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Quantum field theory textbooks



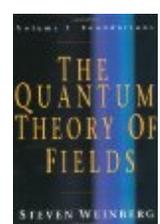
This article, originally called "QFT didactics", is a list of some quantum field theory textbooks.

Peskin and Schroeder. This textbook has become the new mainstream standard and replaced many older books such as Bjorken-Drell.

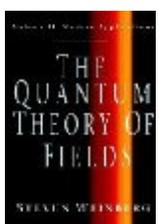


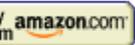
[An Introduction To Quantum Field The...](#)
 Michael E. Peskin,...
 Best Price **\$45.60**
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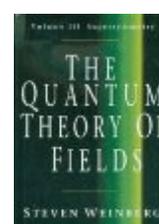
Weinberg's three volumes. Steven Weinberg who needs no introduction wrote a more detailed set of three volumes with some interesting yet reliable things that go well beyond the mainstream material. The three volumes are Foundations, Modern Applications, and Supersymmetry.



[The Quantum Theory of Fields](#)
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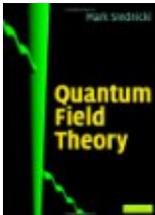


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 Steven Weinberg
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Mark Srednicki. The textbook of the physicist who is also the chair of physics at UCSB has been available online and it has been praised by many readers. It's time for you to buy the real version.



[Quantum Field Theory](#)
Mark Srednicki
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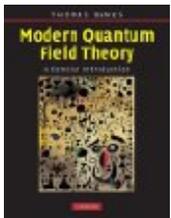
Anthony Zee. Anthony Zee is Mark Srednicki's colleague from UCSB. His book is really cute, has a funny cover, and offers some intuitive physical concepts that are not explained elsewhere, much like some cute stories from the history of physics.



[Quantum Field Theory in a Nutshell](#)
A. Zee
Best Price **\$23.00**
or Buy New
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Tom Banks (2008). I recommend you a new book on quantum field theory by my (former) adviser, Tom Banks. There's a lot of wisdom that I have learned from, too. Many things are presented in a similar way as I would do so, and others are done differently. A nice summary of LSZ formalism, gauge invariance and its roles, the fate of different types of symmetries, phases of gauge theories, renormalization and the logic of effective field theory, instantons, and monopoles, among other things.



Modern Quantum Field Theory
Tom Banks
Best Price ~~\$44.45~~
or Buy New ~~\$62.01~~

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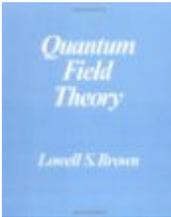


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Lowell Brown. Lowell Brown's book has been praised because of its pedagogical value but be ready that its scope is limited. The author chooses a perspective in which quantum field theory is just another level of computing mechanics and quantum mechanics. That's why things like non-Abelian gauge theories are completely missing.



Quantum Field Theory
Professor Lowell S...

Best Price ~~\$64.95~~
or Buy New ~~\$78.78~~

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Renormalization methods: a guide for beginners, by W.D. McComb. It is a fun book that can explain renormalization even to undergraduates, as many reviewers argued. Renormalization is normally associated with quantum field theory - and the text covers some of it - but it first appeared in classical physics. Many examples are very intuitive and

accessible.



[Renormalization Methods](#)
W. D. McComb
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Michio Kaku: Quantum field theory, a modern introduction. Covers quite a lot, from motivation, Noether theorems, type of scattering, gauge theories etc. to BRST quantization (only two pages), string theory, supersymmetry, and quantum gravity. Sometimes the presentation may be too short but it is helpful as reference and there are other advantages. Includes extensive problem sets.

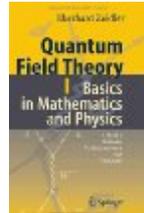


[Quantum Field Theory](#)
Michio Kaku
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Eberhard Zeidler. I haven't read it but among other things, this book has a very detailed coverage of history, the role of Göttingen, a presentation of heuristic methods etc. Quite original!



[Quantum Field Theory I](#)
Eberhard Zeidler
Best Price ~~\$49.95~~
or Buy New ~~\$117.88~~

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This list is far from complete but if someone is looking for a textbook, it could be useful. See a similar list of [string theory textbooks](#) and the [2012 explosion of stringy/SUGRA/QFT textbooks](#), including one new QFT textbook that looks really cleverly organized and balanced.

Many of the readers have strong opinions - and they may want to share their ideas what they think is most important for teaching QFT. In what direction would you push the classes? What do you think is missing in the mainstream courses and/or textbooks?

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Lubos Motl • 7 years ago

Wow, a rather extensive book. Thanks, LM

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Mark Srednicki • 7 years ago

I'm in the end stages of writing a new QFT book, to be published by Cambridge. For now, you can download it for free at

<http://www.physics.ucsb.edu/~m...>

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Echo TRF guest • 7 years ago

Hi Lubos,

Thanks for asking.

Please don't do what Peskin and Schroeder are doing. They are just presenting calculations,