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Complete Calisthenics: The Ultimate Guide To Bodyweight Exercise



Synopsis

COMPLETE CALISTHENICS - The Ultimate Guide To Bodyweight ExerciseCOMPLETE

CALISTHENICS shows you how to build strength, power, athleticism, and astounding physical ability using only your bodyweight as the resistance. Relying on virtually no equipment, this book promises to be the most comprehensive and detailed bodyweight exercise manual on the market today. Learn how to perform many different types of push-up, pull-up, handstand, muscle-up, lever, core exercise, lower body exercise, and conditioning movement, and in the process develop the strongest and most capable physique ever. An Abbreviated List Of Content Includes

- A huge number of push-up exercises and variations
- A huge number of pull-up exercises and variations
- A complete guide to learning the planche
- A complete guide to learning the front lever, back lever, and human flag
- A complete guide to learning handstands and handstand push-ups
- A detailed look at muscle-ups and their variations
- A huge number of core exercises showing how to build colossal core strength
- Extensive leg training and conditioning section
- Detailed exercise descriptions and teaching points for every movement
- Over 600 photographs showing the exercises from every angle
- Nutritional advice and sample diets and plans
- Equipment guide
- Comprehensive training program section catering for every level of ability
- Learn how to create your own programs
- Large mobility, flexibility, and physical preparation section
- And much, much more

About The Author Ashley Kalym has been an active participant in physical training of all types since he was very young. Starting with Rugby when he was eight years old, he quickly progressed onto other disciplines, constantly searching for the next physical challenge. A stint training in the Royal Marines showed him the value of bodyweight exercise, and upon leaving the military he decided to pursue calisthenics and bodyweight training as far as it could be taken.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I consider this to be one of the top two or three books on bodyweight training. Not the most original, but it brings together progressions similar to Convict Conditioning (though using mostly different intermediate exercises), it combines both active CC-style exercises with some basic gymnastic static holds, like those found in Building the Gymnastic Body, into a comprehensive workout, and it goes into the use of neuromuscular tension as the real source of strength somewhat like Pavel's "Naked Warrior," but applied over a much wider range of movements. He also explains how straight-arm exercises can build loads of strength and size in the biceps, and both how to strengthen soft tissue and what signs to watch for to prevent soft tissue damage. Some things worth noting are first, this system is more oriented to intermediate to advanced trainees rather than beginners. It does give a few variants that are easier than the basic beginning point of the system, which is mostly "Step 5" exercises in Convict Conditioning progressions, but that beginning point and harder is the focus of the system. Second, there are no bridging movements. I can only speculate on the reasons for this, but likely it is either because Mr. Kalym believes they are unsafe for the spine (they are still controversial from Furey's Combat Conditioning and Wade's Convict Conditioning, where some criticize them as being bad for the soft tissue of the spine), or because he lacks shoulder flexibility to achieve full bridges, as some people seem to naturally lack the skeletal structure to achieve them. I suspect his gymnastic holds, such as the back lever, planche, and the human flag, substitute for training the erector spinae and related muscles. It is presented clearly, with pictures adequate to see what to do, if you already have some background in calisthenics or have some facility for figuring things out between the text and the pics. Mr. Kalym is also well-spoken or else very well-edited--he represents the Royal Marines very well here, treating the reader with respect, neither talking down to him nor being verbose. I consider the system presented in the book to be on a par with the best out there, and would encourage anyone interested in

intermediate to advanced bodyweight training to study it.

I own and have followed the Convict Conditioning series. I wish I knew about this book before I bought those. Don't get me wrong the Convict Conditioning (Con-Con) series is very good and I would still have bought them but I think Complete Calisthenics is a better book. I currently have tailored my own program from this book with some ideas from Con-Con 1 & 2. Kalym's Fundamental Five (F5), his starter program if you will, is well thought out. Any beginner should be able to achieve the F5 requirements in a reasonable number of months with the exception of the 10 pull-ups which will probably be the sticking point for some. That's not a flaw with the program but rather highlights two issues that are common with many. Too many of us are too heavy and too sedentary. Our pulling muscles are weak from disuse and it's hard to hit a decent number of pull-ups with a spare tire acting as an anchor. I believe hitting the F5 requirements is a reasonable foundation. His second and third programs are well thought out in my opinion. The second program uses some harder exercise variations to build greater strength and introduces handstands. Perhaps this is why some people are calling this book intermediate to advanced but remember you don't start here, you earn your way here by nailing the F5. The third program further develops handstands and introduces levers and this is getting into advanced territory for most. In my opinion this is a no nonsense, no hype book with a very good treatment of a large selection of body weight exercises and reasonable programming. The book lays out a plan to go as far as you want to go with calisthenics.

I've been following the "Convict Conditioning" plan since 2012 with excellent results. But I've been trying to include more gymnastics style training into my routine (Planche, Levers, Human Flag, etc). I've searched on line for progressions for these with limited success. I was on [Amazon](#) and saw this book in the "People who purchased this also purchased these" section. I read the description and the reviews and decided to give it a shot. I am VERY glad I did. This is exactly what I've been looking for. It has similar progression information to Convict Conditioning, but for more exercises. It covers Planche, Levers, and Human Flags along with many others. It gave great information about building strength in the scapula which will improve overall strength and stability. The book is well written with plenty of pictures showing how to complete each movement. The nutrition section is brief and basic, but I didn't purchase it for nutritional advice. I've only had the book for 2 days and I'm already incorporating new exercises described in the book into my routine. Thank you Ashley Kalym for the great book! I will post back in a year with my results. 10/7/2014 Update: I have begun to incorporate the static holds into my routine and I am already feeling a major difference in my upper body

strength. The post workout (next day) muscle soreness feels different then when I am doing my standard repetition work. I am very much enjoying these new static hold exercises.12/1/2015
Update: L-Sits, Planche, Front Levers & Back Levers have all been incorporated into my regular routine rotation. I now have a set of rings and I built a set of PVC pipe parallettes. I achieved my first back lever (held for 8 seconds) on a bar about a month ago. I can hold good clean L-Sit for 15 seconds on the rings. I am working on the panche (on the rings and parallettes) and front levers (on a bar), but I'm still a long way off from doing those. I also regularly work on ring muscle ups (haven't got these yet) and human flags (I mastered the clutch flag a long time ago). This is a great book and I have recommended it to many people.

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