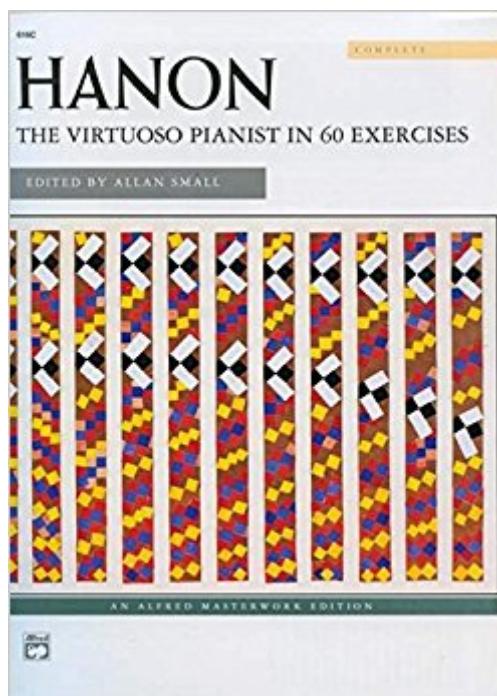


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# Hanon -- The Virtuoso Pianist: Complete (Comb-Bound Book) (Alfred Masterwork Edition)



## **Synopsis**

The most widely used piano technique book ever written, The Virtuoso Pianist was designed to develop agility and strength in all the fingers as well as flexibility of the wrists. Exercises are sequenced so that in each successive exercise, the fingers are rested from the fatigue caused by the previous one. Translated from the original French, this Masterwork edition includes the complete Exercises 1-60 and is clearly engraved for easy reading. The comb binding creates a lay-flat experience that is perfect for students and performers. Hanon's original introduction is included. He recommends that a student have at least one year of experience before starting this book. A General MIDI disk is available separately (Item #5715). The disk contains varied styles of accompaniments including pop, classical and jazz for Exercises 1-20.

## **Book Information**

Series: Alfred Masterwork Edition

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a fine, clean edition of the Hanon exercises, with high quality paper, full size format, good note size and sharp, dark printing. Easier to use than some older editions that have apparently been printed with old, worn out plates. For some reason, the first 11 studies in Part One are laid out on two pages, then after that they are compressed onto one page. It would have been ideal to have the same format throughout, but this is not a big deal, as sight reading these repetitive studies is not hard. The binding is a very good one, w/ sewn in pages in a 'lay flat' binding. Be aware that for only a dollar more you can get it in a spiral-bound version. These truly do lay completely flat. I would have gotten that one had I realized it was available. Also, be aware that some editions of Hanon are

sold in three separate parts, whereas this edition has all 60 studies. Overall, this is an excellent edition of these studies. I am finishing up Part One, and the binding is holding up just fine. I won't review the studies themselves, as music educators far more learned than I tend to be sharply divided on the value of Hanon. But if Hanon is for you, I doubt that you will find a better edition anywhere.

My piano teacher recommended that I buy a book of Hanon exercises to strengthen my fingers, increase speed and technique. He also recommended that I buy a "complete" book of the Hanon exercises and the reputation and quality of Alfred piano books are excellent. I bought the book and it is just as described. Although it suggests that a piano student is ready for the book after one year of lessons, I have been taking lessons for a little over 3 1/2 months and I haven't had any difficulty thus far. Note: I am a highly motivated adult learner who has always wanted to be able to play the piano and will be 68 years old in February, 2011. My teacher was a classical pianist and has taught adults as well as children for over four decades and he recommends the Hanon exercises. One of the reviewers of the Hanon book indicated that it could lead to RSI which I assume means "repetitive sports injury" of which carpal tunnel syndrome is classified, but my teacher states he is not aware of any of his students having this problem through use of the Hanon exercises.

When I was a child, having my parents and teachers force me to play every day made it easy to maintain my skills on piano. As an adult, I found myself struggling to motivate myself to play at all, and my skills rapidly deteriorated. This book is the perfect solution for me! Every day I wake up and begin my day with the first 5 exercises in this book at 80bpm. Each week I attempt the next exercise and add it to my warmup routine. When I find an exercise that's particularly challenging, I mark it and practice it an additional time at the end of my practice session. Even if that's all the piano I play for the rest of the day, it's a million times better than nothing at all! Highly recommended!

This is a wonderful set of exercises. In just a couple weeks of intensive practice on these, I can already feel my technique progressing very rapidly. This is a nice edition. The notes are layed out evenly, and the printing is dark and easy to read. The ink does not bleed through onto the reverse page, which is great. I bought both the plastic comb, and the non-plastic comb versions. On the plastic comb version, when I quickly went to turn a page, the page actually ripped. The book lays perfectly flat, but be gentle when turning pages. Otherwise, this book is great. Would recommend if you're looking to develop technique and finger strength.

This is Hanon - pretty standard. Tip: Buy this version (plastic spiral-bound spine) instead of the other versions. It's easier to turn the pages, you don't have to bend them, plus the book stays open flat without closing.

Once you master all the exercises in Schmitt op. 16 (the easiest book of piano exercises), this book by Charles-Louis Hanon or "Scales and Exercises" by Herz is the next logical step. Whereas Schmitt focuses on 5-finger exercises and little else, Hanon presents the pianist with longer "pieces" that require a bit more technique. Again, use of a metronome is a must, as is starting from the beginning of the book. Once you can comfortably play an exercise at 108bpm, move on to the next one. Spend no more than 10 minutes per day on these exercises; they exist solely to improve fingering technique, not musicality. Like I said in my review of Schmitt: think of it like jumping rope to get better at basketball. That's what these exercises are for. Oh, and spend the extra 90 cents to get the spiral-bound (plastic comb) edition! I cannot stress this enough. **YOU WANT THE SPIRAL-BOUND BOOK!** And don't be fooled by cheaper versions; they're not as nicely printed and are harder to read. Some of them don't even have all the exercises, so make sure you go with the Alfred edition (with the plastic comb).

As a piano teacher for more than thirty years, I have used several different editions of Hanon exercises with my students. The Alfred edition is by far my favorite with its easy readability, binding that stays open on the piano, and jazzy cover. The notation is roomier than some earlier editions, so the pages don't look at all daunting. There were some fingering errors in earlier editions, and those have been fixed. Highly recommended!

I purchased this for my kids ages 8 (playing 3 years) and 10 (playing 5 yrs) to supplement their piano practice. Their teacher thought it was a great addition. The exercises become more challenging progressing through the book. This version is well printed and opens nicely. There are other editions not printed as well. This book contains all 60 exercises and is a better value than the separate volumes. This book is not just for a beginner as an advanced player can benefit from the exercises.

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