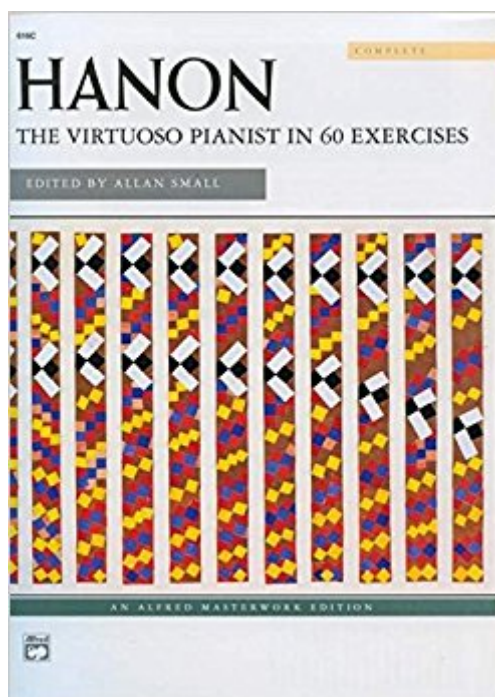


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Hanon -- The Virtuoso Pianist: Complete (Comb-Bound Book) (Alfred Masterwork Edition)



Synopsis

The most widely used piano technique book ever written, The Virtuoso Pianist was designed to develop agility and strength in all the fingers as well as flexibility of the wrists. Exercises are sequenced so that in each successive exercise, the fingers are rested from the fatigue caused by the previous one. Translated from the original French, this Masterwork edition includes the complete Exercises 1-60 and is clearly engraved for easy reading. The comb binding creates a lay-flat experience that is perfect for students and performers. Hanon's original introduction is included. He recommends that a student have at least one year of experience before starting this book. A General MIDI disk is available separately (Item #5715). The disk contains varied styles of accompaniments including pop, classical and jazz for Exercises 1-20.

Book Information

Series: Alfred Masterwork Edition

Plastic Comb: 128 pages

Publisher: Alfred Music; Spi edition (November 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739009400

ISBN-13: 978-0739009406

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (89 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is Hanon - pretty standard. Tip: Buy this version (plastic spiral-bound spine) instead of the other versions. It's easier to turn the pages, you don't have to bend them, plus the book stays open flat without closing.

My piano teacher recommended that I buy a book of Hanon exercises to strengthen my fingers, increase speed and technique. He also recommended that I buy a "complete" book of the Hanon exercises and the reputation and quality of Alfred piano books are excellent. I bought the book and it is just as described. Although it suggests that a piano student is ready for the book after one year of

lessons, I have been taking lessons for a little over 3 1/2 months and I haven't had any difficulty thus far. Note: I am a highly motivated adult learner who has always wanted to be able to play the piano and will be 68 years old in February, 2011. My teacher was a classical pianist and has taught adults as well as children for over four decades and he recommends the Hanon exercises. One of the reviewers of the Hanon book indicated that it could lead to RSI which I assume means "repetitive sports injury" of which carpal tunnel syndrome is classified, but my teacher states he is not aware of any of his students having this problem through use of the Hanon exercises.

This is a fine, clean edition of the Hanon exercises, with high quality paper, full size format, good note size and sharp, dark printing. Easier to use than some older editions that have apparently been printed with old, worn out plates. For some reason, the first 11 studies in Part One are laid out on two pages, then after that they are compressed onto one page. It would have been ideal to have the same format throughout, but this is not a big deal, as sight reading these repetitive studies is not hard. The binding is a very good one, w/ sewn in pages in a 'lay flat' binding. Be aware that for only a dollar more you can get it in a spiral-bound version. These truly do lay completely flat. I would have gotten that one had I realized it was available. Also, be aware that some editions of Hanon are sold in three separate parts, whereas this edition has all 60 studies. Overall, this is an excellent edition of these studies. I am finishing up Part One, and the binding is holding up just fine. I won't review the studies themselves, as music educators far more learned than I tend to be sharply divided on the value of Hanon. But if Hanon is for you, I doubt that you will find a better edition anywhere.

Reviewers who rate this item as poor because it is not a substitute for playing etudes etc are missing the point. This is not intended to be particularly musical, or to be a practice of every aspect of the art of piano playing. It is the equivalent to stretching or warming up before playing a sport-athletes will go through a number of activities that are not exact replicas of in-game situations. Rigorous practice of these exercises is invaluable for the beginning or intermediate pianist. Unlike other reviewers I cannot speak to the habits of concert pianists, but I do know that what is appropriate for the professional may not be appropriate for the talented amateur (and vice-versa).

I am learning the piano on my own using the Alfred book(s). The Hanon book is very helpful at my beginning stage. I realize my 4th finger is hard to control, as well as my 5th, and the exercises are

improving their movement. I didn't think it would be this fun to play such exercises. It is driving my wife crazy though.

Plenty of exercises to get your finger strength, dexterity, and biomechanics all tuned. Buy this one for \$1 more than the older version

(http://www..com/gp/product/0793525446/ref=oh_details_o02_s00_i00). This one has been cleaned up and type reset/font improved with better notes.

I purchased this for my kids ages 8 (playing 3 years) and 10 (playing 5 yrs) to supplement their piano practice. Their teacher thought it was a great addition. The exercises become more challenging progressing through the book. This version is well printed and opens nicely. There are other editions not printed as well. This book contains all 60 exercises and is a better value than the separate volumes. This book is not just for a beginner as an advanced player can benefit from the exercises.

I've worked on the first ten of the 60 exercises and I think it's great for working up your speed and technique. I bet later on when I go back to practicing classical pieces I will find amazing results. This book is worth its price and then some!

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