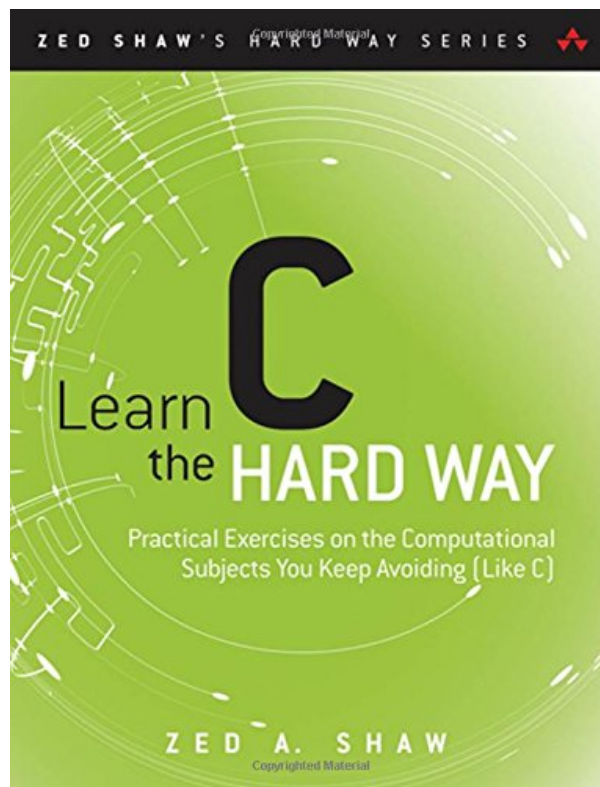# LEARN C THE HARD WAY: PRACTICAL EXERCISES ON THE COMPUTATIONAL SUBJECTS YOU KEEP AVOIDING (LIKE C) (ZED SHAW'S HARD WAY SERIES) BY ZED A.

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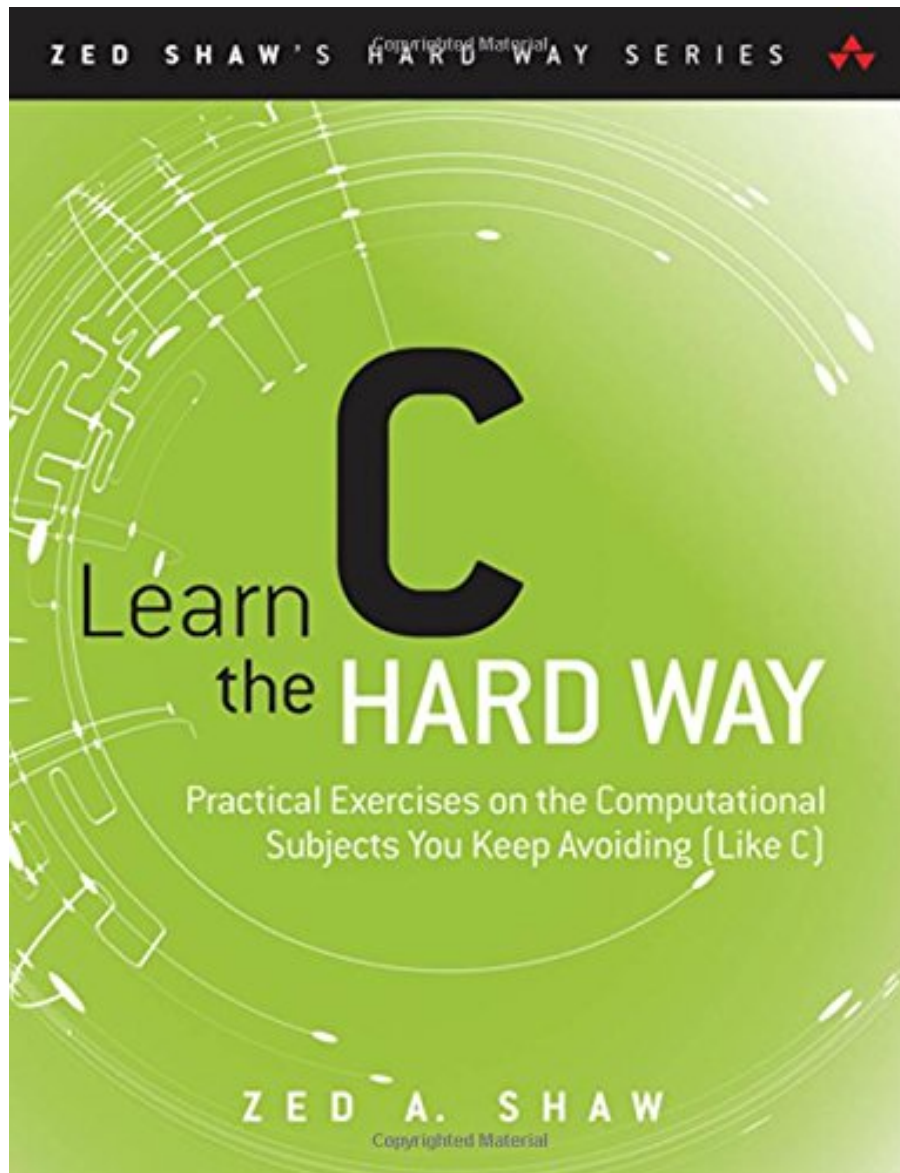Click link bellow and free register to download ebook:
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About the Author

