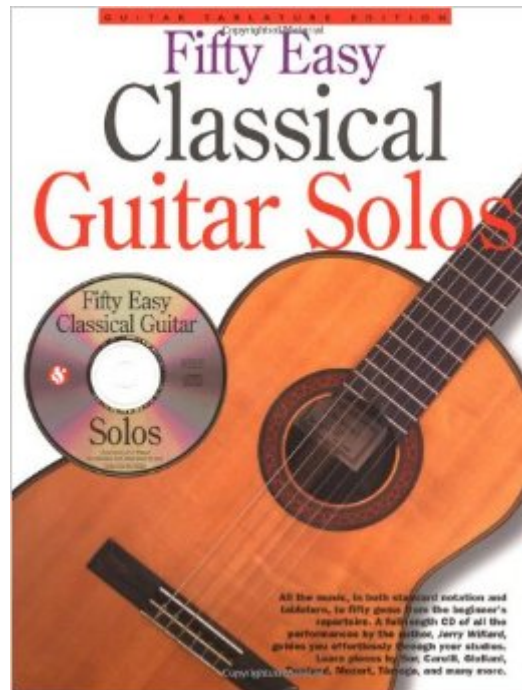


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# 50 Easy Classical Guitar Solos



## Synopsis

(Music Sales America). The pieces and etudes you need to develop your first classical guitar repertoire. This book and CD package contains delightful repertory of pieces in both standard notation and tab for the beginning or intermediate player. The selections are drawn from all periods of classical guitar literature and have been newly arranged and edited by Jerry Willard. The CD includes full-length performances. Learn pieces by Sor, Carulli, Dowland, Mozart, Tarrega, and many more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a rank beginner, having only purchased my first classical guitar 4 months ago. I use several method books in my daily practice (Noad, Parkening, et al), but the one I open the most is this excellent compilation by Jerry Willard. It is well organized, starting with easy pieces that get gradually more difficult. The book has both standard notation and tablature. The first few pieces are easy enough for even an early beginner like myself to play (not like Mr. Willard, of course, who plays all the songs beautifully, but well enough to keep me interested and keen to practice). The songs are simple but very attractive, and I find myself actually listening to the accompanying CD a lot, at work or in the car. The only reason for not giving this 5 stars: I would have preferred a spiral binding - it is not that easy to keep the book open, and after a few months of daily use I am getting worried about pages starting to become loose. Not a big deal at all, though. If you are a beginning or early

intermediate classical guitarist, this book will definitely not disappoint you.

This is not a method book. It is not for intermediate to advanced students. Rather, this is a book of surprisingly beautiful sounding yet simple arrangements for the beginning to very early intermediate classical guitarist. Everyone will have a different idea of what 'easy' is, so let's be clear about this. If you're a \*beginning\* classical guitarist with less than a year of lessons under the belt and the ability to play only in first position (and perhaps just dabbling with second or so), unable to do barre chords yet (or not at all well), you may want some VERY easy solo material to supplement your main lesson (or method) book (like while working through the first third or half of Noad 1). After all, scales and exercises can be boring and you may want to try solo pieces. The problem is that at this point most supplementary solo books are too difficult, even if they're not particularly advanced. Willard's 50 Easy Classical Guitar Solos fits this niche perfectly. The very attractive-sounding arrangements, all in standard tuning, clearly arranged in order of difficulty, and with virtually no barres until near the end of the book, are designed to be fingered with great ease, which is important for the new guitarist who is still struggling with basics like hitting the right strings and frets. The first couple pieces are almost too easy, but pleasant enough, and after you're up to speed you'll probably want to skip those, but there's still plenty in the book to entertain and challenge the beginner. Even the early intermediate student who wants some easy pieces to warm up on or memorize will probably find 2/3 or more of this book of value. There is a nice variety of pieces in terms of musical period, composer, key, tempo and so on, as well. The inclusion of tabs and a CD is a bonus, although the tracks are slightly out of order compared to the book. Overall, I would say that for the right level of student, this book is a true pleasure to play, and worth every penny.

I'm an accomplished flat-picker and finger-picker. I picked this book up a couple of weeks ago and have been learning the pieces in it, and I'm satisfied. The fifty pieces in the book are arranged in more or less increasing order of difficulty. There is a nice variety of different tempos, time signatures, keys, etc., and the pieces are about as good as they can be at this level of difficulty. I'm torn between four stars and five stars for this book. The reasons that I've decided on four stars are: The pages in the beginning devoted to brief biographies of the composers would have been more useful had they been devoted to things like explaining that p means the thumb, a means the ring finger, and general advice on right-hand patterns where the notation does not explicitly give right-hand fingerings. The notation should give right-hand fingerings more frequently. Very often, I can get the notes in several different ways. My guess is that some of them will build up bad habits

when I move to more demanding pieces; it would be helpful to be practicing patterns that will prove helpful in the future. These are, however, minor criticisms. This is a very nice collection of pieces, and I can recommend it whole-heartedly.

I was actually looking for a decent book on Spanish ballads and I came across this book. This is a great book for beginner or intermediate classic CLASSIC guitar players. As many reviewers mentioned, the pieces get complicated as you go on BUT not necessarily faster in tempo, which is what I was looking for. If you're looking for fast pace pieces (yes, it's a technical term) such as classic Spanish ballads this is definitely not what you're looking for. Yes, there are some difficult pieces towards the end...but the reason they are complicated is that they weren't originally written for the Guitar. And one thing that struck me the most was that on the recording the pieces are played by an electric guitar with Harpsichord sort of effect, which really hurt...with all that, I gave the book five stars because pieces are very consistent and they go from easy to more complicated ones. All of them also have TABs which can be helpful for beginners...it just wasn't the book I was looking for...

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