

# Resources for All Pickers

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**You Tube.** <http://www.youtube.com>. Want to hear what a song sounds like? See Flatt & Scruggs perform years ago?

**Capture the audio from You Tube in MP3 format** with <http://www.video2mp3.net>.

## Slow Down Your Music!

Most recordings of good banjo tunes are too fast to hear! You need to slow it down. A number of programs are available including:

The **Amazing SlowDowner** is intended for musicians wanting to slow down music without changing the pitch. Amazing Slow Downer is available for Mac and Windows computers as well as for iPhone/iPad/iPod touch. Also allows changing the key of a recording. Or do both. Play it from a CD, MP3, WAV, AIFF, MP4, WMA and many other file formats. Available from Roni Music: <http://www.ronimusic.com>. \$49.95.

**Audacity** is a free digital audio editor. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>. After you've slowed things down, you can export as a MP3.

## Other tools to use

**Band-in-a-Box.** Just type in the chords for any song using standard chord symbols (like C, Fm7, or C13b9), choose the style you'd like, and Band-in-a-Box does the rest... Band-in-a-Box automatically generates a complete professional-quality arrangement of piano, bass, drums, guitar, and strings or horns. <http://www.pgmusic.com>.

**vanBasco's Karaoke Player.** Free MIDI player. <http://www.vanbasco.com/karaokeplayer>.

**TABLEDIT** is a program for creating, editing, printing and listening to tablature and sheet music (standard notation) for guitar and other fretted, stringed instruments, including mandolin and bass. Additionally, TableEdit, developed support for harmonica, mountain dulcimer, diatonic accordion, drums, violin, tin whistle, recorder, xaphoon, native american flute, autoharp, pedal steel guitar, and banjo (even taking into consideration the special aspect of the fifth string). Supports BOTH tablature and standard notation. <http://www.tabledit.com>. \$60.

**TABrite** (for Banjo - Guitar - Mandolin - Bass). Great for writing tablature and playing back the midi file you can make of the tab you wrote. Very good for learning other tabs done with TABrite. Prints out a professional looking copy of the tab. Now free! <http://bluegrassbanjo.org/software.htm>.

# Discography

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Listen to the best players on your instrument to train your ear! Here's a list of suggested recordings.

**The Bluegrass Album Band.** Six CDs. This super group does many of the seminal tunes originally recorded by Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, Flatt & Scruggs and others. Tony Rice, J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks, Jerry Douglas, Todd Phillips, Vassar Clements, Mark Shatz. Better than the original...

**Bluegrass '95 ... Bluegrass 2001.** Seven CDs – all instrumentals – of heritage tunes. An “super group” of pickers led (and produced) by Scott Vestal. Others include Aubrie Haynie, Adam Steffey, Wayne Benson, Barry Bales, Clay Jones, Marc Shatz, Rob Ickes, Jeff Autry, Rickie Simpkins, Randy Khors, Ron Stewart, John Cowan, and Jim VanCleve.

## Reference Materials

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**Parking Lot Picker's Songbook**, Bill Evans & Dix Bruce, Mel Bay, 2007. A collection of over 225 great Bluegrass, Old Time, Country, and Gospel standards. Melodies are presented with standard notation AND tabulature along with lyrics and chords. Two CDs include recordings of EVERY song in the book. Editions for banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and dobro \$29.95.