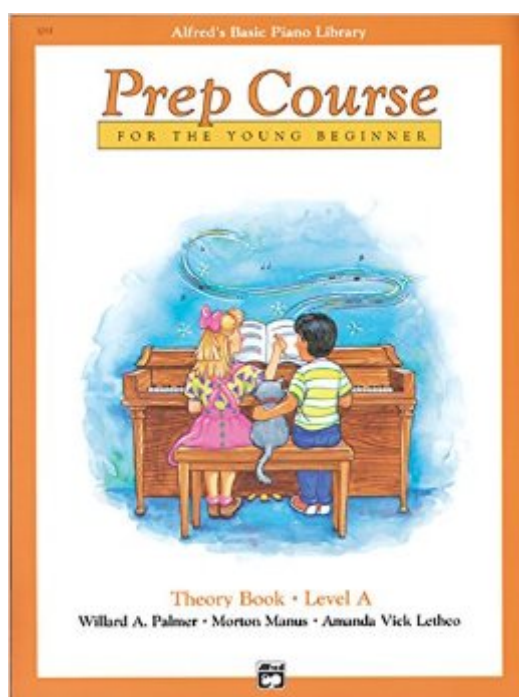


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# Alfred's Basic Piano Prep Course Theory, Bk A: For The Young Beginner (Alfred's Basic Piano Library)



## Synopsis

Designed to coordinate page-by-page with the Lesson Books, each Theory Book contains enjoyable games and quizzes that reinforce the principles presented in the Lesson Books. Students can increase their musical understanding while they are away from the keyboard.

## Book Information

Series: Alfred's Basic Piano Library

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Alfred Music (September 1, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0882848232

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,878 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Introductory & Beginning](#) #15 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory](#) #30 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks](#)

## Customer Reviews

This Prep Course series is tailored to the very young, beginning piano student. So the Theory book is a wonderful companion to the lesson book to help emphasize basic concepts like left/right hand, fingering, and note length to preschoolers and early elementary students just starting their formal music education. Illustrations are cute and complement the parallel lesson in the primary lesson book. Kids get to color, draw, and learn music theory all the same time. Win-win! Note that there is also an "Activity and Ear Training" book for this level which I would also recommend (has different but equally fun stuff as the Theory book), but for some reason that book can be hard to locate here at site in the "Level A" category. Worth seeking out, though. Just make sure you don't buy either the Theory book or the Activity and Ear Training book used, or you might find them "pre-colored". Since they're essentially workbooks, a new book is the only reasonable way to go for these.

I bought the first few books in this series and found that it is tailored to the very young (i.e., those learning the difference between the left and right hand). It does seem to be nice and slow for the

young (i.e., preschool up to kindergarten) learner.

As a semi-professional musician, I'm a bit critical of this book. I think the examples are very stupid and uninspiring. There are plenty of two and three-note songs that are better than what is presented here. The obsession over playing songs only using the black keys is ridiculous, nobody plays like that and it is not a useful example. You just couldn't pick a worse fingering position to start off with. Lastly, finger numbers are very over-emphasized in this text. Just imagine a child trying to grasp finger numbers and note names at the same time. To make matters worse, the black keys are taught first without any note names, and of course, the fingering required is INVERTED for each hand. I found this book to be a frustrating experience with my child, and I ended up going back to my older Alfred's adult books and my beloved Suzuki texts with him.

My 4 year old is using this (it was recommended by his piano teacher) and it is dead on for him. They did a great job making this work for very young kids. It slowly introduces concepts and does little things like showing which hand is left and which hand is right.

We have used this book twice for two of our children and plan to use it again! I believe it goes through a very easy step by step process that matches the Prep Course beginner piano book lessons very well. Hooray for a great teacher that helped us find a good program that has been beneficial for our 6 year old beginner and our 8 year old, 4th year piano player.

The activities are good and resourceful, but the terminology was unnecessarily difficult and used very outdated terms. The simple terms of quarter note, half note, whole note, and dotted half note were not emphasized. Instead it used the words crotchet, semi-breve, breve, etc. It confused my students and was not the common known terms.

This series is great for beginners, plenty of pictures/info for non-musical parents to help with practices. My other two children began with this book as well, now my four and a half year old is playing several "songs" in it.

Very appropriate theory book for the young beginner. It's my daughter's favorite book in the prep course series because it engages her with coloring, drawing, and writing.

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