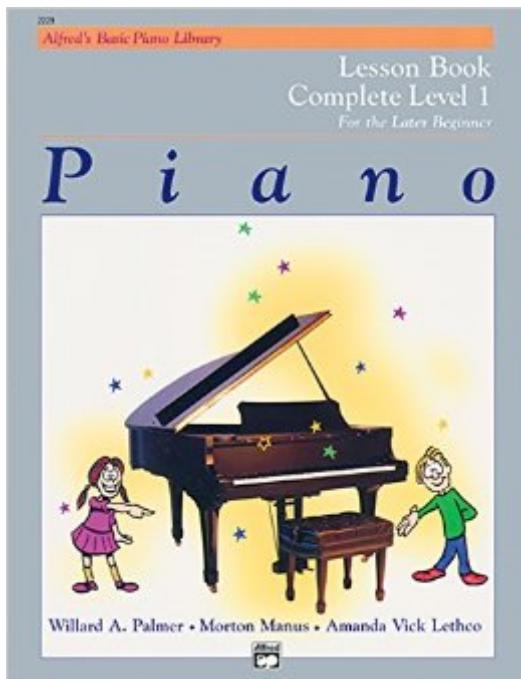


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Piano Lesson Book: Complete Level 1, For The Later Beginner



Synopsis

Complete Level 1 is a faster-paced version of Levels 1A and 1B that gets to staff reading more quickly. Perfect for a student who is 8 or older, or for a younger beginner with great musical aptitude. This course is most effective when used under the direction of a piano teacher or experienced musician.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (64 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I have been playing piano for a few years now, and am what you would probably call an 'advanced player'. I can play some pretty big pieces, but even so, I STILL come back to this book once in a while and play a tune or two from it! I have tried several other piano books, but this is the best beginner book I have ever found, and the one that taught me how to play. Take note: I had NO prior experience playing piano before I tried this book, unless you want to count tinkering around once in a while on a tiny, 20 key keyboard. It all started when my brother began taking piano lessons in primary school. He had a fantastic teacher and she assigned this book to him for starters, because she had faith that he could learn fast, and because it's something she's been using for years (that teacher later left and the new teacher also used the Alfred books). I wanted to learn piano too but didn't really want to take lessons, so I listened to what my brother learned from the tutor, but mostly, I looked through the book, practised, and learned to play better than I ever had just by reading through the book and taking my time mastering each song (a little friendly competition between me and my brother didn't hurt either ;). Before I knew it, we were through the book, could play every single song perfectly, and could even read notes. We eagerly pushed on to Alfred's Basic Complete

Level 2/3 (also highly recommended), which is more challenging, has even more fun songs, and is overall an even better book that we both learned an enormous amount from. I still have never had a single formal piano lesson, but have progressed to level 5, and am planning on getting level 6 (the final book) as soon as possible. The wonderful piano teachers who used this have also had great success with their students. The book itself is lively, easy to read and to follow. It has a bunch of colourful pictures that don't interfere but add to the book, making the songs even more fun to play. It isn't filled with boring diagrams or note charts, but instead has quick, easy to understand, and very useful notes about, well, notes, as well as hand positions, musical terms, etc. As one reviewer said, it DOES start you off playing with each hand separately so you can get the feel for it, but rapidly progresses to using two hands. Overall, it starts you off slow and easy, but progresses you fast after you've gotten the grasp of it. At the same time, you learn many of the essential principals you'll need to play even more advanced music. If you are a very beginning beginner, I would still highly recommend this book, even though it says "For the later beginner". As I said, it teaches you fast, but if you have absolutely NO experience with musical instruments or are a slow learner, I would recommend getting another one of Alfred's beginning courses. This book is for ALL ages, whether you're 1 or 100. If you're an adult just starting piano, don't hesitate to use it! If you have a 3-year-old who likes music (ALL toddlers seem to like music), get them a small keyboard and let them tinker around with it. If nothing else, they'll at least like the colorful, fun pictures in the book. If you think you can handle learning at a faster pace, get this book. If not, get it anyways, and get one of the earlier beginner books - you can STILL learn from it! The fun doesn't stop there: once you have a basic grasp on how to play, there's no limit to the music you can find - the internet is chalk full of beginner to advanced songs for free! Try 8notes for free beginner music. We found some really fun free music at Gilbert DeBenedetti's site. Even if you're not the music book type, print out a few songs and try to play them: you'll be very pleased with the result! You can follow my lead and self-teach yourself, or find a good tutor. It just depends on what you're like and how fast you want to learn. You can still learn fast on your own if you have the determination! Whatever book you use, if any, piano is a GREAT starter instrument, and I can't recommend it enough. If you're stressed, angry, or sad, play an instrument. Even if it's a garbage can drum, making your own music, no matter how "bad" you think it is, is about the best good-for-the-soul stuff you can ever ask for. Happy playing!

