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The rhythm guitarist is a vital part of any group. This member of the band can be the "glue" that keeps the band together. The rhythm guitarist, whether strumming, playing power chords, or picking arpeggios, can make a soloist look good or bad. As well as providing the accompaniment for a vocalist or soloist, in today's music the rhythm part is often spotlighted and actually becomes the solo instrument.

This book presents various ways in which to play rhythm guitar. You will learn strum patterns, power chords, comping, and arpeggio techniques. The material in this book can be applied to playing songs which have been recorded by many different artists. The techniques you'll learn from this book will also help you in writing your own music.

At the root of rock guitar is the blues. This book also shows how to play the basic blues progression and its variations.

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Mike Christiansen is an associate professor and Director of Guitar Studies at Utah State University. He has his B.M. and M.M. degrees, is the author of several books, and has written and recorded jingles and music for television. He has also done solo concerts, back-up work on recordings, and played with various bands and ensembles. Mr. Christiansen often serves as a clinician, as well.