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Introduction To Geometry, 2nd Edition (The Art Of Problem Solving)

the Art of Problem Solving

Introduction to Geometry

Richard Rusczyk

2nd Edition
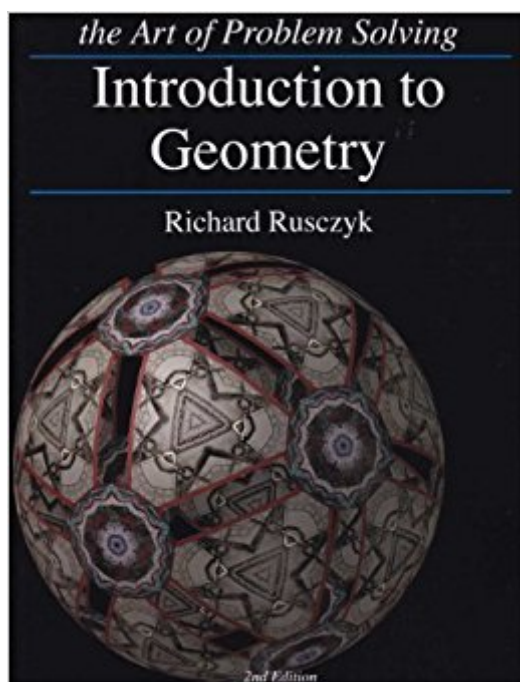
Synopsis

A full course in challenging geometry for students in grades 7-10, including topics such as similar triangles, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, funky areas, power of a point, three-dimensional geometry, transformations, introductory trigonometry, and more.

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Customer Reviews

A full course in challenging geometry for students in grades 7-10, including topics such as similar triangles, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, funky areas, power of a point, three-dimensional geometry, transformations, introductory trigonometry, and more.

I've been running a math/computer afterschool program, and have used these and a number ofother (older) textbooks extensively. I've even gone through all of them and cross referenceeverything to a very detailed curriculum I have. I had gone to the same National MathcountsRichard did years ago, and this is one of the few texts written primarily by a math person, and nota doctorate in education (the ones written by engineers can be good too; my 2 favorite algebrabooks are all written by phenomenal high school teachers). I really like thateven good students won't be able to handle 100% of the material. Most textsseem to cater to the lower 3 quartiles of the population, not the upper.AoPS has by far the best problems (and their online Alcumus problems are even better).I like that similar to Saxon and the other good texts, it mostly lacks pictures (but lotsof diagrams), and the fluff that goes into other books (when you include 3 pages of computer programmingin a textbook, 3 pages of math get deleted; that biography of X

mathematician just displaceda proof of the pythagorean theorem; etc). Some of the problems are hard, and thisbook makes a good attempt to incrementally introduce complex problem solving skills.I don't recommend this book for someone who has been struggling with the normal texts,or even one that has muddled around with the normal texts their whole life.I do recommend it as a supplement for EVERY student that is considering themath/engineering/computer/science track for a career.Diagrams are good and copious, and typesetting appears to be nicely done in LaTeX(and probably Tikz or PGF)My main problem with it is the organization. I'm not talking about the overall order of topicsand presentation which are fine and comparable to others, but the organization withina chapter. There is a little bit of exposition, then a problem in gray box. Then some morematerial, more gray boxes then a blue box with the SAME first problem again. Then a solution in white outsidethe box. Then more exposition, blue, and gray boxes. Then invariably some moreboxes with "Important" or "Concept". Then exercises with no solution (which are in aseparate book) and sometime Challenge problems.The text is full width, which is harder to read, and the diagrams are sometimes flowedon the right, sometimes left, and sometimes centered in the middle. Sometimes the diagramis for the problem above, and sometime below. Sometimes you have to guess which problemthe unlabeled diagram corresponds to. My other texts tend to be 2/3 width columnwith much better offsetting of text/problems/sample-problems and better flow.Overall, it's just hard on the eyes to read and pickout where to read. If you want to flip backa few pages and find X, it's really hard to do so. This is one of my favorite texts for content,and least favorite for production values.Material-wise, there is more material in here than almost all the texts with the exception of Jacobs.Many topics covered are outside the "mainstream" common core. The Extra! topics are good, andmathematically relevant, not just the usual How to Key Your Calculator. Small amount of constructions,and the same minimal amount of trig that is now included in most geometry books (trig up tolaw of sines/cosines). Above average quantity of proofs. I like that many of the later chapterson surfaces, volumes, and analytic geometry aren't just a regurgitation of volume of sphere is X, but rathersetting the student up for really understanding the more difficult material they're find in IntroductoryAnalysis (pre-calc, calc) courses.The other nit to pick is the lack of a hardback textbook option.Your other good alternatives area) Dolciani/Jurgensen/Brown (unfortunately, I don't have their edition from the 60's yet)b) Saxon pre-2003 (which organizes topics in short incremental bites with lots of review;I don't like that they interweave geometry with algebra). One of my favorite for nice formatting andvery clear explanations, but the spiral method doesn't work well after beginning algebra.c) Jacobs from 80s (good organization, very good topics/material)d) Moise/Downs probably the best if you like proofs and mathematical rigor.e) Rhoad (1991) isn't too bad, but like many

modern books is far too busy.f) Isodore Dressler (old, my copy is in the mail to me)For the record, I'm not giving any of the texts 5-stars.

My child has used this book since he was in middle school. His geometry wasn't very good because he didn't take geometry until 8th grade. This book has helped him greatly with his class and math contests in middle school and also through the high school math competitions. When he became the president of the match club in his high school (top high school in the state), this book was one of the books he used to train his team to get ready for the competition. So, use this book to review geometry systematically or study parts of it to get improvement in specific areas. I think this book is great and I am thankful. Now my child won't need this book anymore, I recommend this book for other children who really want to get a boost in geometry and gain more confidence in math studying.

I had just started Geometry few weeks ago as a self study (since I took Calc BC skipping Geo), and I came thru this book. It is okay, as it will not be as clear as a traditional geometry book. I would recommend Jurgensen's Geometry textbook if you are a newstarter, but this book is just B.R.I.L.L.I.A.N.T if you are AN EXPERIENCED PROBLEM SOLVER.

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