**Book shelf**

**Diagnostic Ultrasound: Physics and Equipment, third edition**

Hoskins, Martin, Thrush

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**REVIEW INFO**

- Book reviewed by Hazel Edwards, senior sonographer at East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust; visiting lecturer for City, University of London and the Norwich Radiology Academy.

At 387 pages, the long-awaited third edition of *Diagnostic Ultrasound: Physics and Equipment* is around 50 per cent longer than the second edition and packed with many useful extras. Its aim is to provide the knowledge needed to practise ultrasound in a clinical setting. By and large, it retains the familiar structure of the earlier versions and, with the exception of just one or two names, uses all the same highly experienced expert authors.

There are 16 chapters in total covering all key sections relevant for understanding ultrasound physics up to the level required for using a clinical ultrasound machine and passing associated physics examinations, as encountered by student sonographers and year one radiology trainees in the UK. Chapter one includes a short but startling summary of reasons behind the huge popularity of ultrasound as an imaging modality, which only serves to emphasise why practitioners must learn how to use this powerful tool safely. It still amazes me that some texts on today’s market choose to omit completely any mention of safety.

Of all the chapters, only three conclude with a short summary. It’s a minor criticism but I would prefer to see consistency throughout the book and therefore a summary or list of bullet points at the end of all chapters would be welcome, although I accept subject matter in some chapters might be difficult to reduce to just a few sentences.

Crystal clear diagrams, images and tables feature on almost every page, thus ensuring a complex subject is made more accessible and visually appealing.

As expected, each chapter offers a short list of references and the essential glossary is retained and extended from earlier editions. For me, however, the most attractive new addition to this text is the questions section at the end of each chapter.

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Publisher: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group

ISBN: 978-1-138-89293-4

RRP: £64.99 (paperback)

RAD Magazine price: £56.87*

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**REVIEW**

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all chapters except the introductory chapter. The questions are a mix of multiple choice and short answer style and act as a great way of checking and reinforcing knowledge, as well as being a useful revision source when physics examinations are looming.

It’s hard to make physics sexy unless you’re Brian Cox but I reckon the third edition by Hoskins et al is as close as it gets. The book is colourful, affordable and good value. In my opinion, this reliable text will be useful for practitioners studying clinical ultrasound, for individuals delivering course content and, if fitted with an anti-theft device, a handy resource to keep on the bookshelf of all training departments.

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