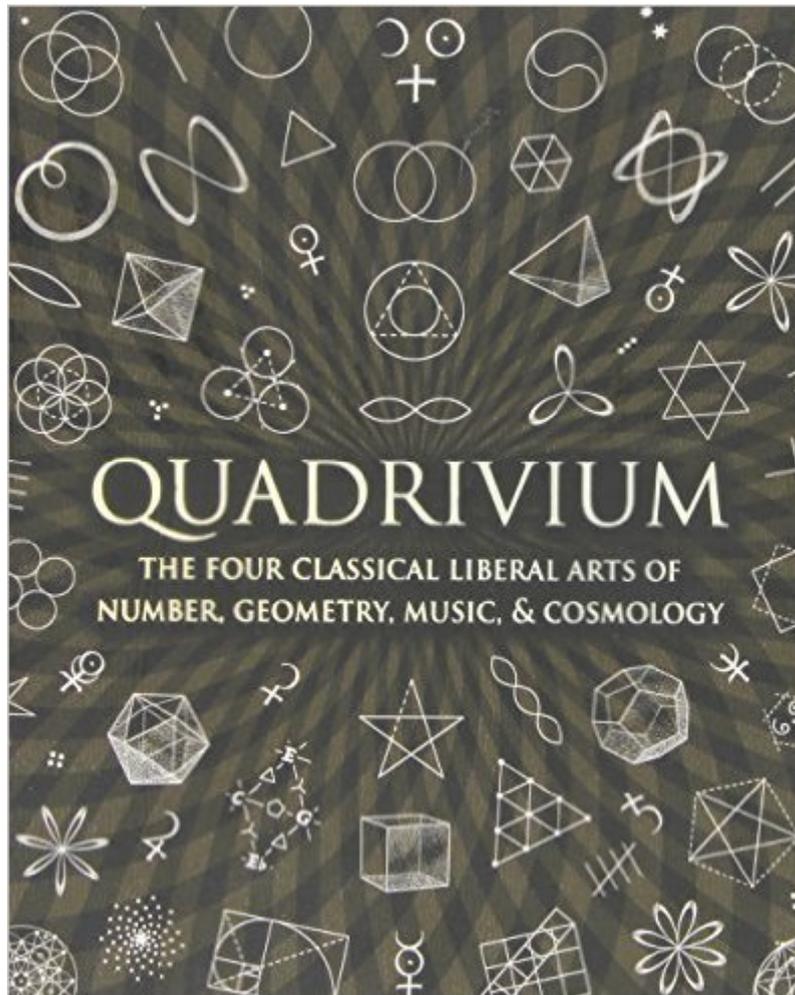# Quadrivium: The Four Classical Liberal Arts Of Number, Geometry, Music, & Cosmology (Wooden Books)

Synopsis

The quadrivium-the classical curriculum-comprises the four liberal arts of number, geometry, music, and cosmology. It was studied from antiquity to the Renaissance as a way of glimpsing the nature of reality. Geometry is number in space; music is number in time; and comology expresses number in space and time. Number, music, and geometry are metaphysical truths: life across the universe investigates them; they foreshadow the physical sciences. Quadrivium is the first volume to bring together these four subjects in many hundreds of years. Composed of six successful titles in the Wooden Books series-Sacred Geometry, Sacred Number, Harmonograph, The Elements of Music, Platonic & Archimedean Solids, and A Little Book of Coincidence-it makes ancient wisdom and its astonishing interconnectedness accessible to us today.Beautifully produced in six different colors of ink, Quadrivium will appeal to anyone interested in mathematics, music, astronomy, and how the universe works.

Book Information

Series: Wooden Books

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Walker Books (November 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802778135

ISBN-13: 978-0802778130

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.5 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (132 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,462 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #19 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > History   #25 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Geometry & Topology #28 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

I am thrilled with this edition. I own The Golden Section and Ruler and Compass, which I love. They don't delve deeply into their subjects, but they cover an incredible breadth of topics. You can read them cover to cover, or you can just open up to any page and find all sorts of treasures in the text and illustrations. Quadrivium is a collection of 6 books from Wooden Press, Sacred Geometry, Sacred Number, Harmonograph, The Elements of Music, Platonic & Archimedean Solids, and A Little Book of Coincidence... the value alone is unbelievable, as each of these books retails $12...

Quadrivium retails $20 and sells it for $12, so its basically a 6 for 1 deal. I've quoted Quadrivium in school papers, found inspiration in it for art class, and I pick it up in my spare time because it is so interesting. I highly recommend this to people of all ages, it makes a wonderful addition to any library.

What a compilation of ideas and coincidences to be found in our amazing world. We walk dumbly around without noticing the simplest of things, things that, on closer scrutiny, seem utterly miraculous. Even more amazing is that some of the concepts described in the Quadrivium were discovered and described thousands of years ago by ancient cultures that no longer exist (others mere centuries). Nevertheless, to understand the Quadrivium is to gain insight on our universe, our humanity and our relationship with our divinity.Quadrivium: The Four Classical Liberal Arts of Number, Geometry, Music, & Cosmology (Wooden Books)SF

This book has amazing art on every other page, has a beautiful hardcover and helped me make connections that I probably never would have. This book is amazing if you have 5 minutes or 5 hours, each concept is done on a single page followed by a visual representation of the material on the other page.Plus, its a great price, may buy another and donate it to the local library.

