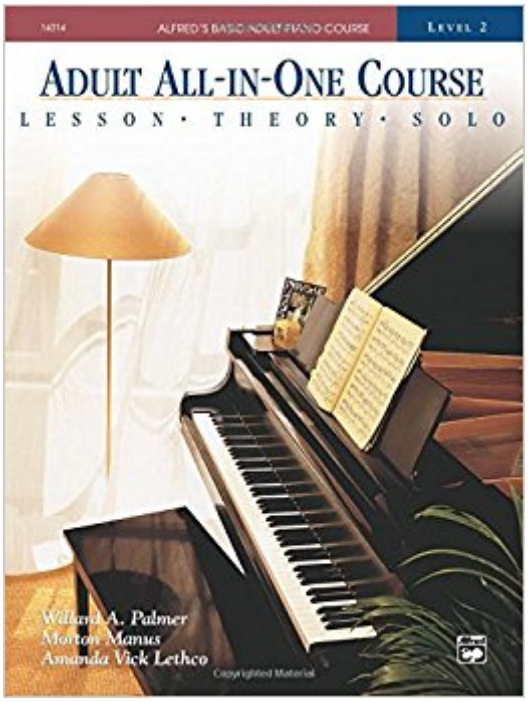
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Adult All-in-one Course: Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course, Level 2



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Synopsis

Alfred’s Basic Adult All-in-One Course is designed for use with an instructor for the beginning student looking for a truly complete piano course. It is a greatly expanded version of Alfred’s Basic Adult Piano Course that will include lesson, theory, and technique in a convenient, "all-in-one" format. This comprehensive course features written assignments that reinforce each lesson’s concepts, a smooth, logical progression between each lesson, a thorough explanation of chord theory and playing styles, and outstanding extra songs, including folk, classical, and contemporary selections. At the completion of this course, the student will have learned to play some of the most popular music ever written and will have gained a good understanding of basic musical concepts and styles. The comb binding creates a lay-flat book that is perfect for study and performance. Titles: Alexander’s Ragtime Band * Arkansas Traveler * Ballin’ the Jack * The Battle Hymn of the Republic * Black Forest Polka * Black is the Color of My True Love’s Hair * Bourlesq * Brahms Lullaby * Bridal Chorus from "Lohengrin" * Calypso Carnival * Canon in D (Pachelbel) * Chorale * Circus March * Danny Boy * Dark Eyes * Deep River * Divertimento in D * Down in the Valley * Etude (Chopin) * Farewell to Thee (Aloha Oe) * Fascination * Festive Dance * For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow * Frankie and Johnnie * Guantanamera * Hava Nagila * He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands * The Hokey-Pokey * The House of the Rising Sun * Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 * Introduction and Dance * La Bamba * La Donna E Mobile * La Raspa * Light and Blue * Loch Lomond * Lonesome Road * Love’s Greeting * The Magic Piper * The Marriage of Figaro * Mexican Hat Dance * Morning Has Broken * Musetta’s Waltz * Night Song * Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen * Olympic Procession * Overture from "Raymond" * Plaisir D’Amour * Polyvetsian Dances * Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 * The Riddle * Rock-a My Soul * Sakura * Scherzo * Solace * Space Shuttle B

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Customer Reviews

Good book. No CD, but Youtube is better than the CD anyway. Kindly people who play well have put all these pieces on Youtube, labelled, in order, corresponding to the book, played on a real piano, with no other instruments in the background. See for example those by Chanel Harris. You can buy the CD on , but reviews are not great. Apparently the CD is not a real piano and has synthesized other instruments accompanying and its confusing. Get the book. Use it with Youtube.

As an Adult relearning the piano after 30+ years, I purchased 4 different Piano instruction books from to get me going. This was by far the best. The book is spiral bound, so it lays flat on the piano music sheet holder which is really important. The book introduces a bit of music theory and knowledge on every other page or so - which helps a lot in understanding the other parts of the music besides learning notes. There is a wide range of music to learn (classical, popular, blues, etc) at just the right level at the right time, getting progressively more difficult as you work through the book. It took me about 1 1/2 months to work through the book and I rate it as excellent instruction for anyone wanting to learn or re-learn the piano.

