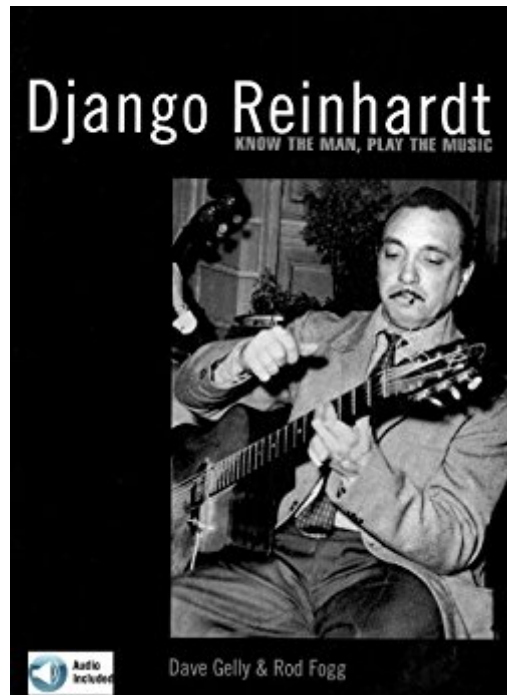




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# Django Reinhardt: Know The Man, Play The Music (Fretmaster)



## Synopsis

(Book). The music of Django Reinhardt is as important today as it has ever been. Blending jazz and gypsy influences, his exuberant solos and incisive rhythm playing have fascinated and tantalized guitarists for half a century. In this book, leading jazz writer Dave Gelly considers Django's life and recordings and explains exactly why he sounded the way he did. Meanwhile, guitarist and teacher Rod Fogg shows you how you can achieve that sound yourself, with the help of detailed transcriptions of six of Django's most celebrated and exciting numbers. Includes audio with all six numbers accurately recorded from the transcriptions for you to follow along.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whether you're a guitar player or just an avid listener of Gypsy Jazz or simply just interested in Django Reinhardt, this book is a wonderful piece of work. It is broken into two parts. The first part is a detailed biography of Django, containing about every factoid of his life you might ever want to know. There is great insight into the development of his music and his particular style. I found it to be well written and fascinating. It reads easily. The second part is an analysis of several of his best-known works, written out in tablature and performed for you on the included CD. I haven't yet

delved into this part, but I can see it's laid out well. I love owning this book. It is the kind of book that would make one of those great and thoughtful gifts for the aspiring Gypsy Jazz guitarist or the person interested in Reinhardt's life story.

I used the 3 glowing reviews on this product to make my decision in purchasing it. Before I gripe, I'll try to find some nice things to say. I was very impressed with the production quality of the book and the detailed information in the biography section. The transcriptions were note-for-note pretty good. The tab's a little off from video recordings of Django playing these same tunes, but the notes are right. That's about where it ends, though. The recording, while technically a decent recording, offers no insight to Django's phrasing or timing of the notes. There are entire passages where it felt like Rod was just playing the notes and nothing more. Other times, notes were missed, played sloppily or not picked up by the mic, leading to a sloppy, unrehearsed sound. There's an entire passage in the Minor Swing recording where Rod plays the most boring note-for-note reiteration of his transcription despite Django's clear swing rhythm and sliding techniques on the same passage in the recording it was transcribed from. Overall, this is a great book to get as a bio, and a pretty good one for the transcriptions. However, don't try to learn from the CD, because Django would probably be rolling over in his grave. Learn from the master himself, and those that came after him (Fapy Lafertin, The Rosenberg Trio, etc.). They are the real deal, and they will play it right. Copy them, not Rod.

This book is a must have for guitar players

Product arrived on time as promised and is an excellent choice.

The two parts to this book work well together and it's great to see a bio/technique book about such a unique musician. There are no source notes or anything from the bio section but it is an interesting read. I really like the fact that the book is spiral bound, which is great for keeping it open on the music stand. I've only started working on learning the tunes and I've already found an editing oddity in the tablature for "Djangology" but nothing serious. The music is difficult though. I'm a professional musician and guitar teacher and this stuff is a challenge but well worth it if you really want a great introduction to Django's style and technique. The accompanying CD is recorded well and is a good working tool for practicing. I still prefer listening to the original recordings for subtle nuances and phrasing but it's still good.

This is by no means the be all end all of Django books. I found this to be a fine place to start. Nobody can play exactly like Django, but they can try. Most musicians never completely work through an entire music book either. This is one you will most likely read and play from cover to cover. I felt accomplished by being able to "play" all the tunes! I would suggest getting the Django Definitive tab book next if you choose to be lazy and not read music...and of course start listening to Django 24 hours a day. Despite what one reviewer wrote, there are some really good recordings out there... the proper box and the 10cd box on ebay are both pretty good deals with listenable tunes.

I loved this book, and e-mailed Rod Fogg to tell him so and how much I hope he'll do another volume. Finally, an accurate transcription of the version of 'Honeysuckle Rose' I've know by heart from listening to the record hundreds of times for so many years, with music and tab. Plus, more great tunes not in all the other books and a great bio and photo section as well...even a CD with the author's performances to get by on until you can get the original Django recordings of the tunes you want to study. Plus these tunes are all accessible and playable- All this makes this my favorite Django book. The only other one that's come close for me is the 'Definitive Collection'.

Before the pentonic scale made its reign over the world of popular guitar, there was Django Reinhardt. The history section of the book is interesting to those who might be inclined, but to me isn't the main feature. The inclusion of a cd with his music and the tab is the real draw. After playing with the tab I learned new phrases and pushed my self out of some familiar patterns. A worthwhile resource for the guitar player.

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