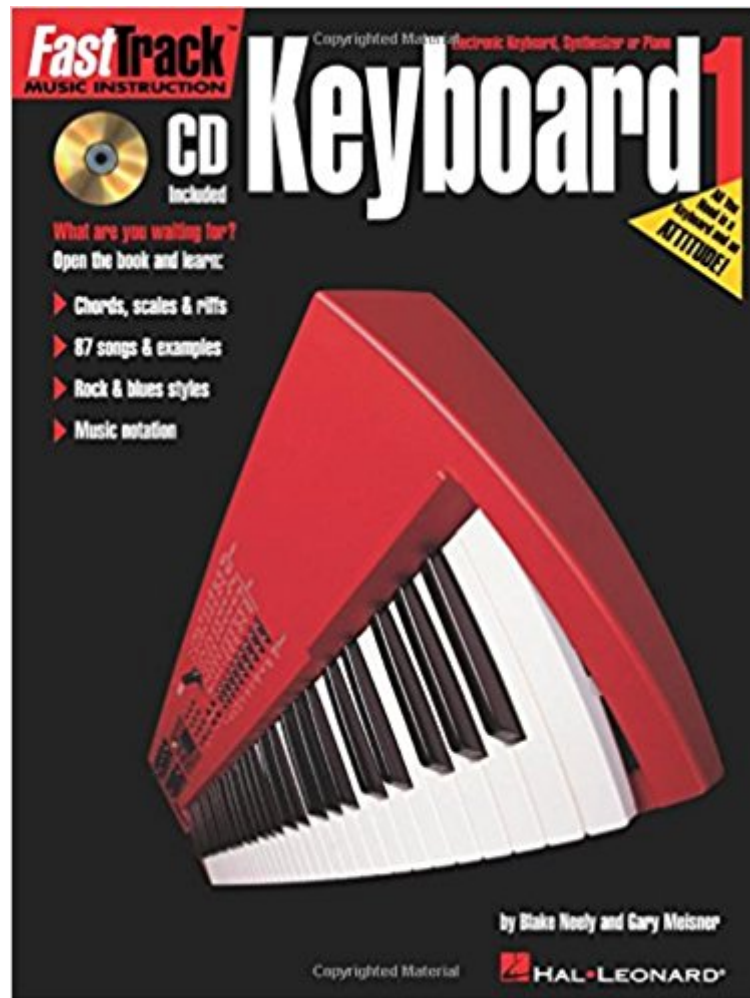




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FastTrack Music Instruction - Keyboard, Book 1 (Fasttrack Series)



Synopsis

(Fast Track Music Instruction). Learn how to play that piano today. With this book you'll learn music notation, chords, riffs, licks and scales, syncopation, and rock and blues styles. Method Book 1 includes over 87 songs and examples and access to online audio tracks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Blake Neely has been playing piano since he was about 4 years old, although it took a while before real audible music could be detected. His fascination with music led him to other instruments, such as the French horn, guitar, and drums, but the keyboard remains his baby. Upon graduation from the University of Texas in 1991, he moved to Los Angeles to experience the music business. He licensed music for Hollywood Records and later worked for Disney Music Publishing as editor of all printed music publications. An award-winning composer and author, he has written symphonies, a piano concerto, and numerous orchestral and chamber works. He is co-author of the acclaimed FastTrack series, published by Hal Leonard Corporation. Blake has worked as a composer, orchestrator, arranger, copyist, engraver, musicologist, and consultant for such prominent figures as Disney, Hal Leonard Corporation, Decca Records, Hyperion Books, composers Michael Kamen and Alan Menken, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Currently living in Austin, Texas, Blake spends his free time tuning into his family: wife Elizabeth, daughter Jordan, and son Jacob. Blake is the proud owner of a Kawai grand piano and Kurzweil, Ensoniq, and E-Mu synths and samplers. You can reach Blake via e-mail at BlakeNeely@aol.com. Blake Neely has been playing piano since he