A little background before I get into the real review: My 14 y/o trumpet player daughter has been wanting to learn the piano for years. Because she has C.P. we had been putting it off thinking that trying to coordinate both hands at once and read music would be too frustrating for her. Her trumpet teacher disagreed and recommended she start with the Suzuki method as she has and incredibly good ear and quite a bit of natural musical talent. From my understanding of Suzuki, there is quite a bit of parent involvement required. This is a problem for me given I have limited experience playing an instrument (flute. I really should have listened when my mom said I'd regret giving it up) and absolutely none with the piano. I bought this book to help rectify that, knowing that I'll be sitting in on her weekly lessons and absorbing a lot of information there.Having only had the book a couple of days, I love it already. The book assumes you are coming to the piano with no prior musical experience and starts from the very beginning. It introduces the musical alphabet and shows where each note falls on the keyboard. When reading from the staff is introduced, the note names are

printed right in the note so your eyes are traveling along the staff instead of looking elsewhere. With each lesson on theory you are given exercises and practice tunes that reinforce the lesson. There are also written exercises to really help make those connections solid. You move along fairly quickly, playing simple melodies with each hand separately to playing with both hands. Once harmonic intervals are introduced (pg.26) and you start playing the melody with one hand and harmonics with the other, you really feel like you're making music! It's pretty exciting to go from not knowing where middle C is located to playing Jingle Bells with a bit of harmony in 2 days! I can't wait to continue to grow with this book.I do plan on adding scales and such to my practice sessions, as these are truly the things that will help you progress and give you a more fundamental understanding of how music is put together. Playing scales and arpeggios are just as important to a musician as stretching is to a runner. They may not be the most fun, but they are essential, which my daughter hates to hear.Some have said that the song selection leaves a bit to be desired. While I don't disagree that songs like "Tisket, A Tasket", "Lightly Row", and "Aunt Rhody" are juvenile, (these are the songs all young musicians start with. The Good Lord knows I've sat through many a squeaky beginning band performance of them!) they are the type of song that build that foundation for the great things to come. By the time you finish this book you should be able to play songs like "Over the Rainbow" and "Singin' in the Rain". You can also find loads of simple piano music online for free and there's always the option of purchasing books of beginner music if you find that you're board by the selections provided.Also be aware that this book does not come with the c.d. Not really a problem as there are loads of nice folks who have uploaded videos to youtube of all the songs. Just search for Alfred's Basic Adult Piano and you'll have your pick.All in all, I really am enjoying learning with this book. I feel like I'm able to grasp the concepts that are introduced and will be able to help my daughter along once her lessons start in a couple of weeks. I'm looking forward to finishing this book, which I hope will come sooner rather than later, and starting on the next one.

I played piano for a couple of years at ages 8-10, 30 years ago. I then played saxophone for a few years. When my daughter started taking piano lessons and we got her a piano for practice, I decided I would try to relearn piano also. This book is really good so far. I'm about 40 pages into it. It is really good about reminding you of the appropriate fingering. It has very good music selections for practice. I've played excerpts from Ode to Joy, Jingle Bells, Mary Had a little Lamb, etc. More practice material might be nice as the book does seem to pick up the pace of difficulty quickly. For instance by the end of the book you are playing Chatanooga Choo Choo which looks pretty dang intimidating. I imagine that my progress is going to get very slow as the complexity ramps up and

replaying the same practice music will get old. I bought the plastic comb version which does NOT come with a CD, just FYI. But I don't really know what that would add and doubt I'd even use it.

Teaching piano can be difficult if you do not have the right tools to do so. I own a music studio and this is the book series that we use to educate our students. It provides theory, performance and the other skills that students need to follow and learn. This series is great for older students (ages 10+).

A couple of years ago I would have given this 5 stars, but in my teaching experiences, I have now found that it goes a little too fast for most of my students. Unless you have someone who wishes to 'brush up' on their technique or note reading, I would say that this is a bit advanced for most and suitably mainly for very bright or gifted learners. It is a VERY good book, and thorough, but it gets too hard too quickly for most (in plain speak!).

My efforts to reteach myself to play the piano had kind of stalled but ALFRED'S BASIC ADULT PIANO COURSE has put me back in gear. I kind of dithered between starting with level 2 or level 3 and though the first few pieces in level 2 were very easy for me I soon found I really did need the review offered in level 2 and a quick scan of level 3 shows me I would have soon become frustrated with it without going through this book first. A tuneful selection of folk, jazz ragtime and classical music make up most of the coursework and there is a lot of emphasis on chords and fingering - skills I missed in my piano lesson days of long ago. The book is bound with a sturdy plastic "comb" good for me as I am notoriously hard on piano music. There are pen and paper exercises to review notes and chords as well as lots of beautiful music pieces. If you are faithful in practicing this series will teach you a great deal about the piano and keep you motivated to continue.

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