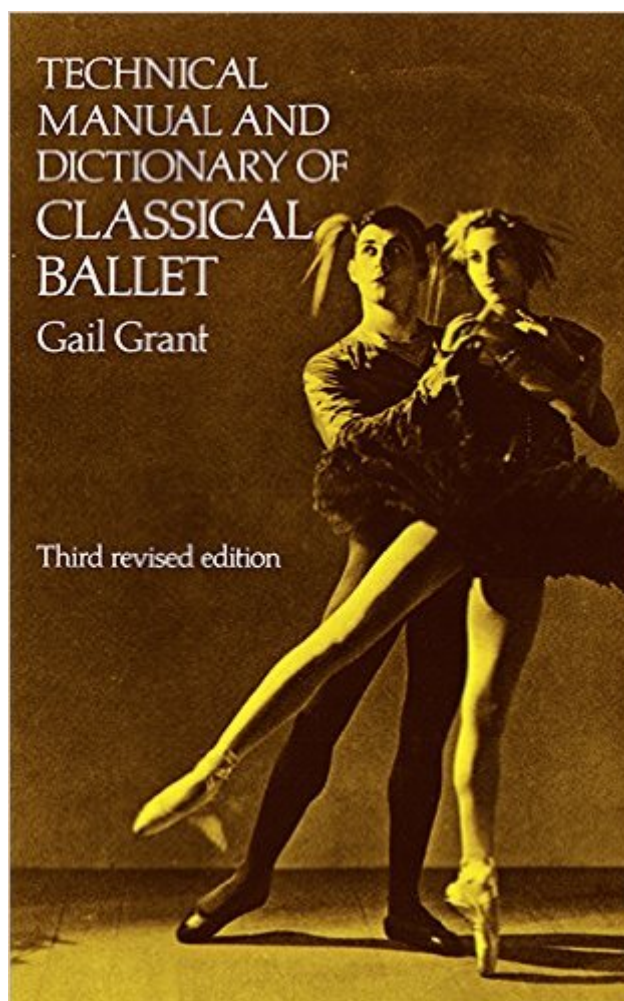


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# Technical Manual And Dictionary Of Classical Ballet (Dover Books On Dance)



## Synopsis

"Miss Grant has made more information available in one book than we have ever had before. Teacher's organizations would do well to consider the use of Miss Grant's Technical Manual as an official textbook." — Dance Magazine

Gail Grant's Technical Manual has long been one of the most popular and effective ballet reference guides. Completely revised and updated, this third edition is virtually a new work and should be owned by every student, teacher, choreographer, and ballet enthusiast — even those who purchased the second edition. Extensive revision, expansion, and the inclusion of more than 300 new terms have added immeasurably to the value of this concise, definitive manual. Moving from "abstract ballet" and "adage, adagio" to "working leg" and "wrapped position," the book fully describes and defines over 1,100 ballet steps (saul de chat, jeté enlevé, failli, entrechat six, etc.), movements and poses (arabesque, épaulement, attitude, en arrière, retiré, à terre, dégagé, etc.), and other expressions and concepts. For each, first a phonetic transcription is provided, then a literal translation, and finally an explanation of how the step is performed, the pose captured, or the movement executed, of how the concept fits in with actual ballet dancing, or of the purpose or function of the idea. A pronunciation guide, cross-references to alternate names for similar steps and positions that vary from the Russian to the French or Italian schools, and a bibliography are all invaluable aids. But the most important supplement is the 15-page pictorial section, drawn by the author, who is both a ballet dancer and a successful teacher. Keyed to the dictionary (and vice-versa), these diagrams show clearly the exact foot, leg, arm, and body positions for the proper execution of many of the more common ballet steps and movements.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Before ordering, I've already borrowed the older version of this very same book from local library (published by "Dover Books on Dance"). After checking the content out, I want to buy this book. On , there are two books w/ the same title and author, one is \$4.95, i.e. the same edition as the one from local library (3rd revised edition published 1982) and the other one is \$9.95 with nicer/newer cover artwork (published by BN publishing). Hoping for more updated information (somewhat misled by the modern looking cover artwork and higher price), I ordered the \$9.99 one. Just got this book yesterday. What a disappointment and rip off it is!! Actually, I won't be upset enough to write this review if the \$9.99 version were to be the same as \$4.95 one. There is no updated information as far as I can tell. Oh-well, a little disappointed but no biggie if there are no changes. What turns this into a rip-off is that: THE PRINTS ARE BLURRY/FUZZY IN THE \$9.99 edition. It's as if someone scanned the pages of the original book and then printed them out into a book. The letters aren't nicely printed as in the "Dover Books on dance" \$4.95 edition. DON'T SPEND THE EXTRA MONEY ON A SCANNED VERSION!!

It is one thing to learn those complicated dance steps by watching the instructor, but it is another to get what those names in French mean. This book helped me to understand the meaning of the terms used in classes which in turn made it easier to learn the steps in class. This book takes you to another level in understanding the art of ballet.

As a pianist who basically got drafted to accompany ballet classes I needed all the help I could get since I knew absolutely nothing about the terminology of ballet. And since my first experience accompanying was for the professionals at the Southern Ballet Theatre, I knew I was in big trouble. This little book helped me immensely with the terms, although I still had tons of problems because I simply did not know what the steps looked like until I saw them rehearsed. For beginners, you are going to need a few references to understand what the instructor is saying because they simply don't have the time to give you private lessons while the rest of the class waits. I recommend this book for all those musicians who haven't got a clue about the language of one of the most beautiful art forms in existence. Heck, I almost sound French when I use the pronunciation guide.

I was pleased with this book, which was given to me as a gift. I had no trouble looking up terms and words. The description of the terms, if a complicated ballet step, was a little unclear. As a dancer myself, I think the illustrations in the back were exceptional. I often use this book while I rehearse my ballet lessons. I sometimes get confused about simple placement, and which way to turn and stand. The simple yet educational illustrations have really helped in my classes. It is really an extraordinary "ballet dictionary". An essential aide for anyone who wants to improve their form in ballet, or has a desire to learn about the art.

This was a required text for my college ballet classes. I still use this text as an instructor and director. I also teach high school students and I am recommending that this text be used by all students in dance classes. It is superb!

I have had ballet studios and educational school for many years. This little unpretentious dictionary has an amazing content. It is full of steps and drawings with the correct ballet terminology, which is carefully explained. It is a plus that the book tells about french, russian and italian ballet styles. We practice the french style and the dictionary is very valuable for the students and teachers if there should be any problem. We keep the dictionary at the ballet studio, and be sure that the students know where to find it.

As a 13-year-old intermediate/advanced ballet dancer, I found this book very useful. I bought it at the first master class I ever went to about 5 years ago, because it was then I realized that there was more to ballet than just "tendu close degage plie". I wasn't familiar with some of the terms the teacher was using, and it helped immensely, especially with the body positions (croise, efface, etc) and pronunciation. Also, my dance teacher recommends this book to us constantly!

I found this dictionary to be useful to me with my limited terminology. It describes everything in detail, including many illustrations showing differences between Cecchetti and Russian methods. Overall, for beginning to advanced choreographers or students who need a lift in their ballet vocabulary, this is a great reference! It's also small enough to carry with you in a dance bag or elsewhere!

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