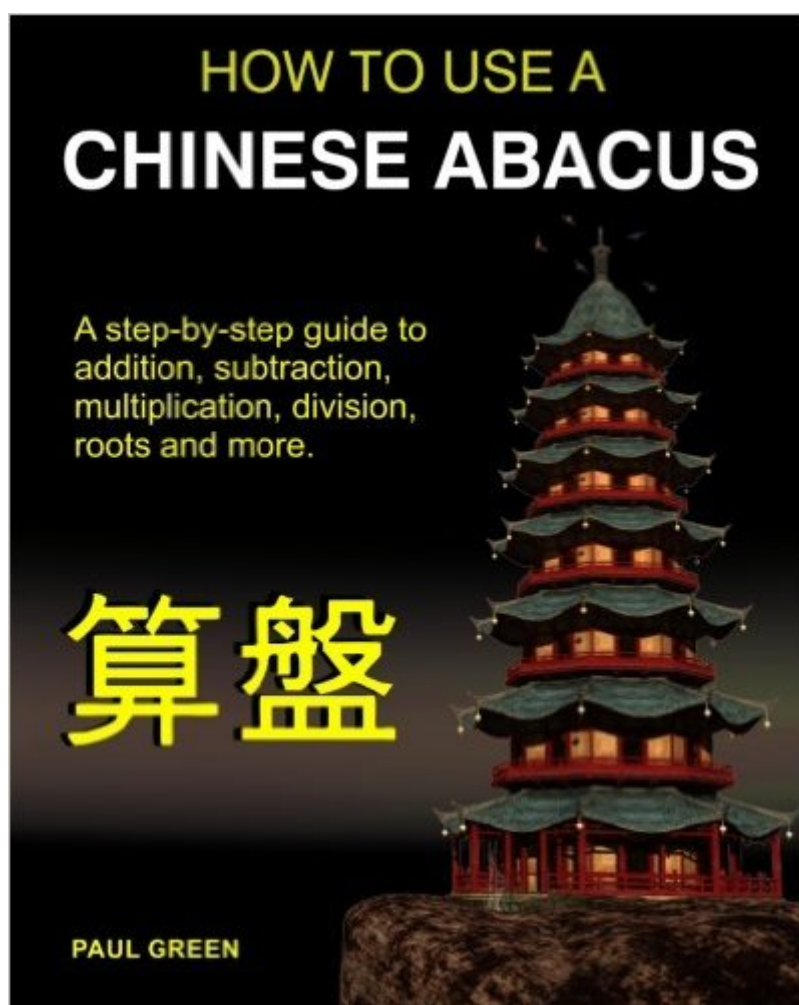


The book was found

# How To Use A Chinese Abacus: A Step-by-step Guide To Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Roots And More.



## Synopsis

This book will teach you step-by-step how to perform addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, square roots and cube roots on a Chinese abacus. It also explains the ancient 'extra bead' method and the 'suspended bead' method. Great for both children and adults. Clearly explained with text and pictures throughout every stage of your calculation.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

A number of reviews and comments here are from people looking for an abacus to teach their kids arithmetic ( an excellent idea BTW). So I thought I would explain the difference between the various kinds of abacus and their merits. I haven't bought this book but I am an avid abacus user and I thought these comments might help. There are three main types of abacus, the Japanese Soroban, the Chinese Suan Pan and the 10 bead Western abacus often seen as the Russian Schotty. The Japanese Soroban with 1 top bead & 4 lower beads (1/4 configuration) is the most sophisticated device for base 10 arithmetic. If this is what you want to do or if you want to teach your child, this is the best choice IMO. Older Soroban have 5 lower beads. The extra bead is unnecessary but it has some advantages, one being that you can actually see the carry bead when doing a multi column carry or borrow e.g  $999 + 1$ . With 4 lower beads, the carry bead is implicit until you get to the last column. This is helpful when beginning but after a while one outgrows the need for this. I recommend one of the cheap plastic ones with different colors for each row which are available on ebay for less than \$10. The Chinese Suan Pan is the most complex and perhaps the most powerful design. Its 2/5 configuration is designed to be able to handle hexadecimal arithmetic (base 16). It

can handle base 10 just fine but the extra beads are confusing and although the advanced user will find ways to use them in base 10 calculation, they would not help a child grasp basic concepts. Both the Soroban and the Suan Pan depend heavily on complement arithmetic, a very efficient and easy way to add or subtract with a carry.

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