Zed Sha w is an avid guitar player, programmer, and writer whose books teach people all over the world how to write software. His books Learn Python the Hard Way and Learn Ruby the Hard Way (both now in their third editions) have been read by millions of people around the world. His software has been used by many large and small companies. His essays are often quoted and read by members of many geek communities. An entertaining and lively writer, he will keep you laughing and make you think.

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You Will Learn C!
Zed Shaw has crafted the perfect course for the beginning C programmer eager to advance their skills in any language. Follow it and you will learn the many skills early and junior programmers need to succeed–just like the hundreds of thousands of programmers Zed has taught to date! You bring discipline, commitment, persistence, and experience with any programming language; the author supplies everything else.

In Learn C the Hard Way , you'll learn C by working through 52 brilliantly crafted exercises. Watch Zed Shaw's teaching video and read the exercise. Type his code precisely. (No copying and pasting!) Fix your mistakes. Watch the programs run. As you do, you'll learn what good, modern C programs look like; how to think more effectively about code; and how to find and fix mistakes far more efficiently. Most importantly, you'll master rigorous defensive programming techniques, so you can use any language to create software that protects itself from malicious activity and defects.

Through practical projects you'll apply what you learn to build confidence in your new skills. Shaw teaches the key skills you need to start writing excellent C software, including

- Setting up a C environment
- Basic syntax and idioms
- Compilation, make files, and linkers
- Operators, variables, and data types
- Program control
- Arrays and strings
- Functions, pointers, and structs
- Memory allocation
- I/O and files
- Libraries
- Data structures, including linked lists, sort, and search
- Stacks and queues
- Debugging, defensive coding, and automated testing
- Fixing stack overflows, illegal memory access, and more
- Breaking and hacking your own C code

It'll Be Hard at First. But Soon, You'll Just Get It–And That Will Feel Great!
This tutorial will reward you for every minute you put into it. Soon, you'll know one of the world's most powerful programming languages. You'll be a C programmer.

Watch Zed, too! The accompanying DVD contains 5+ hours of passionate, powerful teaching: a complete C video course! If you purchase the digital edition, be sure to read "Where Are the Companion Content Files" at the end of the eBook to learn how to access the videos.

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About the Author

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Most helpful customer reviews

25 of 26 people found the following review helpful.
Needs a new editor
By M. F. Watson
I find it very difficult to give this anything other than 5 stars, as I have found all of Zed's work to be immensely helpful. This book, taken with the beta website and the companion videos, is probably one of the best and quickest crash courses in C available. This book is the quick-and-dirty, yet somehow very clean, way to get you programming in C in an expedited fashion.

However, the one glaring problem with this book is the editing. There are exercises in the book where the program examples have been updated from the beta website, yet the program output examples have been left the same. Added on top of that, some parts of the text will talk about the book version of the program, while others will reference the website version. It's as if whoever was responsible for editing the book got halfway through and then decided to take an early vacation.

I was able to get through with very little problem because I had already used the website extensively before purchasing the book, but I can imagine that this would pose some difficulty for someone new to the language. This urgently needs a reediting and a second edition to iron out the flaws.

Despite the three stars, I still strongly recommend this book, but only when taken along with the videos and the beta website, and only if the reader is willing to take the extra time to go back and forth between the three. I would only ask Zed to take another pass at making the the solid, standalone, programming book that it obviously has the potential to be.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Good exercises, poor explanations
By ZC

First, a disclosure: I was mailed a free copy of this book by the publisher.

