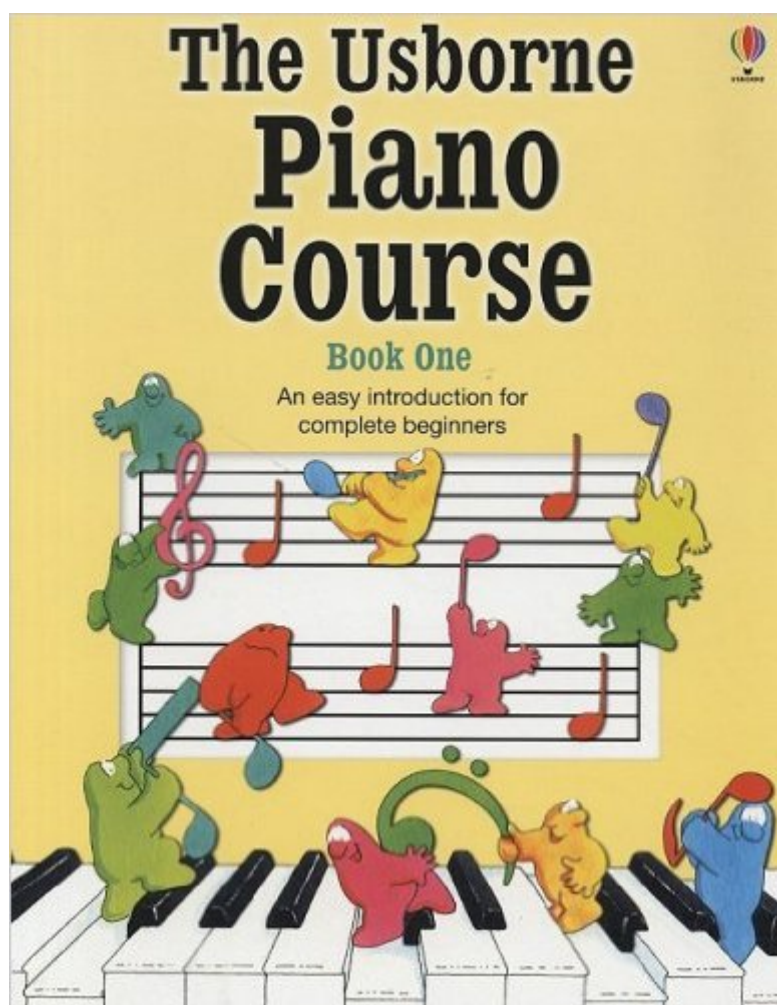


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# The Usborne Piano Course Book One



## 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 [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,147,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments](#) #9137 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Instrumentation > Piano](#) #631947 in [Books > Reference](#)

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

I have found both book one and two of this series to cover comparable information to both the John Thompson and Bastien Primer piano books. Usborne's colorful, cheerful drawings, and simple instructions are far superior, however. This is an unbeatable primer series. Every few pages include reminders to the child of how to sit, hold their fingers, and what notes and signs they've learned up to that point. The children feel that they are playing "real songs" right from the start. Usborne teaches both hands together, instead of the old-fashioned method of teaching the right hand fingering first. I have taught four children with it, and they have found the two books readable and unthreatening.

This book is geared towards children. As a parent who bought the book for an almost 5-year old child, I found the pages a bit cluttered. It was hard for my child to stay focused because there was so much going on that it seemed to distract her. I would have preferred a more organized,

straight-forward approach. There are several appropriate tunes that children will enjoy. I would recommend this book for children ages 7 through 11.

My seven year old daughter has almost completed book 1 and we have just ordered book 2. The book kept her attention. It presented information in an entertaining, reinforcing manner. It was helpful in encouraging good fingering; reading most lines on the treble and base clefs; reading whole-1/2- & 1/4 notes; & understanding some of those bothersome Italian words. I hope book 2 is as good.

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 even 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.

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.

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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