and the why of it all, leading you on a path that blends discovery with pure joy. Over 200 photos and illustrations provide the kind of valuable reference no other book in the field can offer. Roger has used his technical knowledge on design, sound, and all of the important stages of construction that go into the building of a musical instrument, and has incorporated these ideas into one text. The end result is this valuable book of information that will help you to learn more about the makeup of a 5-string banjo, and more importantly, will give you the satisfaction and pride in being able to accomplish the building of a banjo that you can play and enjoy for years to come.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

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Music > Songbooks > Folk & Traditional

## Customer Reviews

*Constructing a 5-String Banjo* should be regarded as a technical reference primarily. It is not a mass-market, coffee-table, or even enthusiast book, though some of the last might be interested in the details. Nor is it really intended for a novice builder. You won't find the usual start-with-the-basics lists of tools required, materials to gather, and basic technique instruction. Nope - the author launches right into construction. He assumes a basic knowledge of tools and woodworking, and that you have certain tools (e.g., a bandsaw) though he does mention lesser alternatives here and there - anyone up for cutting a truss rod channel with a Dremel? Much detail is devoted to neck construction and rim layup alternatives. Binding and decorative finishing is also

well-covered, including inlay. Metal furniture get far less build attention (naturally). Pictures are ... OK. They work, but are a bit dark, at least in the Kindle edition. All pictures are B&W, except the cover. There could be more, but are adequate for the purpose. Fortunately, they have enough detail to zoom in sufficiently. This was a particular concern when buying the Kindle edition, as the sample includes no pictures! The included technical drawings at the back of the book are crystal clear. There are sufficient measurements to scale them to full-size drawings in the case of the rim. That is not true of the neck, unfortunately. Measurements there are confined to scale (25 1/2") and fret spacing. You would have to figure the rest out yourself - or have a copy/print shop zoom the drawing to EXACTLY the right size based on the scale. Same with the head. There is enough here to build an excellent banjo from scratch (again, assuming purchase of metal parts), but only if you are knowledgeable and have some (preferably instrument) building experience and woodworking skills. Neck building, in particular, is going to be daunting for a novice, and involves both high precision and construction of smoothly flowing compound curves across angled parts. The Kindle Edition is recommended, with cautions above regarding the technical drawings.

Awesome book for building my banjo! Great reference material and very helpful and detailed nicely! Would advise anyone building a banjo this is a must have book!

This has all the information you need to build a banjo.. The book met my needs..It showed several methods of construction, different materials that could be used and where to obtain the materials... I always enjoy reading how craftsman do their thing.... Makes me think I wasted my youth by not learning some woodworking skills...The books makes clear the steps but it also became clear to me that this is for someone with skills to truly make the banjo.. He mentions that components part are available though...So, I recommend it for folks who want to read about it but do not have the woodworking skills to do it.. I recommend it for those with skills... For me, I'm going to buy my next banjo..

I have been trying to build a Banjo for a while now and this book breaks down the steps in a way that a person with minimal skills can follow.

I have been using this book to build a banjo, and it is definitely worth it if you are thinking of building your own banjo. While some of the material may be dated, the concepts are still the same, and in more detail than the descriptions in the "Firefox" books. It also goes into different rim construction

methods, so depending on your tools, workshop setup, or skill level, you can find a construction method for you. I wish some of the pictures were bigger, and some of the detailed explanations could be a little more in depth, but for the price, you can't beat it. Definitely would recommend it to anyone thinking about building their own banjo.

A very useful and thorough book. The author goes into some length describing some facets of construction that could have been done a lot easier with a diagrammed photograph. For instance, two paragraphs clumsily written to describe how deep to make the groove for the tone ring. One drawing, or an annotated photo would have done the job far better. The color photos for tinting are very useful as well as the blueprint like fold outs at the end of the book. The plastic ringed type binding is a bit amateurish but it does help the book lay flat on a work bench. The book was written in the 80's so could use an updating with internet links, etc for buying parts.

Excellent detail to enable you to make a quality banjo.

The photos are not very good but other than that it's a great book for starting to learn about banjo making.

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