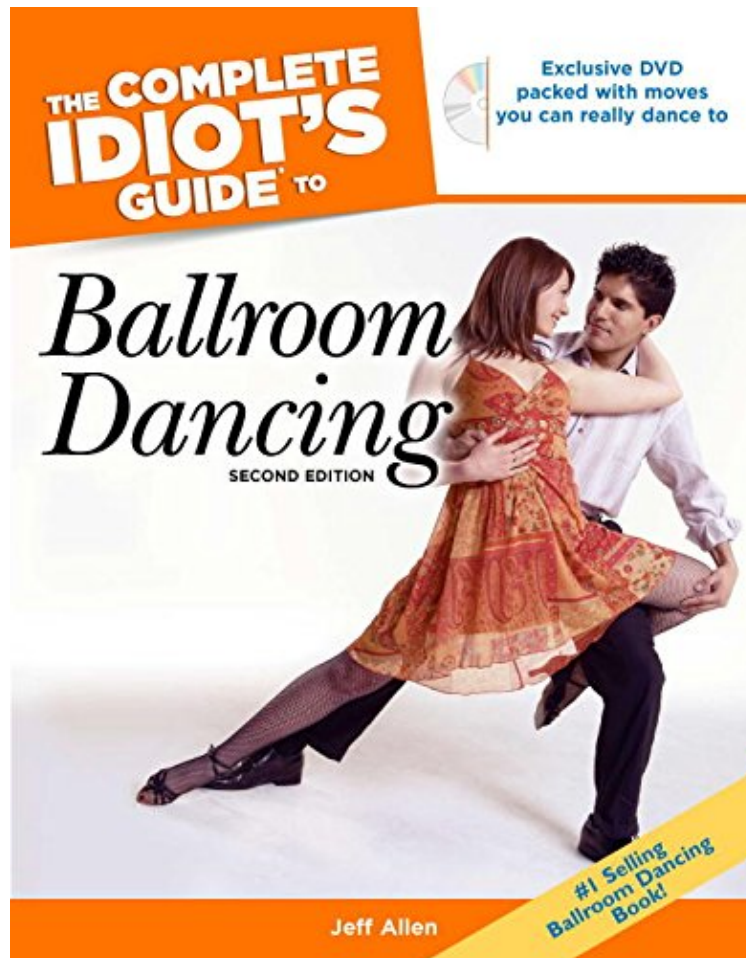


# The Complete Idiot's Guide to Ballroom Dancing

Jeffrey Allen

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#253425 in Books Alpha 2006-09-05 2006-09-05Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.82 x .67 x 8.48l, 1.40 #File Name: 1592575773276 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**Jeffrey Allen : The Complete Idiot's Guide to Ballroom Dancing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Idiot's Guide to Ballroom Dancing:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Only consider this book if you are a verbal learnerBy B. KruegerI bought this book as a way to provide me and my wife with an intro to ballroom dancing before going on a cruise. The book is written like many of the "Complete Idiot" series books. After finally making it through the book, this is not a book I would recommend to others, unless you are a verbal (i.e. written form of verbal) learner. Here's why:- The book spends a great deal of time going through the history of ballroom dancing. While this is interesting to me, most people would simply not have the time or interest. I bought the book to learn to dance, not learn the history of dance.- The major dances are described in words, with little in the way of visual cues to guide you. Surprisingly absent are even the most basic footwork diagrams. I read the section on the fox trot several times and simply could not understand the basic steps. Yes, perhaps I am an idiot when it comes to understanding dancing, but I thought that was the point of

buying a book such as this? - Beyond the basic dance steps, very little is described about the turns and sequences. In several instances where they are described, they are described with a numbering system that does NOT correspond with the beat of the music, making it even more difficult to work out the actual steps. - The accompanying DVD is of little additional help. The woman has a deer-in-the-headlights robotic look and the instruction is far too short to be of sufficient help. You simply cannot follow along with the DVD as a step-by-step instruction. In addition, there is a transition frame between sets that has little to do with ballroom dancing and simply ends up being a further distraction. The DVD is nowhere near as good as Dance Lessons 101 or Step-by-step Ballroom Dancing DVDs (also sold at ). So if you are a verbal learner (i.e. if someone can verbally describe dancing to you and that is enough), perhaps this book will work for you. However, most (myself included) are visual learners when it comes to learning to dance. You would be better off going with one of the aforementioned DVDs to get you started.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. pretty good  
By roz79  
To be honest I have not read much of the book, I started dance classes (ballroom and latin) about 2 months ago and I am able to pick up the moves pretty fast cause I love it. So I focussed more on the CD here which I was very impressed with. It was more than I expected to find, covering a few basics two or three patterns per dance, having a little knowledge of dance already it was a nice review and practise. However to those of you that are interested in the book you will find explanations for both the man and woman's steps and also pictures as guidelines covering waltz, foxtrot, tango, viennese waltz, rumba, merengue, samba, cha-cha, mambo, east coast swing... that's a good spread for your money, of course the CD is necessary to also help explain.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Other than the DVD...  
By D. Geller  
I'm just starting lessons and thought this book, which I found in the library, would be a great reinforcement. I think I'm a bit premature, but that's not the book's fault. The problem is that there seem to be many variants of the "basic step" and the book does not always do what my instructor did. I expect that as I get more practice this will be a non-problem. The book is very wordy, but that's because the chapters are each very complete -- I think it's not too hard to skip forward and then go back for the finer details. However, the library copy came with a CD, with nice music. The edition sent has a DVD which seems pretty useless. Each topic seems to be about 6 seconds long and they slide into each other. It's not easy to watch two people dancing for six seconds and pick up the footwork -- especially when the segments are not labelled on the screen as they come up, and some of them are a bit blurry, which may be to indicate speed or to give the scene a dreamy look. A better DVD would have been helpful, but the book stands on its own.

Ballroom dancing is back! And now anyone can move like a pro. DVD included! In addition to the step-by-step photos, footwork illustrations, and instruction covering all the common ballroom dances, this new edition of the bestselling Complete Idiots Guide to Ballroom Dancing includes a 90-minute instructional DVD featuring award-winning dancer and dance instructor Jeff Allen. It corresponds with the text seamlessly, giving readers the next best thing to one-on-one instruction, at a fraction of the cost. The #1 selling ballroom dancing book includes a fantastic, new instructional DVD and hundreds of illustrations and instructions. Allen is a renowned, award-winning ballroom dance teacher.

About the Author  
JEFF ALLEN is a columnist for Dancing USA magazine and the author of four books on social and ballroom dancing. He holds Membership credentials with the North American Dance Teachers Association, Inc., and the Pan American Teachers Association. After competing in national and international competitions and winning the Gold closed level at the North American Championships, Jeff turned professional in 1984. However, he considers his greatest accomplishments to be the more than 30 Top Teacher awards he has won and being listed among the top teachers in America by DVIDA as a Regional examiner and teacher trainer.