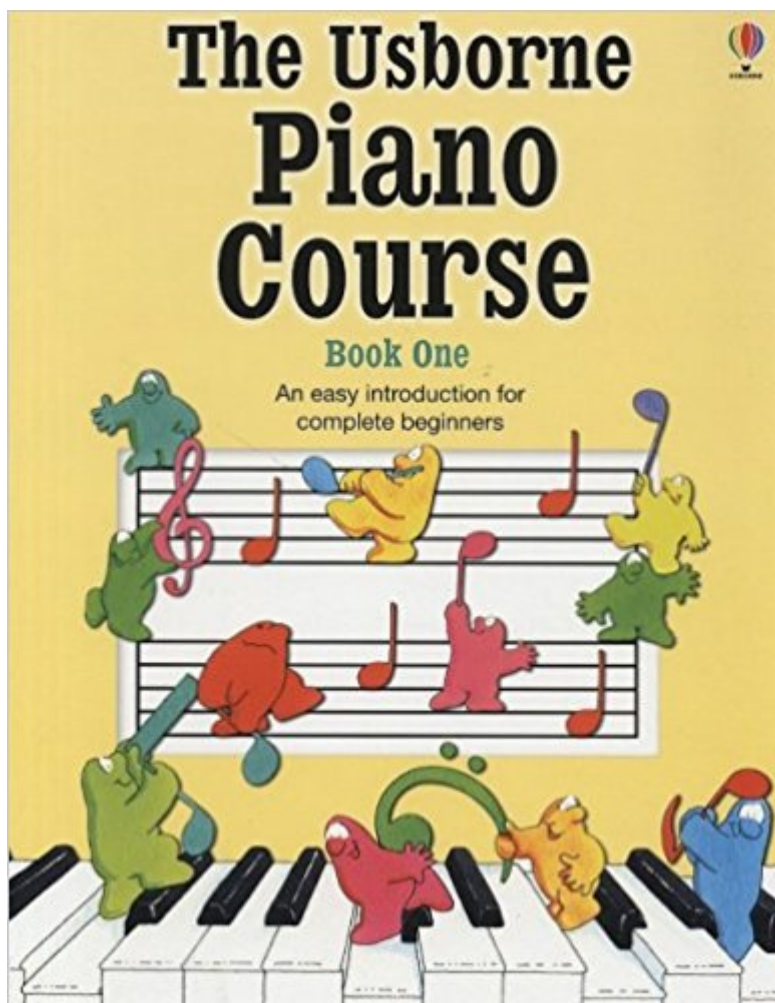


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# The Usborne Piano Course Book One



## Synopsis

-- Clear, easy text and straightforward exercises allow readers to advance at a steady pace--  
Cartoon characters explain musical terms and symbols and give helpful hints about how to play--  
Familiar tunes and original compositions help consolidate skills and build confidence --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Usborne Pub Ltd (June 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0794515398

ISBN-13: 978-0794515393

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #967,811 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments](#) #3401 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Instrumentation > Piano](#)

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

I ordered this book because it got so many good reviews, but I was disappointed. There are about ten- twenty different pieces of information on each page. It's overwhelming. I was going to use it to teach a new student but it would have been so confusing. There are several new concepts taught on a page without any means for the child to practise them and actually "do" them. It's as if the child is expected to memorize them without any experience with the information. I went to my local music store and looked through all the beginning piano books and decided upon "Alfred's Basic Piano Library- Lesson Book, Level 1A." It's great- it introduces one new concept per page and has the child practise it in easy steps, little by little inching forward. The illustrations are also a lot nicer. Also, the print is way bigger. It looks spacious. The Usborne book has all this information crammed into a page in tiny little bubbles of print, sort of like a comic strip.

Great book for teaching piano at home!

I bought this book to start teaching my son to play the piano. I have a little background in piano, but am no way a master or would I be qualified to charge for piano lessons, but this book is fun for him and easy for me to teach from. I am pretty happy with it!

This was an item on the list of books a person wanted for a present. I did not use it and can only attest to the fact that it arrived on time.

My daughter is 8. With absolutely no previous musical training she began this book one month ago. She has now completed it and she is able to: play notes on both the treble clef staff and the bass clef staff (5 notes for each hand); play with both hands on simple arrangements (that also means striking multiple treble and bass clef notes simultaneously); recognize Italian instructions like forte and piano; play two-handed arrangements of Au Clair de la Lune, Yankee Doodle, Good King Wenceslas and a number of original tunes. All this and much more just by practicing three times a week for 30 minutes at each session. She felt no fear or threat from the book's colourful layout and is now moving on to Book Two. This is a pleasant and painless way to introduce your child to the language of music and the piano. Highly recommended. If you're wondering where to go after these two books, pianists at a local music store, upon looking through the Usborne books, said a student would be ready for Book Two or Three of the Hal Leonard Piano Lessons series, also a colourful and child-friendly set of books, which culminates with Book Five. Upon completion of Book Five the pianists told me a student would be ready for Grade 4 in the Royal Conservatory of Music lesson plan (if that's the route you'd like to take). You won't regret starting your kids off with the two Usborne piano books. You'll be amazed at how quickly they learn and love what they're learning. Highest rating for a piano instruction book.

My 7 year old son and I tried this book. It moves too quickly, and mixes several concepts in one lesson. In one lesson, for example, the student is expected to learn where the notes appear on the staff; and at the same time, the selection uses both quarter and half notes. This was confusing to my son, because the notes were both in different positions on the staff, and they looked different, some 'colored in' and some not. He couldn't grasp both concepts in one lesson, and this led to frustration, something you don't want when you are trying to expose your child to music. Plus, the book moves too quickly. Children need time to adjust to playing, looking at music and determining whether it is rising in pitch or falling, for instance, before they are every ready to start learning to

read music. Hal Leonard moves nice and slow, and allows for mastery of one concept before introducing another. With something so new and unfamiliar, as playing an instrument is for a novice, this is essential. If you decide to buy Hal Leonard, be sure to buy the book with the accompanying CD, and this is another advantage over Usborne; you can buy a CD with the book with accompaniment for each song, one recording at slow practice speed that features a piano playing the student's part, the next an orchestra accompaniment minus piano up to proper tempo for the student to play along with once a song is mastered. One last piece of advice I read on the internet: kids do much better if they hear the songs they are to play over and over again before ever attempting them; knowing the songs by ear. This made a world of difference for my son. It's easier to learn a song when you already know how it is supposed to sound. So during my son's lesson, I play all the pieces he's learning or has mastered, plus several songs ahead, to familiarize him with what's coming up. The book is so simple, it is easy to do. I don't even play the piano myself. We are learning together. Good luck.

I borrowed this book for my 4 year old daughter as part of her homeschooling for Kindergarten. I was very glad that I didn't buy it. Although I'm a big Usborne fan, this book moves very quickly with several concepts on each page and no repeat lessons. The pages are very colorful and the cartoon characters are cute, but the pages are so cluttered with information and speech balloons that they become a distraction and definitely not learner friendly. I did, however, like that it begins with the notes labeled by letter A,B,C, etc instead of finger numbers. Instead of this book I ended up buying Hal Leonard's First Piano book, which is excellent. It moves nice and easy and is very clear and concise giving enough time for practice before moving onto new concepts. Before buying the Usborne book, I recommend borrowing it from the library to see if it's appropriate for you. It was not appropriate for us.

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