

Synopsis

Students at all levels find considerable difficulty in applying their knowledge of organic chemistry to the solution of problems, often relying on memory alone. This book takes a unique approach to show that a general problem-solving strategy is applicable to many of the common reactions. Using a novel 'at-a-glance' layout, the left-hand page provides a stepwise procedure for working through the reaction mechanisms, with helpful hints about the underlying chemistry, and the facing page contains a fully worked-through answer.

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Customer Reviews

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Dr Mark Moloney, Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford

I've been using this book for a few years to review organic mechanisms with students who have been working in the chemical/pharmaceutical industry. It is an excellent teaching resource and great

style for practice and review especially for those who have not done much organic in a while.

This book is VERY short. Short enough to be a bit simplistic, actually. I bought this book along with several others to help with organic chemistry, and this was the least useful. It is nice that it has a step-by-step method to approaching mechanisms, but it assumes a lot of prior knowledge that, if the person already has, makes the step-by-step approach very unhelpful, and simplistic. The method would be helpful if the student is just beginning to try organic mechanisms, but then isn't in depth enough on certain key concepts that are vital to DOING the step-by-step method, such as identifying areas of reactivity. Although the layout is nice, with big full sized facing pages outlining each process, it gives very few representative examples and even LESS practice problems. The practice problems given have very simple solutions shown, rather than a complete mechanism (which is the whole point) to help correct mistakes in notation and order of reactivity, side products, etc. If it was \$10 it might be a helpful third or fourth text for mechanisms, and MIGHT be worth the price, but for the current listed price, you can get MUCH more useful texts that will continue to be helpful throughout your tour of chemistry, into research and career work and on, such as Dr. Robert Grossman's "The Art of Writing Reasonable Organic Reaction Mechanisms" also here on for almost the exact same price, found here: [The Art of Writing Reasonable Organic Reaction Mechanisms](#) In short: Not good unless you find it in a bargain-bin used for under \$10, and even then, I wouldn't buy it.

I just found this book in the library and I'm super excited to buy it. Everyone says to understand organic chemistry, not memorize but how many professors take time to explain step by step the concepts within the mechanism they present? Not many, that's why people end up memorizing because the explanations are not CLEAR. That's why a lot of people can't do mechanisms. Nobody organizes clearly the steps to thinking out how to do one. This book blew me away with its organized way of thinking out mechanisms. AFTER using this book I would recommend the art of writing mechanisms. I didn't even realize I didn't understand certain things before using this book. I would recommend it for all levels of student.

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