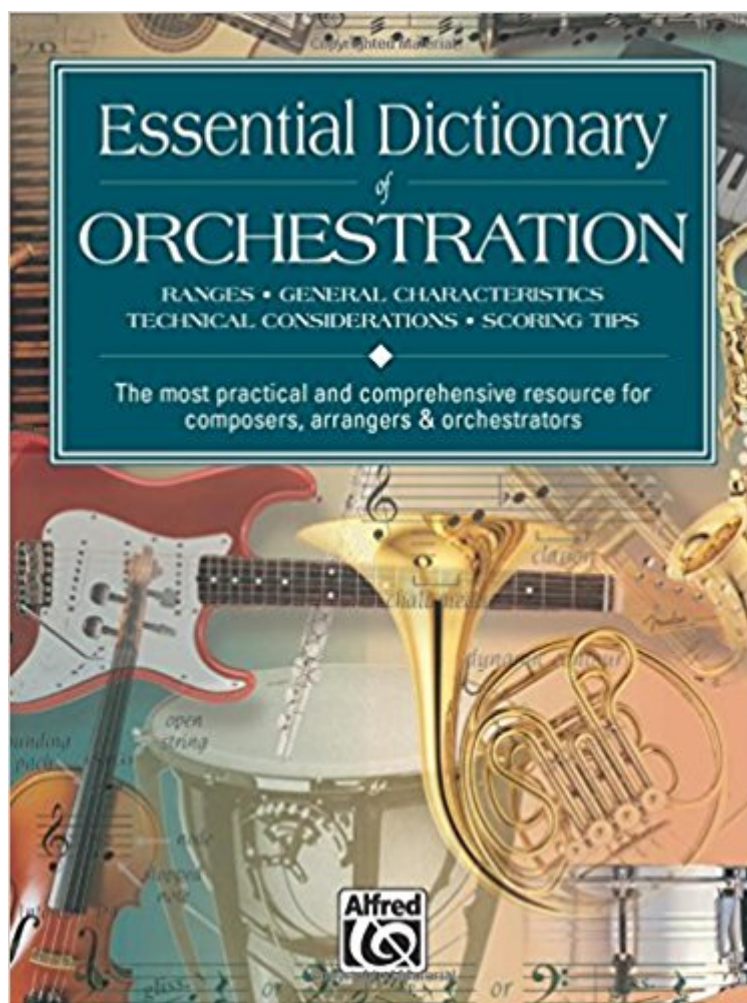


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# Essential Dictionary Of Orchestration: Pocket Size Book (Essential Dictionary Series)



## Synopsis

At last, an orchestration book tailor-made for the classroom musician on a budget. Any teacher, student or professional musician, whether a composer, orchestrator, arranger, performer or enthusiast will find this thoroughly comprehensive dictionary full of the most needed information on over 150 instruments. Designed for quick and easy reference, the Essential Dictionary of Orchestration includes those much-needed instrument ranges, general characteristics, tone quality descriptions, technical pitfalls, useful scoring tips and much more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A good book for quick checks and info on a lot of instruments, ranges, and techniques. It's important to note that this isn't a book on how to orchestrate music like some of the previous reviewers expected. The book itself is organized well, but it's not an all-answers book on every instrument. It does, however provide good info on all instruments like their range (possible and practical), info on the instrument itself and variations if applicable, dynamic contours, and their sounding range written in concert pitch. As a Horn player and composer/arranger/orchestrator, it's a good tool for checking information on instruments and freshening up on instrument-specific techniques.

I have this book in hard copy and I love it. I bought it for Kindle and got a message that it isn't available for Windows 8. This isn't the first time this happened. should let their customers know if a

book isn't available for a particular operating system. I basically wasted the money I spent on this book. I can read it on my phone but not on my laptop. That sucks.

I'd give it ten stars! Anyone interested in writing, arranging, composing, orchestrating, or just a curious musician should own a copy of this book. It covers over 150 instruments giving the general/practical range as written and transposed, plus it gives the tonal/dynamic qualities of each register and where they might be used (e.g. each string on stringed instruments, chalumeau/throat/clarino on clarinet). It covers general information about each instrument (construction, special attachments, general considerations). It covers technical considerations with specific characteristics for each instrument to help you avoid writing something a player would consider stupid (e.g. low B-Bb slide positions on trombone, low C-Db trill on flute). It also has scoring hints for each and within their families. It covers all sorts of articulations/mutes/effects etc, what they sound like, where to use them and how to write them (e.g. velvotone mute/'doit' articulation for trumpet, flutter tonguing on flute, string techniques). Also, there is information on harmonics for stringed instruments and pedal tones for trombones, french horns et al. It has an amazing section on percussion instruments. Composers have always looked like idiots to a percussionist because they hadn't the slightest idea how to write for them. You will know how if you use the info in this book (and be admired by the 'battery'). In short, if this book sold for \$200, it would be worth it. At \$100 it would be a bargain. BUT at 6 bucks, why haven't you bought it already?? p.s. while a bit confusing at first to find an instrument, however, with about five minutes of use you will understand the reasons for the arrangement of material in the book by families (you would not want a coronet at the front and trumpet at the back of a book). The table of contents explains it. Plus there is an alphabetical listing of instruments with page #'s at the back of the book.

Would not be without this concise guide. My copy is annotated with the suggestions and valuable comments of the musicians who play my scores. Definitely makes for a better understanding of instruments whether you do orchestral or concert band works or arrangements. And it fits in my pocket.

Seriously awesome book, makes a great gift for any music student or musician interested in writing music.

Very handy little guidebook. It has information about practical and professional ranges of most

instruments, descriptions of the timbre and mood qualities, a bit of info on how the instrument is played, dynamic level capabilities, and special considerations for the player that must be taken into account. It's a cute size, easy to consult, organized very well.

Had everything you would expect from a pocket dictionary for Orchestration. Contained instrument ranges (even going as detailed as each individual string for string instruments), gave general usage guidelines and described techniques and usages of each instrument. Not as detailed as a full orchestration book, but definitely serves its purpose as a reference book.

This is an excellent little book (and I do mean LITTLE... the book has a wealth of information, but it's tiny, like pocket-sized!) to reference when creating film scores or other orchestrations. The instruments are grouped together for ease of navigation (e.g., percussion, stringed instruments, horns, reeds, etc.). The book details the ACTUAL range and the SOUNDED range of each instrument, and it has some really uncommon/bizarre instruments listed! It's really nice that the sounded range is included, as instruments vary in timbre and thus play in a different register, so the same note on the same staff can sound different. I use this book frequently when I'm writing various orchestrated sections of film scores. Use this as a reference book only. It doesn't go much further than that. Quite worth the money!

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