Dennis Winge's How to Read Music Guide

Learning to read music can be fun and easy or it can be difficult and frustrating depending on how it is attempted to be learned. I am very proud of this package because it allows you to progress at your own pace and be guided as if you were in an actual lesson with me. In fact, each CD took many lessons to create and thus what you are holding is massively valuable.

The Mel Bay book 1 has been around for many, many years, but the original edition (still widely used today) moves along way too quickly for most students. So there was a time when I refused to use it any longer, and went with other books that provided more musical examples for each new set of notes presented. That all changed when the "Expanded Edition" came out, which provides the most musical examples for each new topic, and I now use it regularly.

The "Expanded Edition" even comes with audio and video, but there are 2 problems. First, the CD included in the book only has a small portion of the mp3s that are online, so you either have to spend valuable practice time downloading and managing computer files, or simply do without them. The second problem is that the songs on the CD are usually way faster than the typical student can play at first. This is not conducive to learning, only conducive to frustration or neglecting learning to read entirely.

This package solves both of these problems. First, the "**Accompaniment CD**" is a custom-made CD of all the mp3s that are online, which is every single example in the book. Next, the "**Lesson CD**" is a series live recordings with a student who knew absolutely nothing about reading music, so I explain everything as we go along. This is way faster than learning from a book, because not can you listen to the explanations multiple times, but you can hear each musical example played slowly so that you can play along.

There are actually two volumes of the Lesson CD. CD 1 goes from point zero to p. 14, and CD 2 resumes at p. 14 and goes to the end of p.19. This covers the first 3 strings where most students find the learning curve the steepest by far.

After you have played the Lesson CD for a few songs, put in the Accompaniment CD and find the same songs in the table of contents and now you have play-along tracks in real-time that you can work your speed up to. You don't have to get them all as fast as the CD, but it's good to focus on one every so often and work on only that song until you can play along with the CD. It will give you a feeling of pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Bring your questions to me along the way, and have fun! ☺