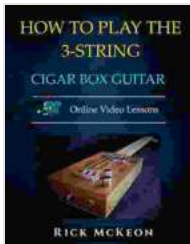# How to Play the String Cigar Box Guitar: A Beginner's Guide

In the realm of musical instruments, there exists an unassuming gem that blends the allure of vintage charm with the raw authenticity of the blues – the string cigar box guitar.

How to Play the 3-String Cigar Box Guitar: Fingerpicking the Blues by Rick McKeon

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5461 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 131 pages
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What is a String Cigar Box Guitar?

As its name suggests, a string cigar box guitar is an innovative instrument fashioned from a repurposed cigar box. Its unique construction combines the resonant qualities of the wooden box with a set of guitar strings, giving rise to a characteristic twangy and soulful sound.

Choosing Your Cigar Box and Materials

The first step in crafting your own string cigar box guitar is selecting the perfect cigar box. Look for a box with a sturdy construction, a smooth

interior, and a lid that fits snugly. For the neck, you can opt for a pre-made guitar neck or carve one out of a piece of hardwood.

Assembling Your Guitar

With your materials at hand, the assembly process begins. Attach the guitar neck to the cigar box using wood glue and screws. Next, drill holes for the tuning pegs on the headstock and insert the pegs. Finally, install the strings, starting with the lowest string (E).

Tuning Your Guitar

Open tunings are commonly used on string cigar box guitars. Here's a popular tuning: GDG (low to high). To achieve this tuning, tighten the strings until they produce the desired notes, using a guitar tuner or tuning app.

Basic Playing Techniques

Strumming

Strumming involves using a pick or a fingernail to pluck the strings in a rhythmic pattern. Start by practicing basic strumming patterns and gradually increase the complexity as you gain proficiency.

Plucking

Plucking involves using your fingers to individually pluck the strings, creating melody and harmony. Experiment with different fingerpicking patterns to create intricate musical arrangements.

Sliding

Slide guitar is a signature technique in the realm of string cigar box guitar. Place a slide (such as a glass or metal tube) on your finger and glide it along the strings to produce a haunting, resonant sound.

Advanced Techniques

Percussive Playing

Beyond traditional guitar techniques, you can explore percussive playing by tapping or hitting the cigar box body. This adds a rhythmic element and enhances the overall musicality.

Using Resonators

Resonators are small metal devices that can be attached to the guitar's body beneath the strings. They amplify the sound and provide a unique reverberant effect, emulating the sound of a resonating chamber.

Experimenting with Tunings

Open tunings offer endless possibilities for experimentation. Don't limit yourself to the standard GDG tuning; try variations like GCG, DAD, or even CGCG to create unique and captivating soundscapes.

Embarking on a musical journey with the string cigar box guitar is an adventure filled with soulful sounds, rhythmic exploration, and boundless creativity. Whether you're a seasoned musician or a budding enthusiast, this enchanting instrument offers a captivating fusion of vintage charm and musical versatility. With a little practice, patience, and a touch of ingenuity, you'll be strumming, plucking, and sliding your way to musical bliss in no time.

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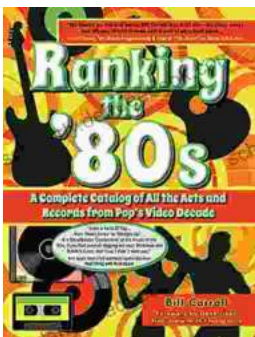
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