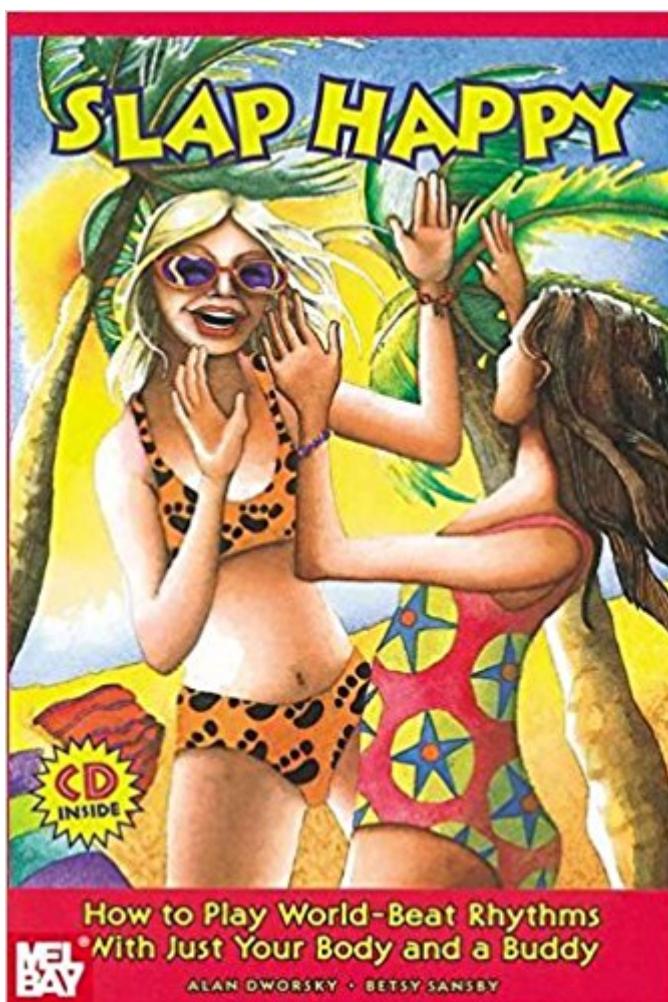


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# Slap Happy: How To Play World-Beat Rhythms With Just Your Body And A Buddy



## **Synopsis**

Slap Happy turns drum rhythms into body rhythms you can step, clap, and slap with a buddy. Right from the start, you'll be learning how to slap traditional rhythms from West Africa and the Caribbean; Kuku from Guinea; Sunguru Bani from mali, Kpegi from Ghana, Bomba from Puerto Rico, and Conga from Cuba. And you can hear how every pattern sounds on the slap-along CD that comes with the book. You can do Slap Happy in pairs or in groups, indoors or out, at home or at school. The rhythms are written in easy-to-read charts requiring no knowledge of music. If you're a parent, it's a great way to do something fun and educational with your kids that doesn't require any previous musical training. If you're a music teacher, you can use Slap Happy to give your students a hands-on experience of world rhythms without having to buy any instruments. It's physical, it's funky, and it's fun!

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 72 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.3 x 9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Dworsky and Sansby are authors of the numerous award-winning books drumming published by Dancing Hands Music. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Given all the professional development I've taken, I was hoping this would enhance my music lessons. I didn't care for the lessons it presented or how it presented them. I returned it immediately and will continue with the materials I already have.

I ordered this book to use as a prelude to teaching African drumming to my elementary students. Traditional African rhythms are introduced in order of difficulty. Each lesson includes several practice patterns related to a single rhythm. The patterns begin simply, and gradually get more complex. Directions in the book are presented concisely and clearly. The accompanying CD contains a recording of every rhythm presented in the book. The best part of the CD is the special extended recording of each rhythm, played on congas, djembes, and other traditional drums. My elementary students are thoroughly enjoying trying their hands at the Slap Happy rhythms. The real kick is keeping an entire class of 4th graders going with the extended CD tracks. We are having a ball! I'm convinced that when we move from body rhythms to actual drums, the patterns will be much more simple for my students to grasp and reproduce. The Slap Happy book states that it is "designed to embody the spirit of world rhythms and make people laugh." It does exactly that! It is one of the most delightful teaching tools I've discovered.

A little harder to figure out the directions than I thought it would be but very gratifying when I do. Wish it came with songs or chants to do with the motions - but to be honest, I haven't explored it thoroughly yet - they might actually be there and I haven't found them yet. Even if they are not, I'm pretty confident I can find some simple songs and rhymes to put them to on my own. Fun!

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