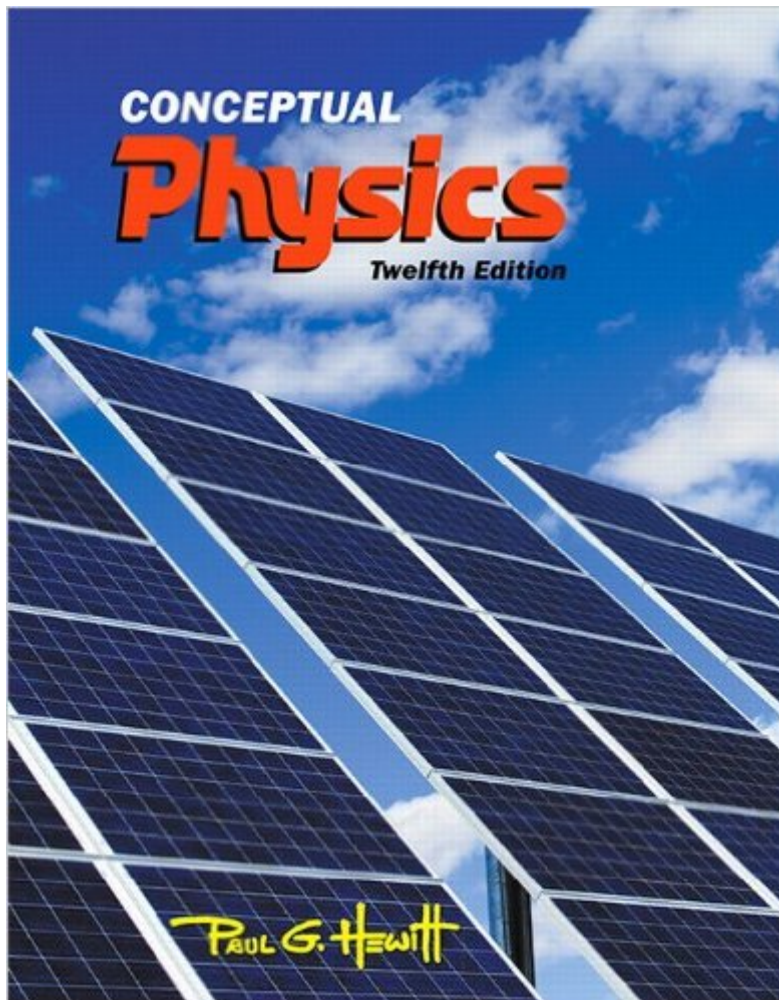


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Conceptual Physics (12th Edition)



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

I would imagine that the answer to my subject heading is, for most people, NO! But for me it was YES!, as I'd never had a physics class, and it was essential, for research that I am conducting, that I have slightly more than an elementary grasp of physics. I turned to this book, and am glad that I did. This book, thankfully, is written in conceptual terms. There are few equations - because equations are necessary in science - but you don't need to know calculus or trigonometry to read this book and walk away with a solid foundation. The author has a clear and easy tone about his writing, and breaks complex concepts down into their simple building blocks so that a typical layperson can understand. I know - because I'm as typical a layperson as they come regarding the sciences. I can't recommend this highly enough.

I am a physics teacher with a degree in physics and I think this is one of the best physics texts I have ever seen. I have used it for quite a few years now, with excellent results. Hewitt packs a lot of information into the book, but teachers and students are not expected to get through it all. The extra material gives the book great applications for a wide variety of audiences, but the responsibility is on the teacher to use it in a way that is not confusing to students. This is the case with any of the standard physics texts (Halliday Resnick, Giancoli). Anyone who discounts this book because it has more words and cartoons than equations and math problems in it has no idea what understanding physics can be. Physics has too long been abused as an applied math course, and this book is a welcome remedy for this. For a general audience, this book provides an excellent overview of the fundamental concepts that make our world run. For science-bound students, it provides an excellent conceptual foundation for a more rigorous calculus-based course where deeper understanding of the connection between math and nature can be explored. On major fault of the book, as one reviewer pointed out, is that Hewitt includes some problems that he does not give readers the math skills to solve. If a teacher assigns these problems, it is necessary that the students have access to the supplementary material written for the text that explains this math. But as a conceptual physics text for a conceptual physics course, Hewitt's book is unparalleled.

This was my first quarter taking physics. In the beginning I was somewhat intimidated, since my only

knowledge of physics were tidbits I had learned from watching the Science Channel and various Michio Kaku shows. However, upon reading the introduction section, I knew it would not be as bad as I had anticipated. The author states in the intro that he wrote the book using his own personal experiences and real-life situations in order to make the book feel personal, rather than like a bland textbook. And I am more than glad he did. His stories in each chapter make the reading easy to understand and remember. They also help the reader apply physics to everyday life. In addition to the book, there are online tutorials and games for every chapter. The code in the book is the password to login. It helps tremendously. The site even has a digital copy of the book, which helps if lugging the book around is inconvenient. And if that weren't enough, the author even includes classroom videos of demonstrations as well as self quizzes for every chapter.

I took freshman physics in college. I picked up this book as a bit of a review. It is well worth reading. It is pitched at a level that a 12 year old could understand, but contains physics that would educate and entertain adults. I recommend getting the accompanying work book as well. There are concept questions and math questions. The math questions at the end of the chapters require knowledge of arithmetic (not heavy algebra or calculus). I recommend this book for those that just like to read educational material for fun.... this is a light enough read to allow that. I also recommend this book for science students that want to get the concepts of physics down, before they get bogged down in the math. It makes your higher level physics book much easier to read. If you don't get this book, you are really missing out on a good thing. KatherinePS yes real girls do read physics

I am a high school physics teacher. While I was taking my teaching physics courses in my undergraduate education (in 1996), Hewitt's approach in teaching physics and his book "Conceptual Physics" was one of the topics that we have discussed in the class. It is also discussed in a well-known textbook of Chiappetta and et. al. "Science Instruction in the Middle and Secondary Schools". His approach and the book can be considered a breakthrough in physics education. The major critique on the book focuses on little or no math used in it. But, it is a natural aspect of "conceptual physics". The main aim of that approach is to facilitate the understanding of concepts of physics which will surely create a robust framework for problem solving in physics and, for advanced physics. Many researches have shown that lack of conceptual base for science is the major responsible for the difficulties in deeper understanding, and/or for the obstacles in the road of problem solving. Do not consider the book as an algebra based or calculus based physics textbook. As its name says, it is "conceptual". No one can ignore (and actually Hewitt himself does not

'ignore') the beauty of math in physics, actually in any science. Dealing with physics by using the math as the language requires two aspects: 1) a well-structured conceptual understanding of physics, 2) mastery in math. The "Conceptual Physics" is for the first aspect. And it does function very well!

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