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I love this book. The authors have great writing styles and the instructions are easy to understand. Learning to read music is presented in a simple straight forward manner with a sense of humor. Keyboard lessons are written well, and progress from simple notes to the slightly more complex. Great for beginners. This is my first attempt to learn to read music. It is not as difficult as I thought it was going to be. ... I think that I can do this! BTW: There is no difference between this book and the Mini Keyboard Book 1 (ISBN 0634009400), although the ISBN is different. And the same goes for the Keyboard & Mini Keyboard Songbook which are oldies rock music. You only need one instruction book, and 1 song book. I hope this saves you some moola.

I bought this after having the guitar method book for a few years now. I like how it is broken down, you don't need to know how to read music, they teach you as you are learning how to play. Take your time and you will be fine using this manual.

I recently finished this book, and I'm very glad I got it. I am a much better player than I was when I started this book. I am now beginning Book 2 in this series. As I get better, practice is becoming more fun. It can be discouraging in the beginning when simple songs are hard to play. Don't get discouraged, just push yourself to stick with it. Practicing roughly 30 minutes every day, it took me about 4-5 months to finish the book. I'm not giving it five stars because there are some areas where

the book could be improved. Most importantly, I think the songs on the CD are too fast for absolute beginners. The CD is great for demonstrating how the music should sound, but it is too fast for absolute beginners to play along with. I generally didn't use the CD, except when I didn't know what a song was supposed to sound like. A second gripe is that the songs on the CD have four clicks before the song starts, but sometimes the first click is barely audible, so it appears that the song is beginning after only three clicks. This makes it harder to know when the songs on the CD are starting. A third gripe is that some lessons in later parts of the book were too easy by the time I encountered them. When I encountered the easy lessons, I would think to myself that they should have been presented earlier in the book so the book did a better job of progressing from easier lessons to harder lessons. I would have moved most of the one-handed lessons to earlier in the book and moved the two-handed lessons to later in the book. A fourth gripe is that several times the book used a chord or bit of music notation that had not yet been explained. This just requires looking through the later parts of the book to find the explanation. In the very last lesson, the A5 chord is used even though it is never explained anywhere in this book or the "FastTrack Keyboard Chords & Scales" book. You actually have to look at the second-to-last page of Book 2 for an explanation of 5 chords. (The A5 chord consists of only two keys: A and E.) Don't let my criticisms prevent you from buying the book. I'm just pointing out the flaws. On the whole the book is a good one.

The songs are a big improvement over most other self teaching books. Words cannot express how good it feels to hear yourself playing a song that you like. The text was too brief to be good for self teaching. At one point the fingering specified would require that the hand is moved, but the text makes no mention of this. Then at a later point in the text the author discusses moving the hand as if it were something new. The text introduces four note chords without any discussion of how to play them. There is absolutely zero discussion of theory or technique.

I've always wanted to play the keyboard. I've never had lessons, so when I got one for Christmas, I looked for a book that would teach me from the beginning. I settled on this one and am really happy with it. It's only been 2 weeks and I've learned 6 chords, I'm playing with both hands, which was a major accomplishment, and my husband says I don't sound awful. I'm looking forward to working my way through the book. If you're starting from scratch, and don't mind learning a few children's songs along the way. I recommend this book.

I remember having this book at one point but I lost it. Now that I have a new keyboard, I solely only wanted this book because of how perfect it was for me. It's so easy to learn and very fun. Following the Music along with the book makes it easy to understand music and like I said, it's fun. I love it.

My 14 year-old daughter received this along with her keyboard for Christmas (yesterday). She has never played a note on a keyboard, piano, etc prior to this and is already playing songs. And not just picking at notes with her fingers, but with chords and with all ten fingers. I am VERY impressed with this instruction booklet (as well as my daughter) :0

I'm using this book in an adult beginner piano-keyboarding class. I had music lessons as a child which was over fifty years ago and this book is bringing it all back. Very informative and easy to follow.

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