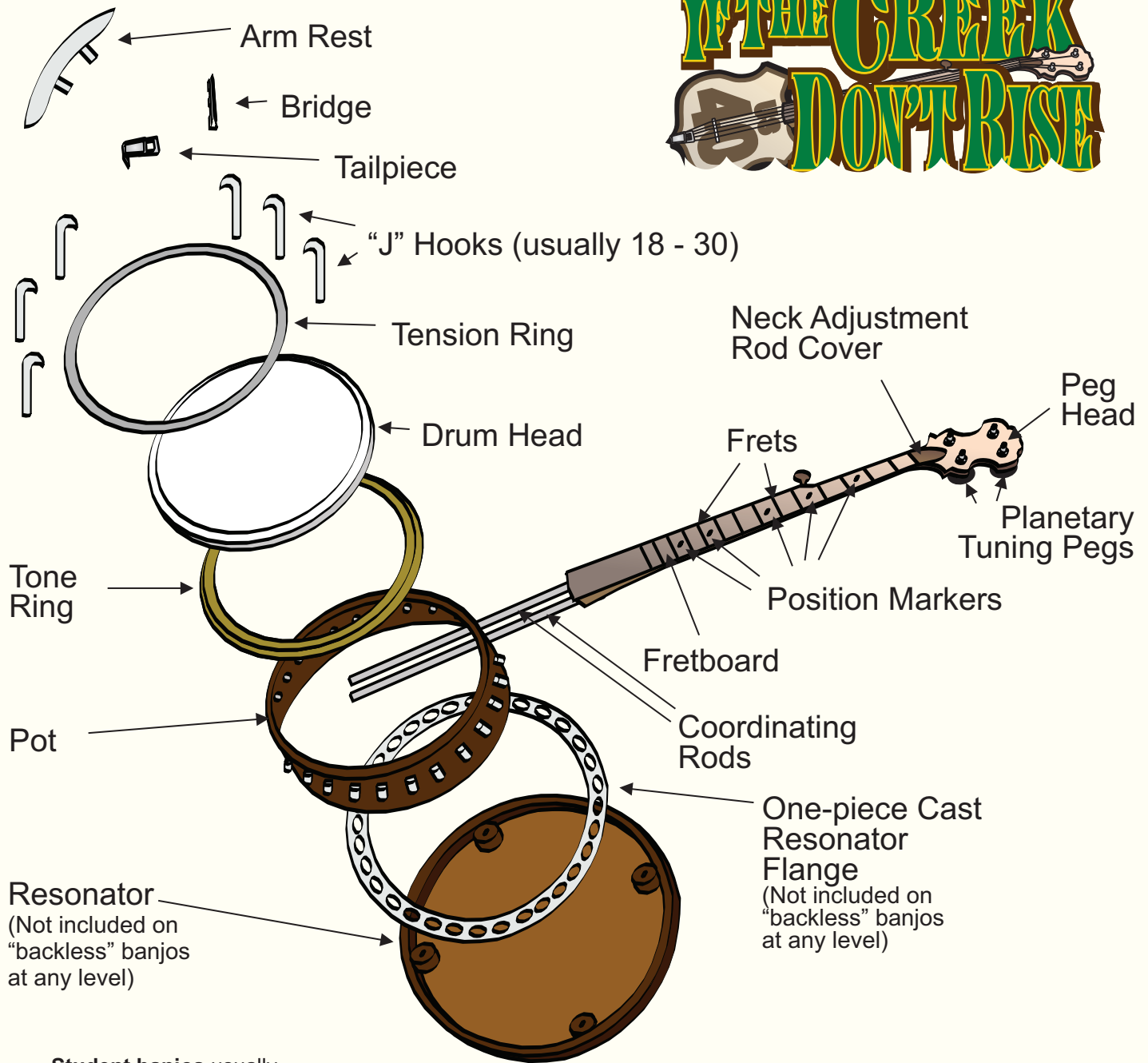


# ANATOMY OF A PROFESSIONAL BANJO

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- **Student banjos** usually
  - Have no tone ring
  - Have one coordinating rod instead of two, which provide better stability for resonator banjos.
  - Have separate stamped-metal brackets instead of a solid resonator flange
  - Have guitar-style tuning pegs that stick out of the side, not the back
- **"Pop-Top" banjos**, a kind of student banjo, have a cast metal pot (shown right) with built-in projections for mounting the resonator. They are louder and have more sustain than than student banjos with wooden pots but may have a "tinnier" sound.
- Many **import banjos** have most or all of the "bells and whistles" shown above but poor quality control makes them harder to play and keep in tune than well-built American-made student banjos.



**Note:** You can learn on any banjo that is playable and has the right number of strings for the kind of music you want to play. We are just posting this to help you make more sense of manufacturer's claims.