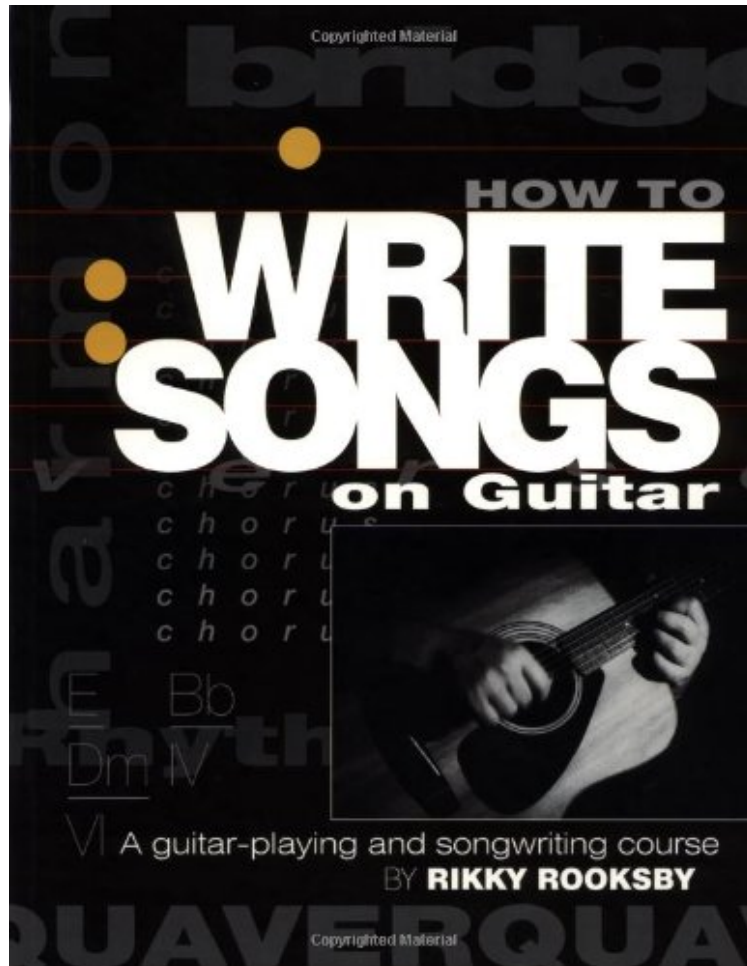


# How to Write Songs on Guitar: A Guitar-Playing and Songwriting Course

*Rikky Rooksby*

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**Rikky Rooksby : How to Write Songs on Guitar: A Guitar-Playing and Songwriting Course** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Write Songs on Guitar: A Guitar-Playing and Songwriting Course:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth it By Buffetteer Excellent book. I have the 2009 version and many of the criticisms of the earlier editions seem to be corrected. I have learned a lot from it. It will take several run throughs of the book to get everything. Well worth it. Also liked "Chord Master" by same author. 22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. The best songwriting book, ever... hands-down. By Chris (I wrote this review eight years ago for the first edition of this book. First, some updates and comparisons, between the first edition and this one): What's new: his writing is a bit toned-down (in the first edition, he knocks on Oasis for being derivative... in this

