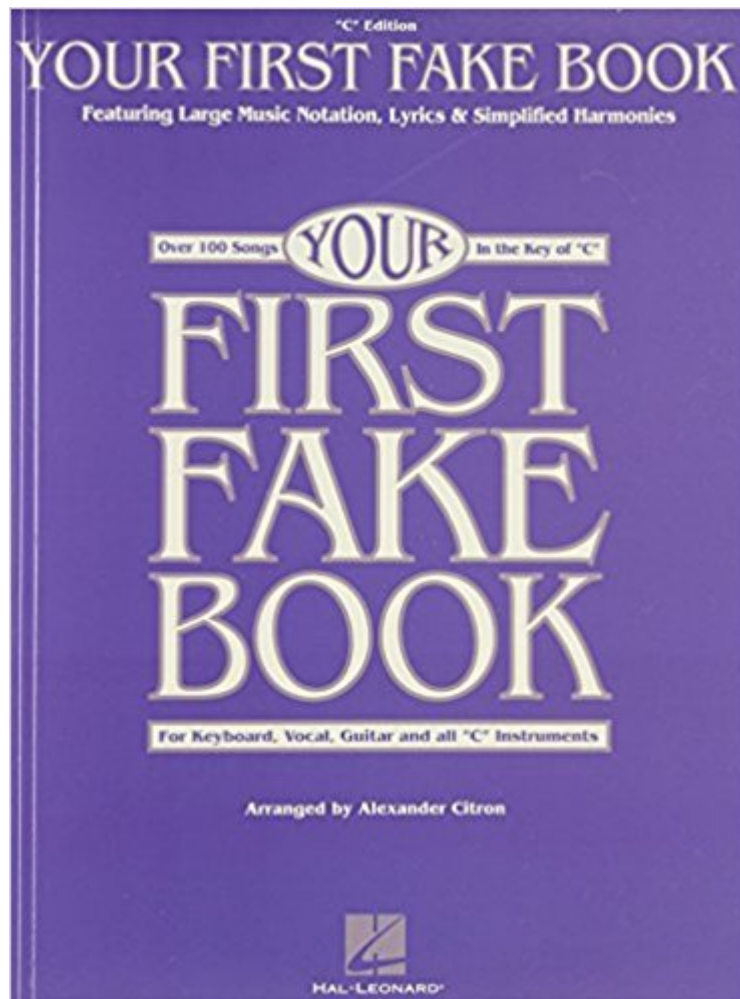


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Your First Fake Book: Over 100 Songs In The Key Of "C" For Keyboard, Vocal, Guitar And All "C" Instruments



Synopsis

(Easy Fake Book). An entry-level fake book! This book features larger-than-most fake book notation with simplified harmonies and melodies and all songs are in the key of C. An introduction addresses basic instruction in playing from a fake book. Includes over 100 songs, including: Ain't Misbehavin' * All the Things You Are * America the Beautiful * Beauty and the Beast * Bewitched * Blueberry Hill * Can't Help Falling in Love * Don't Get Around Much Anymore * Edelweiss * Getting to Know You * Heart and Soul * It Only Takes a Moment * Leaving on a Jet Plane * Let It Be * Love Me Tender * Maria * Mood Indigo * Satin Doll * Somewhere Out There * Try to Remember * When the Saints Go Marching In * Young at Heart * and more.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (70 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I'm a piano teacher who has used this book extensively with my students, and we appreciate being able to play (and in many cases, sight-read) popular songs and jazz-piano standards in the key of C. The book will help to give early-intermediate students confidence and will build their repertoire. That said, some of the chords are overly simplified and produce some real clunking harmonies. You will find yourself altering some of the basic chords in order to get the sound you want. For example, "Leavin' on a Jet Plane" features a C chord several times going against a melody F. For some students, I have to tell them to play a C only in the left hand, not the full chord. For more advanced students, we change the C chord to a D diminished, which leads into a discussion of the use of diminished chords. With these reservations, I still highly recommend this book since you or your

students will find many songs that are easily played and enjoyed.

For a Piano Playing Wanna Be, this book is terrific. Very much like "The Easy Fake Book", which I also have. Both books are in the key of "C" and use only ten or less different chords in each song. In order to get the most from these books, I suggest you start with Scott Houston's book, "Play Piano in a Flash". It really shows the way to great, self entertainment. At age 77, I am doing it and I know, you can too.

Your First Fake Book is great for those who want to use it as a stepping stone to bigger and better things. However, I found that in an attempt to simplify everything so the novice can play it some of the songs had some chords in them that made them sound really horrible.

To make this easy they have made some compromises in the chords they use. The print is large and easy to read, but you may have to turn pages. I am no music theorist but I found the G7 chord with the C note not pleasing in the key of C. This occurs often. I found F7 better with C. The Easy Fake Book makes some of the same compromises but seems better. In addition it provides an introduction to each song. I use the Ultimate Fake Book when I want to learn, the Easy Fake Book when I play for relaxation, and the First Fake Book seldom.

I'm a piano/keyboard coach that teaches my mostly older adult students the joy of Fake Book playing---something I've enjoyed immensely since the mid 80's. I have quite a collection of Fake Books myself and used to discourage my students from purchasing the "Easy" series type books. A couple of months ago I borrowed this book from one of my students and after playing a few songs, found them to be not bad at all! I actually had fun playing them. Any experienced player can easily modify the chords if you find them too simple and starting players can really enjoy "early success" with these while later moving on to the "Real" or "Ultimate" variety. Plus, once they learn a song, I can teach them to add a few passing or modified chords here and there to enhance their experience! I now heartily recommend them (the "Easy series") to my students as great starter books to ease their transition into the regular ones.

I was just learning to play after reading Scott Houston's book and watching him on PBS. This book is well worth the money because you will be playing some tunes that sound really good while still learning the piano basics. I believe it was also recommended by Scott Houston either on his website

or in his book. If you learn how to invert some chords it will make changing chords with your left hand easier. I would buy the book over again if I were in the market.

I bought both Your First Fake Book and The Easy Fake Book over a year ago. I played almost exclusively out of the Easy Fake Book for a long time and was starting to think I'd wasted my money on this book. I was so wrong. After having left the Easy Fake Book at a friend's house one weekend, I reluctantly dug into the First Fake Book and found more than a dozen tunes (mostly showtunes) that were stored in my memory from childhood (I'm 44), as well as a number of older tunes that I was able to sight read and learn to love without ever hearing them before. Other reviewers note that there are some clunky chords in a few places. True, in a FEW places. And I think I was initially a little put off by the simplicity compared to the Easy Fake Book (the sound is not automatically as rich on first try). But beginners won't notice mostly and the simplicity makes the tunes accessible. Once they have tuned their ears up enough to find the awkward spots, they can learn about altering the music to accomodate their ear... a very important step in taking ownership of a piece that you play. Intermediate players (something I consider myself to be) will likely find hours of enjoyable and relaxing tinkering in the mix including some jazzy moments that I would never have been able to accomplish through classical study (too many notes) but now have become part of my free playing (improvisation). And when it all seems too simple... just slow down and listen... less IS more for some of the pieces (My Favorite Things can be HAUNTINGLY beautiful with a simple single-note rolling pattern for the chord)! Buy both, and don't ignore this one!

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