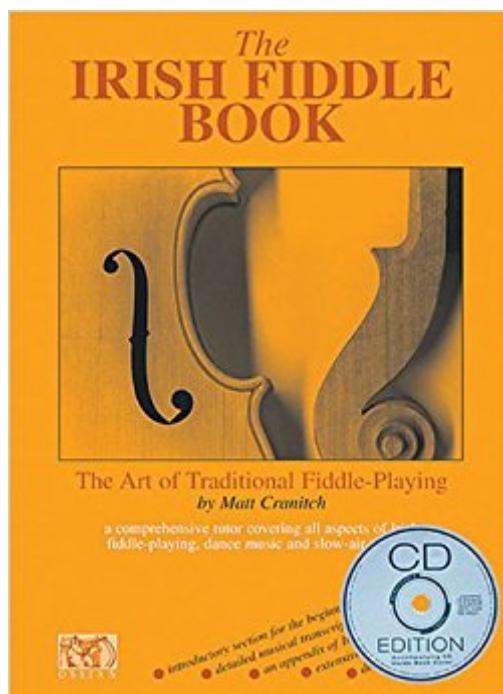


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# The Irish Fiddle Book: The Art Of Traditional Fiddle-Playing (Book & CD)



## **Synopsis**

(Music Sales America). This book explains and shows in detail the various techniques used by fiddle players in creating a traditional style of playing. All the information is presented in the context of the music itself, with numerous transcribed and recorded examples. It is aimed not only at the beginner, but also the fiddle-player (and indeed violinist) with some knowledge and experience who wishes to learn more. For those unable to read music, a chapter on notation is included. Particular emphasis is given to bowing and ornamentation, with individual chapters devoted to jigs, slides, polkas, hornpipes, airs and reels. The book also attempts to convey something of the excitement felt in playing music which has a large degree of improvisation, albeit within certain bounds. The demonstration CD, which features a large selection of the transcribed tunes and ornaments performed by Cranitch, is an invaluable aid to learning as it allows the listener to hear how the music and ornamentation should sound.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Matt Cranitch, who lives in Cork, is renowned as a fiddle-player and teacher, both at home in Ireland and abroad. He has performed extensively at concerts and festivals, on radio and television, and has also presented lectures, master-classes and workshops on various aspects of Irish music, particularly fiddle-playing. As a founder member of Na Fili, he featured on all their records, and has made a number of solo albums and various other recordings. He is a graduate in electrical engineering and in music of University College Cork, and he lectures at Cork Institute of

Technology, where his subject areas and interests include electronic engineering and music technology. Matt has a particular involvement in the music of Sliabh Luachra, on the Cork/Kerry border, and is engaged in on-going research on the fiddle-playing style of this region at the Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick. As a highly accomplished musician and experienced teacher, he brings to this book a deep knowledge and keen understanding of all aspects of fiddle-playing. He has also contributed to a number of other books on Irish traditional music.

I purchased this book as a Christmas gift for my grandson. I work with him on his fiddle and we like the content of the book and the cd. Unfortunately we didn't start this book until mid Feb., past the return time at , only to find out that the book falls apart . Every time we open it another page falls out. We have many other books, some used for years and have never seen this problem. Obviously not properly bound. Very disappointing.

The rating could be misleading. It's a solid five-star package \*if\* you practice long and hard. Deduct stars if you don't have strong desire and discipline - no book is any good unless you actually do the work. This package can quickly and smoothly bring you up to a level of ability to begin playing with others, which is when the real learning always begins. There is no substitute for direct study with experienced players, but Matt's book would be a great tool in the hands of such a teacher, or a good way for you to prepare for such lessons. This material is not suitable for a complete beginner - a year of lessons based on one of the school methods such as Essential Elements seems a reasonable prerequisite. Should you have experience with fiddle music yet lack access to a teacher with a brogue, this package can fill that need as well. There are a couple of other book / CD packages that are comparable, Paul McNevin's and Peter Cooper's, that might be helpful in that case since they'll give you additional explanations, alternative bowings, and so forth. The broader perspective would be very helpful. Remember that it's ALL about the bow, and it only happens with \*consistent\* practice. But commit yourself to this course, and you \*will\* become a good Irish-style fiddler. Have a lot of fun!

A great starter book with plenty of examples and information consolidated in to one spot. A brief encyclopedia of the subject with a helpful CD to boot. I'm very pleased. I'm an experienced classic violinist but I wanted something that would expand my knowledge into this area. This book fit the bill perfectly and provides plenty of different pieces for me to explore.

A while ago I decided to pick up my old fiddle again, with the idea of learning Irish music, and after working with a few sources, I have to say that this book is a really great place to start. The chapters introduce new concepts and techniques in a gradual manner, so that as you learn repertoire you're also learning about ornamentation, bowing, and the different dance forms of Irish trad music. The CD is absolutely essential, because the feel of each type of dance just can't be captured by notation, but if you listen to this CD (and a good amount of "real" recordings as well) you'll get the idea quickly enough. I've been working with this book exclusively for a month or so and I've learned about a dozen tunes, all of them a real pleasure to play, enough that I know that I'm going to eventually learn everything in the book. I'm really glad I decided to pick this up; it's been a great start to my little adventure in Irish fiddle music. I'm not a beginner, so I can't speak to the effectiveness of the first 47 pages of the book, which is basic instruction in violin technique and notation. It looks pretty solid, but seriously -- if you're that much of a beginner, please save yourself a lot of struggle, and save the people around you a lot of earaches, and just spend some money on a real live teacher (or a group class) until you can produce a nice tone and are comfortable reading notation. The teacher doesn't have to know anything about fiddle styles, the basics are identical no matter what style(s) you eventually take up. Violin is one of those instruments where you really shouldn't wing it by yourself at the outset. If you take the trouble to achieve basic competence on the instrument to begin with, though you might feel impatient with that part of the process, once you have that foundation you can do anything and the time and money invested will repay you thousands of times over, in time and pleasure gained. The way I did it back in the day when I was super-broke, was I took a string orchestra class at the local community college, and I got a lot of help from more-experienced fellow students. More recently I took biweekly private lessons for a few months in order to get set up properly again. You'll find it's more than worth it.

So many tunes, the CD associated. Even the first tunes you learn are real tunes you'll want to learn not the usual twinkle twinkle nonsense. Tunes are taught and then ornamented versions of the same tunes taught so you can see how they might be incorporated. You'll be proud to play everything this book teaches you. Great resource that you will likely keep and refer back to for great fiddle tunes for years after being a simple beginner.

A must for any aspiring violin student of Traditional Irish music. Focus is on bowing and ornamentation as they support the all important timing and rhythm.

This book is full of great information and songs, and it's great to have the CD to know how the songs are supposed to sound. I'm not good enough to play most of the songs but I'll keep trying as I learn.

Being new to Irish fiddle playing, I had to go with a recommendation on what to purchase from my teacher. I am happy with this purchase! The accompanying CD is especially helpful. As he states in the text, some tunes aren't played exactly as written, so hearing a tune being played is helpful. Be warned - not all tunes are on the accompanying CD. I also like that the first couple of tracks are open string tuning, since I haven't purchased a tuner yet.

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