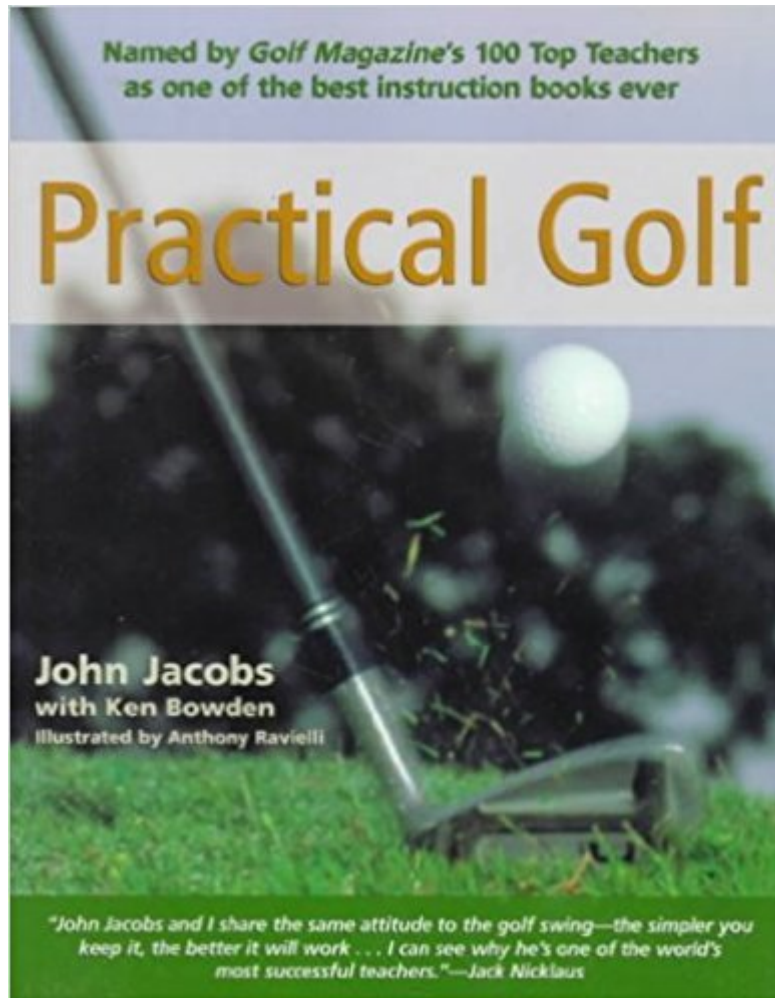




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Practical Golf



Synopsis

In this classic, world-renowned teacher John Jacobs presents a simple, sound way to an improved game for any skill level. Distilling his unrivaled knowledge into clear, practical instruction, Jacobs shows how to develop a consistent swing, improve mental attitude, achieve superior results from the rough, cure a slice in five minutes, and get greater distance. Line drawings.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: The Lyons Press; 1st edition (May 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155821738X

ASIN: B002KE5UCM

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,033,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Coaching > Golf #1264 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Golf #4814 in Books > Deals in Books

Customer Reviews

"I can see why he's one of the world's most successful teachers."--Jack Nicklaus

In Practical Golf, world-renowned teacher John Jacobs presents a simple, sound way to an improved game, no matter the skill level. Distilling his unrivaled knowledge of golf into clear, practical instruction, Jacobs shows how to develop a consistent swing, improve mental attitude, achieve superior results from the rough, cure a slice in five minutes, get greater distance, and much more. For decades, this book has helped golfers lower handicaps and better enjoy the game, making it one of the best ever. (8 1/4 X 10 3/4, 144 pages, diagrams)

I found this book to be the very best of all golf instruction books, yes, even vs. the current ones (I am a 6-handicap). John Jacobs was the longtime greatest teacher in Europe whom Jack Nicklaus and so many others recommended most highly. The absolute fundamentals of the swing and game are all in this great book, and it has the best illustrations available--to this day-- by the gifted golf illustrator, Anthony Ravielli, who did similarly fantastic illustrations for Ben Hogan's Five Lessons.

