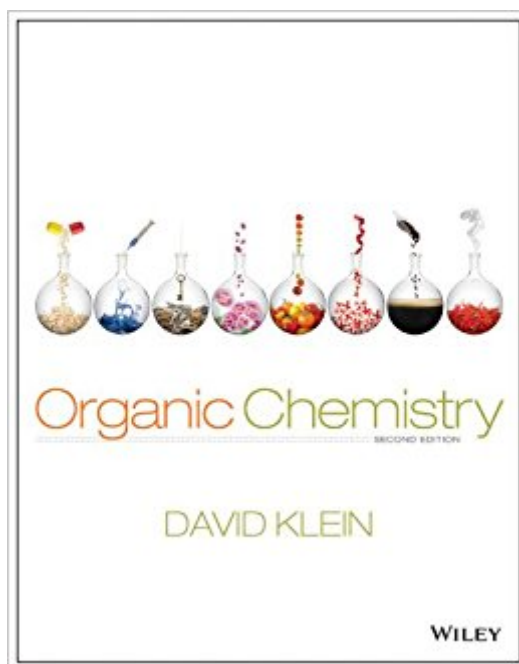


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Organic Chemistry, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Organic chemistry is not merely a compilation of principles, but rather, it is a disciplined method of thought and analysis. Success in organic chemistry requires a mastery in two core aspects: fundamental concepts and the skills needed to apply those concepts and solve problems. Readers must learn to become proficient at approaching new situations methodically, based on a repertoire of skills. These skills are vital for successful problem solving in organic chemistry. Existing textbooks provide extensive coverage of the principles, but there is far less emphasis on the skills needed to actually solve problems.

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Customer Reviews

This is probably one of the best O chem textbooks I've found. The topics are explained succinctly but with enough depth to convey the knowledge well and the practice problems in the book are a perfect way for students to learn the material by doing it. If you're going to get this I highly recommend that you also get the solution manual to with it because if you're going to do any of the problems in the book, its good to be able to check your answers. This is a great textbook whether or not you have a good professor or not. You can learn everything you're going to need to know from

the book alone if you had to and its fairly well written and well structured. The pace is good and its honestly one of the best textbooks i've had to get for a class.

This textbook is amazing. Plain and simple. Klein does an admirable job in bringing a complex subject like Organic Chemistry to the level of his readers while not losing any of the depth and complexity. As an added bonus, he does this all while emphasizing the PATTERNS in orgo over any form of memorization. He does this by always giving an explanation for everything. In the cases where something is a bit out of the range of a typical intro orgo student, Klein provides an amended, and perhaps slightly altered look, at how certain phenomena take place. They work every time. While doing all this, Klein somehow keeps a semi-conversational tone and avoids overly-complex and formal talk. To show how important and applicable each concept is to his readers, Klein frames each chapter with a real life context in mind - in addition to giving many examples throughout each chapter. The sectioning in this book is also fantastic. The max that you will read before coming to a progress check (or skillbuilder as he calls them) is 3-4 pages, but it is often much less (1-1.5/2). This really helps to make each section much more reasonable and not overwhelming because before moving on, you get a chance to check your understanding, it's never just endless reading. DO THE SKILLBUILDERS: They will help you more than you think!!! (I cannot emphasize that enough!). At the end of each section, Klein also has a review section with an overview of all the core concepts and problems in each section, which can be very helpful when you want to quickly review a certain point quickly without scanning 50 or 60 pages. After this, there are many practice problems - some that are just from that section, some integrated questions that use knowledge from the current section as well as previous sections, and a few challenge problems. The problems themselves are very comprehensive and do a good job at emphasizing the conceptual and practical angle of orgo - both things necessary to understanding the subject and succeeding in class. Oh, and as a sidenote, make sure you purchase the student solutions manual for this text because it is absolutely necessary. It has all of the skillbuilder and practice problem answers, which I guarantee you will want so that you can confirm you're on the right track. Yes, it's annoying that you need to buy a new book for this but trust me, you won't regret it. In summary, this textbook is incredible. It has everything a student of organic chemistry could want - good explanations, little memorization, checkpoints, and an approachable tone. This book gets 5 stars (but if I could give it more, I would). I have to use this again next semester for orgo 2, and I'm not worried about the class in the least because of it.

A lot has already been said about Klein's wonderful Organic Chemistry text, so I won't try to retread every wonderful thing about this book. What I will say is that it combines the best of every world. Too often one will open an organic chemistry text and know that it was written by a true chemist. While that isn't strictly a bad thing content-wise, not many people like to learn via bland, dichromatic diagrams and overly formal descriptions and definitions. Klein understands that stimulation is key to success in organic chemistry, and this textbook shows it. It's as though it were designed by an arts graduate, written by an English graduate, and structured and detailed by a chemistry graduate. It's absolutely the most gorgeous textbook I've ever used, with color, detail and page design that is absolutely lush as far as textbooks go, but with enough attention paid to structure so that it's never distracting. I never bothered to use color in my notes before, but when using this book I couldn't help but replicate the ways it uses color to emphasize certain points. The tone of the text itself is friendly and instructive, and much more concise than the droning ones I've seen before. And Klein gives you plenty of practice in the chapters in the form of Skillbuilders and end-of-section problems. Finally, the chapters are punctuated by mechanisms that are broken down in an extremely comprehensible fashion. If I've ever loved a textbook as a work of art, this is it. There are some downsides, but they are limited in case. If your professor is using this text as the basis for your class, then congratulations, you're set. If not, however, prepare for a few headaches near the second half of your course. Klein's book omits and reorders concepts in comparison to other popular organic texts. For example, there wasn't a word I could find about cuprates and Corey-House reactions, even though these were present in the text my professor was using (and therefore also present on our tests). I found that there were other minor concepts like reductive amination that Klein forgoes, and the book is drastically different in chapter order than the textbook your instructor might prefer. I would still wholeheartedly recommend Klein to anyone taking Organic, but if your recommend course textbook is different, be wary and pay attention to the differences. In short, this book is a shining example of everything a textbook should be, and organic students should consider themselves lucky that Klein wrote this for them. And considering that this is only the first edition, I'm even more impressed with it. I'll be holding onto my copy well after my final orgo examination.

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