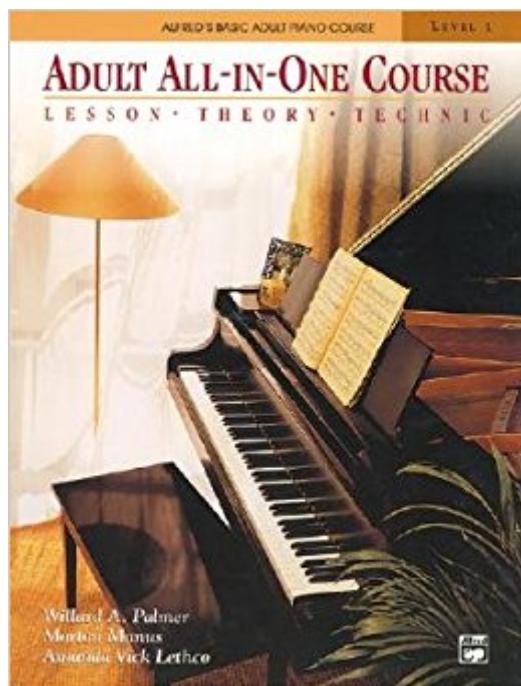


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# Alfred's Basic Adult All-In-One Piano Course: Level 1 [ALFREDS BASIC ADULT ALL-IN -OS]



## Synopsis

Learn how to play the piano

## Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: ALFRED (January 31, 2007)

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Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 9.2 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (645 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #98,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Appreciation

## Customer Reviews

I used to play the clarinet in middle school. Now I'm 18 and it's been quite some time since I've read sheet music. Playing guitar for six years literally ruined my ability to read the stuff, because I would always use tabs instead. But eventually I grew jaded with the guitar, and I decided to choose a new and fresh direction -- the piano! This book is very well-written, and leaves no gaps. Within just a few days I found myself relearning all that I had forgotten from band class years before, and I've now reached the point where I know more than I did! And I haven't even finished the book yet! Plus, it tests you on theory and technique. You get to fill in parts of the book, which really helps you get involved with what you're learning. One reviewer downrated this book because of the song choices, and its accompanying CD. I feel that this is in error. I believe the song choices are just as good as any. If the tunes were familiar, then they wouldn't be as challenging to learn. And as for the CD... I did notice that the piano parts are rather quiet, but I always thought this was because it was a play-along CD (which is what I use it as). It's as good as it needs to be. Besides, the pieces get more interesting as you progress, some of the final pieces being "Greensleeves", "Scarborough Fair", "The Entertainer" and "Amazing Grace" (and written in a way so that each hand will be dually occupied). And by the end of the third book in the series, you'll be playing some of Beethoven's most popular pieces, like "Fur Elise" and "Moonlight Sonata"! Also -- something that concerned me when I bought this book: do you need a full-fledged piano? The answer is...no!! A sizable keyboard will do you just fine. But, you just might find yourself looking to buy a real piano once you delve deeper into these lessons...because this series really does inspire and nurture a great love for this amazing instrument. If you're looking to learn the piano and can't afford a teacher, don't have time

for one, or you just learn better on your own -- this is a must-have aid to your learning. Good luck, and I wish you well in your learning!! :)

I am using this book for piano lessons I started taking in early January. I've wanted to learn how to play the piano my whole life and now at 40 I decided to do it. This book makes it very easy, so far anyway! The pace is steady, I look back now at the songs in the beginning that I struggled with and they are so easy! The combination of warm-ups and songs are just right. I highly recommend this book!

No single book will take you from piano newbie to concert level performer. No single one hour practice session, not even a week of piano lessons from the best teacher in the world teaching 24/7. Just not possible and really not what learning piano or any instrument is about. It's not a contest. People have different reasons for and expectations from learning piano and books should try to match those reasons/expectations with what they offer, but really a good piano teacher is the best guide. I'm not a piano teacher but if I were recommending the book I'd say it is well suited to new players who wish to delve into performing popular music (e.g. Christmas tunes, Billy Joel, Elton John, etc.) more so than those seeking a 'classical' piano education- but there's nothing wrong with that or the approach in general. In fact, I think it's a great way to motivate new players who will come across familiar tunes that have pretty simplified arrangements. One big bonus in the book is having a CD accompaniment. I of the camp that believes knowing what a piece should sound like helps new students. I've read critiques that say the book is strong on C position fingering which is completely false. It covers other major and minor scales. Some also state it is weak on theory but for its size it actually covers quite a bit without being too overwhelming. All in all I think it's a great starter book for most learners **HOWEVER** there are a couple of weaknesses. One weakness is its lack of discussing the circle of fifths. It's nice to be spoonfed a couple of easy keys but it wouldn't hurt to cover this very important concept early on. I can understand its exclusion as being the kind of thing that seems to raise more questions than answers but that's probably not a bad thing in a self-instruction book. Another weakness is the lack of discussing standard scale fingerings for one and two octave runs. You run into them eventually and it's so much easier to begin using them off the bat than to learn them later. The last weakness is the sparse examples and practice material. I'm not deducting anything from this book for a lack of including a hundred plus pieces of sheet music but the fact is that some concepts in piano require a lot of practice and examples to fully sink in. Take music reading for example. Which reader is going to be more proficient- the one who has read

fifty 4/4 bass and treble bars worth of examples or the student who has read 300 completely filled pages of varying sheet music? Every example, every single example in the book should be practiced many many times in a variety of ways. That's how you learn the instrument and that can be a fun journey. At the very least I would hope any instruction book have a supplement or point to further sources of practice material- this book doesn't which is it's Achilles heel. I don't knock it because it's not the only one (most don't), but students who buy it should be aware of that and have something or someone to point the way to practice. Perhaps book 2 in the series does that. That said, great book, lots of fun, could be better but a good starter. If I would add any advice to students who buy it:1. learn circle of fifths, key signatures, Major/Minor Scale, Every scale pattern (visually) and proper fingerings for each scale.2. Check out sheet music books from the library to practice reading music.3. Download Major/Minor/7ths chord fingering chart and learn them.4. Practice a few 'easy piano' classical pieces but be sure to listen to how they sound first, especially if you're completely new to the piece. Look in the library for free material and match it to free sheet music from the library.5. Practice smart, network with other players and have fun. :-)6. Remember, it's not a race.

About a month ago, I decided I wanted to learn to play the piano. I have been playing guitar for almost 5 years but had no experience with reading music or any professional training, and since I want to start recording some songs soon, I thought it would be nice to have some piano skills. I chose this book based on other reviews, and they had me convinced. Well I've been using this book for about two weeks now and I cannot be happier! It's ultra-comprehensive, and starts simply but moves quickly. I love the exercises included in the book; they have helped very much with reading notes (which I am finally learning!) I'm almost on page 40 (out of more than 150, I believe.) The songs to practice are fun, and I can't even believe how much I've learned in the small span of time I've been practicing. If you want to learn how to play the piano, buy this book! I can't say whether it's a substitute for a good teacher, since I've never had one, but if you are self-motivated and prefer to work at your own pace (and thus enjoy learning even more!) I would recommend this book 100%! Hope this helped!

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