Jacobs, a former top European tour player from England and THE acknowledged top European teacher before anyone ever heard of David Leadbetter, discusses WHY you are to do certain things, and emphasizes throughout the book how the ball flight shows you what you are doing right and doing wrong. He builds from the all-important grip and stance. When things get complicated in this manual, he then submits them to the reader in more simplistic fashion, such as this: The swing is "two turns and a swoosh." He uses this simplicity throughout, but provides plenty of rationale and detail on top of that--all the detail you'll ever need-- as he explains the "why." In this way, you can correct your own faults on the range or golf course, not needing a "swing coach" at all times as so many of today's tour players need to have at each tournament, something Jack Nicklaus always scoffed at. Another example: The proper stance, accompanied by a beautiful Ravielli sketch, early in the book-- shows a golfer taking his stance on train tracks, the feet and the clubface direction being parallel to each other, with the clubhead on the far rail facing the target and the golfer's feet on the near rail--parallel to the target, NOT pointing at it-- is priceless. Just one of many examples of the fundamentals being explained with simplicity and with beautiful illustrations. If I had to recommend two golf instruction books, it would be Practical Golf and Hogan's Five Lessons. If just one book, then Practical Golf. Both are great for brand-new beginners and low-handicappers alike, with Practical Golf being even better for beginners than Hogan's book, which, while geared toward the fundamentals, explains them in rather deep detail-- maybe a bit more than a beginner would enjoy learning right away. Not so with Practical Golf. BOTH books focus on the fundamentals that will make you a great player, and NOT on the latest fads (such as "hitting late," which Jacobs briefly addresses as to why it's a bad idea). Practical Golf was recommended to me in 1976 by Rick Werner, a club professional then at Quaker Ridge Golf Club (he had a scratch handicap or even a bit lower), with one of the most beautiful swings & sweetest tempos I've ever seen (a la Fred Couples and Ernie Els), who hit the ball a mile and seemingly perfect every time. He used to hit balls on the range, alone, when no other balls were out there, and the balls he hit all ended up in a straight line between him and the target about 300 yards away. Rick used to play with famous Golf Channel teaching professional Jim McLean, who was then the assistant pro at Westchester Country Club. (I know, because as a young man then, I luckily joined them twice to play a few holes.) I go back to this book to this day (2015). Enjoy this absolute classic!

I own over 3 feet of golf instruction books on my bookshelf. This is one of the best for fundamental instruction and swing correction. The flight of the golf ball does not lie. It tells you how you are impacting the ball. If you have a fairly consistent miss, like a hook, a pull, a top, a slice, or any other

other than a straight shot, John Jacobs tells you here what you're doing at impact. The first step in curing your swing is to get the correct diagnosis. Which is more than a lot of instructors will tell you. This book has helped me understand why I've been a pull-hooker for 20 years, and figure out what I must do to straighten it out. It's fundamental to improvement.

No one book will explain the perfect swing for every player. You pick the theory that works consistently for you. God help all of us who fall in love with theories and keep changing our swings. Or, so we think. You see how much that approach has helped the best of the best. HOWEVER, you have to know theories to be able to figure out what works for you. What I liked about this classic is that Jacobs gets right to the point, without skipping the essentials. Grip. His approach is direct and simple. Too many of the modern authors drone on and on and seem to complicate the swing. Buy this one for the pictures, if nothing else. Honestly, let's just put it in the hole as quickly and painlessly as possible.

This book is good for all levels in golf. It is instructive for the beginner and a reminder of fundamentals for the advanced players.

I wanted to take a moment to review this great book. I got it earlier this week, and I started reading it right away...I'm new to golf, but I have STRUGGLED really badly. If you can imagine a bad shot on a golf course, I have hit it. I hit bad slices, shanks, topped shots etc etc etc. But I LOVE the game. I read Hogan's 5 lessons, didn't really help, I read 'keys to the effortless swing' and it just didn't connect. I've taken a few lessons, not much help either...I don't know how to explain it, but this book is doing the trick for me. I went golfing last week before I read this, and I shot horribly, all my usual problems...I sat down this week and read through half of this book (I haven't even finished it yet) and I went out to the range for an hour and I played a 9 hole round...I literally hit 12 shots better. That may sound unbelievable, but it happened. Here are the reasons why I think this book is great: 1. The explanations are really simple. 2. This book stresses how to change common errors, and it really describes these errors beautifully. 3. This is the first book which acknowledges that a really good swing leads with the left hip, but that a pretty good swing can lead with the arms, and this was my major problem, I was so focused on what other golfers advocate, that I was blind to trying something else. 4. This is the first method where I didn't feel like I was thinking about 10 different things standing over the ball, in fact I was thinking about very little in my swing and while that may be completely obvious to some golfers, it certainly wasn't obvious to me. So, if you are a duffer and a

hacker like me, this is a great book to try. I didn't feel like I rebuilt my swing and I felt really comfortable with the techniques found in 'practical golf'! Thanks!

Very sound advice and easy to understand. Played much better right after reading this one.

Really helped me to have a better Finish! I need that bad. My drives are much better now.

Although this is an "old" book. It is the best book I've found on helping me understand the golf swing and how it works. that has enabled me to understand what I am doing wrong and make the corrections myself. Great illustrations and clear explanations

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