:D*Please check out my customer image for a guide to all the Alfred books and in which order to use them - I helps a LOT! :)

I have been a piano teacher for about 30 years. I am familiar with John W. Schaum as that is what I

had grown up with, along with John Thompson. When I first started teaching, I used the Bastien series, but was unimpressed with the songs. Another piano teacher turned me on to the Alfred's series, and I have used it ever since. I loved it and more importantly, my students love it. They go home from their very first lesson, able to play a couple of songs. It starts them off on the black keys to get them used to looking at the sets of 2 and 3 black keys. This helps them later when they begin learning to locate the different white keys. They always return the next week very excited. Parents are always impressed by our end-of-the-year recital by the songs they hear the kids playing from the beginners to the advanced students. I was curious as to why some people rated this book/series 3 stars and below. Someone thought that you could learn everything from just this book, and you could, but you don't get enough practice with the new concepts that are being taught. We use all 4 books: Lesson, Technic, Theory, Recital. When they say "complete" what they mean is that it has combined level 1a and 1b into one book. For young children, ages 5-7 you would want to use these books. Some thought the words to the songs were silly, but I have never heard my students complain about that in all the years that I have taught. Students who have come to me from other teachers, using other methods, are thrilled when I switched them over to this series. They said that they actually enjoyed practicing. The songs are fun, lively, and pages colorful. Level two gets even better as well as each level that they will progress through. This series teaches about intervals, half-steps/whole steps, the chromatic scale, chords, long/short rhythms, different keys (first book they begin in key of C, then move to key of G) and so much more. Alfred's have filled in the gaps that other methods leave out, and has a good, logical order. I cannot say enough good about this series! I highly recommend the entire series!

I've played piano for over 20 years, and have been teaching out of this series for the past year. I was a former Bastien advocate, but I'm a quick convert! This series is excellent and is a must have for your library and for any beginning student. The variety of books and even pace at which students advance is perfect. I am very happy with the selection of levels too. The Prep Course levels are perfect for younger or slower students who need lots of time and adjustment, while the Basic Library series with 6 levels (including 1a & 1b) is fabulously presented. You cannot go wrong with this series! If you are an adult, I recommend the Alfred's Adult series, but this works out well for adults who need a slower pace and lots of patience.

I am a piano teacher for over 30 years and I recommend "Piano Lesson Book: Complete Level 1, for the Later Beginner" for its clarity and straightforward presentation of the material to learn. I use it also

for younger talented beginners who like to go forward a little faster than regular children. This book has the right amount of information on one page and leaves space for the teachers or students notes. The songs are appropriate for younger and close to teenage children. Some songs have a teacher's accompaniment (duet part) which helps the student to learn to stay on track with the beat/counting, sounds great and create a joyful lesson in which the student wants to play the song a few rounds more.

I am a true beginner for the piano. This is not a complete lesson book at all. Just a few pages in, it refers you to 3 different lesson books. If you can read music, then you can move on. If not, you will be stuck... just like I am.

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