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# Hanon: The Virtuoso Pianist In Sixty Exercises, Complete (Schirmer's Library Of Musical Classics, Vol. 925)



## Synopsis

(Piano Method). Since the first release of this classic Schirmer edition over 100 years ago, almost anyone who has taken piano lessons for more than two years has played from *The Virtuoso Pianist*. Millions of copies have been sold of these progressive exercises which guide a player's technique, building finger independence and strength. This was the first American edition released of this music, and remains a classic at a remarkably affordable price.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you want to strengthen your fingers and learn note patterns relevant to all types of music, you need this book. Yes, the exercises sound repetitive, and they'll drive anyone listening to you practice them nuts, but they work. And after practicing them for a while, you begin to realize that they are not as repetitive as they seem. The patterns vary in a way that becomes more obvious as you practice them more. The exercises are carefully designed to (1) strengthen the weak fingers of the hand (3-4-5), and (2) teach patterns of notes that recur not only in classical music but in melodies of all types of music. Each exercise varies in a manner that rests the fingers worked on in the previous exercise, so you can play through a series of them without overly tiring out your hands. For this reason they work great as warm-ups. The book is divided into three sections of 20 exercises each. I use the first 20 as warm-ups, playing them for about 15 minutes. The later exercises are more advanced and teach things like fast running octaves, arpeggios, and repeated notes. Since I started using these exercises, my hands are noticeably stronger. I've been playing piano for 32+ years, and play at an advanced level. But these exercises (at least numbers 1 through 20) would be

useful for a pianist of any level, from beginner to advanced. Yes, they can be boring to play, but the improvement you will notice from 15-20 minutes a day is worth it.

As a child, I hated technical exercise books like this. I remember the old teacher with the ruler, the Bartok book, the red pen, the check marks the circles, and ahhhhhhhhhh... I shudder... But now, years later, I've not only become a professional Jazz musician, but I teach too, and you know something, even though my particular method of teaching involves very little reading (mainly because I teach Jazz improv) this is the one book that not only do I recommend to my students, but also that I've started picking up again, because actually the exercises are relevant to players of all levels. The reason is because regardless of what type of music you play, the finger pattern exercises in this book are universal and relevant. On the surface they look very simple, almost childish compared to some of the more nightmarish books (Czerny, anyone?) but the truth is, once you've mastered them, melodies will fall under your fingers and hopefully you'll feel as home on your piano as you do on your computer keyboard ...

I'm a beginner pianist and my teacher felt it necessary to have me not only practise my scales but also to strengthen my fingers, and so she gave me this book. I can't believe the difference it's made. My fingers are a hundred times stronger than before! When I first opened the book the first words out of my mouth were "You want me to play THIS!?!?!?". But when I started playing them I realized they were actually really simple. Once you learn the first measure, you pretty much know the rest of the exercise. The exercises were really tiring at first, but after only a few days I could play the first six 4 times in a row without feeling overly tired. I had some trouble with some of the later exercises (I've only gotten up to # 15), but that was because I didn't spend enough time on the earlier ones. Each exercise builds for the next, so that when you finish one you're all ready for the following one. I don't think any of the exercises will be hard if I study the exercises I already know. I think the exercises are a lot more fun than some of the other things my teacher wants me to play. I don't think they're annoying even if I repeat one over and over. I highly recommend this book.

For \$8.95 list, Alfred has a spiral bound edition of this great exercise book

For various reasons, I've had to give up on the idea of formal piano instruction. Making a go of it on my own, I felt that buying a collection of instructive manuals in technique, music reading, drills (scales and arpeggios) and general piano would be the best way to teach myself. After considering

Czerny and Hanon for the drills portion, I ultimately bought this comprehensive book. I have been very satisfied. The exercises are carefully laid out and are explained in some detail. The author offers plenty of (pretty strict) advice for making the exercises as productive as possible. As advertised, the exercises are staggered in such a manner that running through two or three or more of them in succession does not unduly fatigue the hands and fingers. In fact, after covering several exercises, my hands actually feel quite invigorated. I've also found that when I come back to a set of exercises after just a day or so, I'm able to get through them in a very quick and facile manner. Honestly, I feel better at the keyboard and I think I sound better. So far, though, I have to say that for all that, the exercises are dreadfully boring. Well, that's to be understood, however, since they are exercises, so I went ahead and gave the book five stars. Promise yourself to play something lively and fun after you plunk at these exercises for a half hour or so, and listen as your playing begins to even out and your hands take you to musical places you've never been before. Hanon works for me, it should work for you, too!

This is a wonderful resource every pianist should have! I work on a new exercise every week and it's amazing how much I've improved in just 8 weeks! My scales are smooth and faster, and my fingering, which was seriously lacking, is right on track. In regards to the person who stated this is for the experienced pianist; this is a book you can grow with. It starts out with easy exercises and progressively introduces harder ones. Don't be discouraged if all you see is black on the pages. Take the first exercise and practice it s-l-o-w-l-y. Unlock the problem of each exercise by learning the correct fingering first, which is shown at the beginning of each piece. Be consistent. As you improve play it faster. Then move on to the next exercise. It takes practice to get better and this is the best resource out there. Don't be discouraged. It works!

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