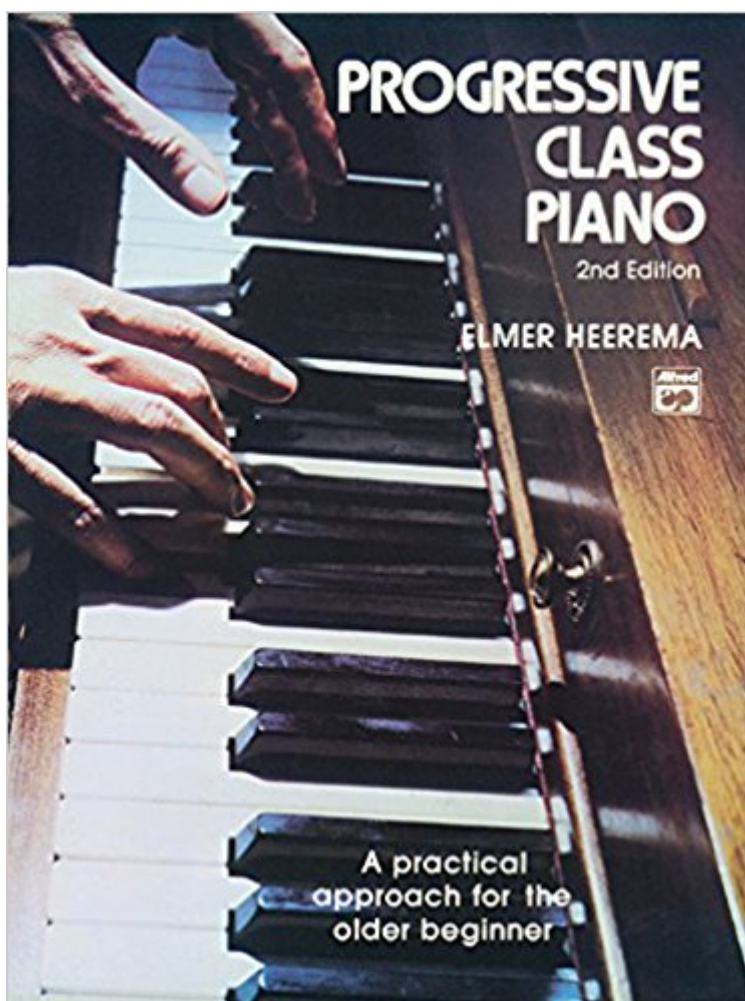


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# Progressive Class Piano: A Practical Approach For The Older Beginner, Comb Bound Book



## Synopsis

A successful keyboard text for both college non-music majors and majors with limited keyboard experience. Sight reading, playing by ear, repertoire pieces, harmonizing melodies, improvising, technical exercises and rhythm drills are all presented and reinforced in progressive order. The comb binding creates a lay-flat book that is perfect for study and performance.

## Book Information

Plastic Comb: 352 pages

Publisher: Alfred Music; 2nd edition (May 1, 1984)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,655 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music](#) #20 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Reference](#) #133 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Piano](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is the most incredible system for teaching adults piano. It is so logical and easy to follow. I have tried working with a piano teacher who used a system developed by Yale University, but it was just too frustrating. My wife and I are both taking piano class at the local community college, and we are getting amazing results. I highly recommend this book.

Piano class book. Very detailed and makes everything easy to understand

[Update: December 2011 - we just purchased a replacement copy for the family this Christmas. We look forward to many more years with this great tome!][Update: December 2010 - the comb binding finally gave way, reducing the book to a mound of sheets after five years of use by my wife and numerous of our children. We're ordering another one soon. This time, we'll probably pull the pages, place them in sheet protectors, and put them all in a large D-ring binder. Still, perhaps the best piano book I've found for learners of almost any age!]

I was first introduced to this piano book while a music major. My background was with voice, guitar, and trumpet, but I was required to take piano

each semester. Don't let the title imply that this is solely for group (class) piano lessons. It worked well in one-on-one sessions, and I bought it for my wife this past Christmas (I don't do well giving lessons to my own family members, and I'm still no piano virtuoso). She is studying on her own, and has a piano playing friend drop by for an informal lesson every couple of weeks. The book starts out by having you explore the keyboard, playing with different groupings of keys, so you can hear their relationships. Students are encouraged, for example, to use only the black keys to pluck out familiar melodies, and then to make up a short melody of their own. After that basic orientation, it moves on to primary five-finger patterns in the simplest keys (C maj., G maj.) and builds from there. Chord charts help the students make the proper finger transitions along the way. The exercises start simple, but move on to more rewarding little pieces in a surprisingly short time. As students become proficient in each new key, some exercises ask them to transpose them (play them in a different key) on the fly (without having the written music in front of them). This is a very important skill for any accompanist, who may need to play a given piece in a different key to accommodate a soloist's specific vocal range. Unlike some basic piano texts that cover only parts of your learning journey (different books for beginners, intermediates, etc), this one will move you from the most basic exercises to very complex pieces by the end--it is a substantial volume. It does a good job of introducing chord progressions, and it handles the introduction of the minor scales very well. The very end of the book contains complete written scales for every major and minor key, invaluable for drilling the basic skills as you progress. Overall, a fantastic book! You will enjoy playing!

A great comprehensive book to get you on the right path as an adult learner!

This is an in-depth study on taking the non-musician through an introduction to the piano, to playing songs by the end of the book. I purchased for a class, but will continue to use this book long past that. It is a heavy book, full of information, with a plastic spine closure. It will fit in a regular size backpack or in a canvas tote for transport from home to class.

The best that this book can offer is when used in a classroom with a professor. It has all the theory section, hands position, circle of fifths and so on, but does not explain how this is done or why, that's why the professor is needed. It also has some original classical music aside with the simplified version for the beginners. However the book lacks some very common musics that is cool to play and everyone know (i.e. Fur Elise).

This comprehensive book was recommended by my top-notch instructor. We use other books as well, but this is by far the most thorough for learning basic and advanced techniques. The instructions are clear and define why this technique is important. The exercises make the technique your own, and after several have been covered, they are followed by short, easy-to-learn pieces featuring those techniques. Even if you're not a total beginner, this book offers a fantastic review of the important pianist techniques. I highly recommend it.

It matched the description, in the best way possible.

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