edition, he's much nicer about their music), some of the chord diagrams have been corrected, the color of the diagrams is more streamlined and "natural" (beige, easy on the eyes), full-color photos of the albums in the book of the first edition have been removed (probably to save money), and most importantly- all songs he references now have the ARTIST mentioned right in the same spot he mentions the song (that was really annoying about the first book- he kept mentioning song titles but I was like "who wrote that?!" - oftentimes I didn't feel like flipping to the index of the book), and there are other miscellaneous additions and subtractions. All in all, a very good revision. Now on to my original review from 2002:-----This is the best (and most comprehensive/complete) songwriting book in existence. Seriously. I am a 26-year old multi-instrumentalist who has studied my fair share of songwriting books and techniques... I listen to, write, and study virtually every style of music (even oldschool country and some R+B). What Ricky Rooksby has done is create an easily understood book on modern (and not-so-modern) GOOD songwriting... how to make interesting chord progressions, how to write memorable melodies, what songs use certain chord progressions (from the popular Beatles stuff all the way to The Smiths (!) and Sixpence None The Richer!) It's the only book I have seen that spotlights lesser-known amazing legendary alternative groups and their songwriting. Too many books these days show you how to play Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.... what the hell is that? Who wants to learn songs like that? Ricky's book focuses on why the great pop/alternative/folk songs in history ARE great, why they work, what elements make them work, etc... you wanna write good solid songs that people will remember? Catchy, full of great hooks, etc... This book is IT. In the back of the book he even lists 24 CD's you should buy (and/or study) to improve your songwriting, and he cannot be more ON when it comes to what he chooses: 1. The Beatles- 1967-1970. 2. Bob Dylan- Blonde on Blonde. 3. Beach Boys- Pet Sounds. 4. Love- Forever Changes. 5. Burt Bacharach- The Look Of Love. 6. The Band- The Band. 7. Motown Chartbusters Volumes I-V. 8. Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest Hits. 9. Led Zeppelin IV. 10. Bruce Springsteen- The Wild the Innocent and the E-Street Shuffle. 11. Joni Mitchell- Hejira. 12. Carpenters- Their Greatest Hits. 13. Queen II (EXCELLENT choice). 14. Fleetwood Mac- Rumors (yet another excellent choice). 15. ABBA Gold. 16. Siouxsie and the Banshees- Juju. 17. Bob Marley- Legend. 18. REM- Life's Rich Pageant. 19. Kate Bush- The Sensual World. 20. Madonna- The Immaculate Collection (quite possibly the most perfect pop record EVER). 21. Nirvana- Nevermind (it's about time SOMEONE recognized Kurt Cobain's genius). 22. Jeff Buckley- Grace (yet another AMAZING artist who tragically lost his life way before he got a chance to impact the music world). 23. Bjork- Post (absolute brilliance). 24. Radiohead- OK Computer. It's such a diverse list, from stuff you might hate that your parents or older sister love (Beach Boys/The Band), to stuff that my generation fully appreciates (Nirvana, Siouxsie, Radiohead, Kate Bush)... even though I love the oldschool stuff, too... the best songwriters draw from ALL decades of music. Ricky also has a section where well-known alternative and pop songwriters talk about the songwriting process (Morrissey, Tori Amos, Elvis Costello, Clapton, Peter Dinklage, etc.)... and he has a section that highlights random pop and alternative songs and why they WORK.... why they're great... I cannot say enough about how brilliantly-written this book is... I would love to contact Mr. Rooksby and let him know how much this book has helped me. The book is VERY inexpensive (for how much stuff it covers!!!) and I highly suggest it to anyone and EVERYONE, especially an alternative rocker. One band I wished he would have featured in his book is Jets To Brazil... now that is a band which knows about hooks, great lyrics/chord changes... songs that will be remembered for a thousand years. But still.... Ricky pretty much covered EVERYTHING... seriously. I have been playing guitar off and on for about four years. I've learned a LOT from this book)..... you won't be disappointed if you pick this book up, seriously. I hope everyone out there reads this review and buys it... it's just without a doubt, something you cannot do without, if you're serious about songwriting (on guitar or ANY other instrument). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Directionally Great By Craig35 I'm extremely pleased with the book. For me, it hit the spot in terms of expectations vs content. My primary expectation was that I was looking for a book that could give me some direction in terms of song writing. To clarify a bit more as to what I mean. If you have ever attempted to write a song or are (as I am) new to the process getting started can be overwhelming. The beauty (and curse) of song writing are the vast number of options. Even if you have a type of song in mind, sorting through which key, chord progressions, how the melody fits in etc can seem extremely challenging. While the book didn't eliminate or minimize the number of options, it did teach me how to organize them and to systematically sort through which ones directionally would be good additions to the song I wanted to write. Some things that helped me and may help you:- Read through the book completely the first time. My first time through I just wanted to absorb the information and understand how the information was presented.- Come up with an elementary song to use as a template as you go through the book the second time. Don't worry so much about writing the next greatest hit. Just have a simple idea for a song in mind - preferably in the key of C major.- Apply the concepts and information presented in the book to your new song to understand how the various points impact your emerging song.- The book does require, or at least it is helpful to have some understanding of basic music theory. Take the time to grab some additional resource books or go on-line and look up any points you may not understand. However the author does a good job of explaining most of the points.- Another valuable exercise for me was I took a couple of my favorite songs and tore them apart to see how the information in the book applies to them. For me this has been a great learning experience and, in a positive way, I'll never look at a song in the same way again - hope this review helps.

Now anyone can write and play their own songs on the guitar - with no prior training! This inspirational handbook teaches readers how to play guitar, while providing a solid foundation in songwriting techniques, using well-known songs as examples, easy-to-follow text, and graphics that explain and demonstrate lyrics, melody, harmony and rhythm. This book's straightforward style will have even those who've never played a guitar or written a song making music with ease.

"A useful source of knowledge for those just beginning with either writing or guitar." -- Dirty Linen  
"An extremely valuable source book for wannabe songwriters as well as a highly readable journey of the popular song." -- Guitarist  
About the Author  
Rikky Rooksby is author of several best selling how-to books for guitar players. A guitar columnist for Making Music, he has also written for Guitar Techniques, Bassist, and other magazines.