Usually I prefer Kindle books, but it is indeed a very pretty hardcover to have. The reading is not very indepth, so don't buy this thinking you are getting deep scholarly mathematical analysis. In fact, it's as another reviewer had put it rather well, more of a pretty coffee table book. It's also a great conversation piece, this book my friends pick it up and actually want to talk about math for a short spell so for that I love it. Despite it only just grazing the tops of these relations, don't get me wrong, I have learned quite a bit. Some of the connections are a bit of a stretch, so you have to take it with a grain of salt, but the geometery is great anyway. Also each page in this book has an elaborate graphic like this but it explains the relevance algebraically, geometrically, musically, and astronomically. It also explains some history behind it. I just hope I don't end up with synesthesia... It is worth the price just for the tables of information in the appendices alone anyway, not to mention it's beauty and what a great conversation piece it is.

This book is beautiful, and it could have been amazing. With graduate degrees in both theoretical mathematics and the history and philosophy of science, it's right up my alley, and I was very excited to purchase it. I bought the book to use as a resource for classes I teach at a middle school for

gifted kids where I am the principal. While the book has given me lots of ideas for projects and problems, most of them are of the form "This book says _____. Use high school geometry to prove that this sentence is false." The math in this book is often simply wrong. Here is one example: On page 82, the book claims that the ratio of the radii of the circumscribing circle of a pentagram and the circle circumscribing its interior pentagon is the same as the ratio between the orbits of Earth and Mercury. That's not true; they're not even close to the same. The same page also fails to mention the several exciting (and historically important) golden ratios inside the pentagram. SMH

I picked up this book because I am fascinated by the Classical and Medieval world, and especially by things like the Quadrivium which represent survivals of Classicism in the Medieval period. On the other hand, I realize that much of their world view was based on things which we now know to be false, and the appropriate way to frame discussion of these subjects would be be say things like "It was thought that..." or "It was believed...". Instead, the book is written as if things like the supposed mystical nature of the number ten were literally true. I could understand this if the book was written "in character" as if a Medieval person was writing it, but things like the ten steps of the DNA helix are mentioned, which obviously nobody knew about when the Quadrivium was taught. Presumably the reason for including such modern coincidences is to suggest that the mystical view of number has real validity. But that turns an interesting historical book into a New Age tract.

I picked up the book hoping was actually about Quadrivium and instead got a New Age woo woo reformulation of it with lots of nice drawings. And you won't learn much from it, the sections are all pretty superficial in the treatment of the subjects they cover - usually one page and a drawing. A serious drawback is that it suffers from a lack of reference material for people who want to go deeper into these subjects and there are no exercises to help a reader explore items of interest.The part I liked best was the Appendices & Index. There is a lot of interesting information back there.Overall the book is well put together and polished. Hats off to the publisher.Whose the book for? Someone curious about the subjects presented in this book who doesn't want too much information up front, you will like it. It's also a neat coffee table book.Anyone else looking for a thorough examination of the subjects covered in the book need to look else where.

Quadrivium: The Four Classical Liberal Arts of Number, Geometry, Music, & Cosmology (Wooden Books) Contemporary's Number Power 4: Geometry: a real world approach to math (The Number Power Series) The Big Book of Wooden Locks: Complete Plans for Nine Working Wooden Locks

The Vintage Guide to Classical Music: An Indispensable Guide for Understanding and Enjoying Classical Music Classical Music 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Classical Music Classical Sheet Music For French Horn With French Horn & Piano Duets Book 1: Ten Easy Classical Sheet Music Pieces For Solo French Horn & French Horn/Piano Duets (Volume 1) The Trivium: The Liberal Arts of Logic, Grammar, and Rhetoric Liberal Arts Power: What It Is and How to Sell It on Your Resume Geometry: Integration, Applications, Connections Student Edition (MERRILL GEOMETRY) Janice VanCleave's Geometry for Every Kid: Easy Activities that Make Learning Geometry Fun (Science for Every Kid Series) Janice VanCleave's Geometry for Every Kid: Easy Activities that Make Learning Geometry Fun Photogrammetric Computer Vision: Statistics, Geometry, Orientation and Reconstruction (Geometry and Computing) Color-by-Number: Flowers: 30+ fun & relaxing color-by-number projects to engage & entertain Number Roundup: A workbook of place values and number strategies Drawing for Kids How to Draw Number Cartoons Step by Step: Number Fun & Cartooning for Children & Beginners by Turning Numbers & Letters into Cartoons What is my number?: a game of number clues for 3rd and 4th graders Big Book of Number Tracing: 0-100 (Over 1,200 Number Tracing Units) The Trial of Galileo: Aristotelianism, the "New Cosmology," and the Catholic Church, 1616-1633 (Reacting to the Past) The Unknown Universe: A New Exploration of Time, Space and Cosmology Relativity, Gravitation and Cosmology