I have very mixed feelings about this book. As a bit of background on me, I am a CS student who worked through most of K.N. King's "C Programming: A Modern Approach" last year as my formal introduction to both C and programming in general. So I'm not a total beginner at C, but I'm certainly not an expert, by any means.

Let me start with the good points about this book:

+ You will be exposed to a lot of code. And not just "textbook" code where everything is reduced and condensed to show off some facet of programming (e.g. "class Cat extends Animal"), but real code, the kind of thing you might see in an actual C project on Github. You will have to work through the code and understand what it does with relatively little handholding.

+ You will be exposed to a lot of data structures. Linked lists of several varieties, databases, structures, search trees, hash maps, and more are all used in various exercises.

+ You will gain insight from a very experienced programmer--the author! It's clear from reading this book that Zed Shaw has a lot of experience writing C professionally. He has a lot of pointers (heh) on writing code.

+ The videos are very good. There's an included DVD with lectures related to each exercise. They add a lot to the value of the book.

+ You will be exposed to other useful ideas: testing, defensive programming, etc. These are useful no matter what language you're writing in.

Now, the bad points:

- Poor copy editing. One example: in the writeup of exercise 17, in the "how to break it" section Zed writes, "For example, remove the check on line 160..." In the code, line 160 is a blank line.

- Vague, incomplete, or totally missing explanations. This was the worst part of the book in my opinion. If you're the kind of person who likes to more or less completely understand how some feature or mechanism of a programming language works before using it yourself, you may find this book frustrating. I was often referring back to K.N. King's book to review things that Zed Shaw was introducing in his code and then explaining in one or two sentences, if at all. Sometimes I was reading entire chapters of K.N. King's book before being able to dive back in to Learn C the Hard Way. You may often finding yourself searching online for definitions of standard library or other functions to get an idea of how they're fitting into the code examples. Which makes me wonder, if I have to read another textbook to understand Learn C the Hard Way, why don't I just stick with that other textbook?

Here's one example off the top of my head. Mr. Shaw says of the "register" keyword: "Forces the compiler to keep this variable in a register, and the compiler can just ignore you." Isn't that self-contradictory? How can the compiler ignore something it is "forced" to do? K.N. King's explanation was longer but much more explanatory, including the sentence: "Specifying the storage class of a variable to be register is a request, not a command. The compiler is free to store a register variable in memory if it chooses." Mr. Shaw's use of the word "force" is misleading and sloppy, and his explanation confused more than clarified.

If the example code in the exercises had had a few more pages of explanation each, I could probably have really enjoyed this book. As it is, I found it tedious, as I was spending most of my time with other sources just to understand what was written. For most concepts, I couldn't understand Mr. Shaw's super terse explanations until I had already understood some other source's explanations of that concept.

So, would I recommend this book? Well, it depends. If you don't anything about C, then I'd suggest K.N. King's C book, which is much more thorough and precise with explanations. If you have already studied C, then this might be useful as a review.

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful.
[resolved] Missing important accompanying material.
By Amazon Customer
Interesting concept. I am a big fan of Zed Shaw's Learn Python the Hard Way. It's a great method that fits well with how I like to learn.

So I purchased the Kindle version of the "Learn C the Hard Way". But right of the start the author emphasises the importance of "accompanying videos" which are integral to the book, and they are nowhere to be found.

There is a section in later chapters of the book with a procedure on how to get the videos but after registering and following the procedure on the Informit website the book links to, I did not get a download link.

I opened a support ticket with Informit and 2 days later got a response with a suggestion I contact Amazon. Pretty poor experience if you ask me.

I just needed a quick refresher since I hadn't used C in some years, so I opted for a different book instead due to the issues of missing accompanying material of this book.

EDIT**: The curse of the "early adopter" strikes back! Read the comment bellow this review. It's from the editor herself. They remedied the issue and now I'm a happy camper! Highly recommend this book. Zed Shaw's method is unique and a very fun way to learn.

See all 21 customer reviews...

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About the Author

Zed Sha w is an avid guitar player, programmer, and writer whose books teach people all over the world how to write software. His books Learn Python the Hard Way and Learn Ruby the Hard Way (both now in their third editions) have been read by millions of people around the world. His software has been used by many large and small companies. His essays are often quoted and read by members of many geek communities. An entertaining and lively writer, he will keep you laughing and make you think.

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