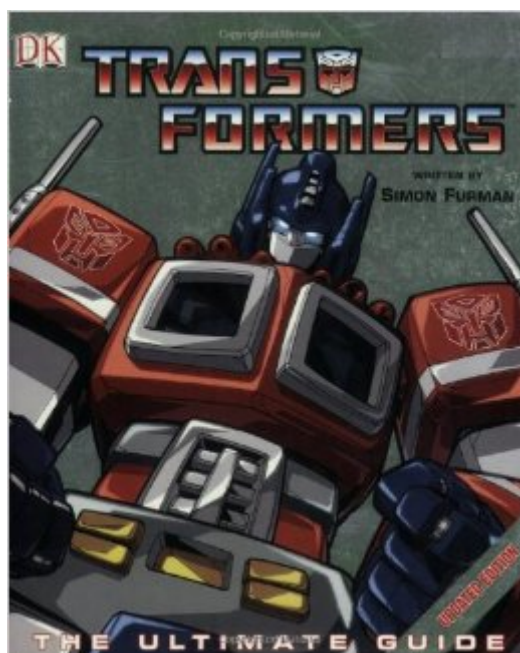


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# Transformers: The Ultimate Guide



## Synopsis

Taking a detailed look at the fantastic world of these mechanical marvels, Transformers: The Ultimate Guide follows each character's history and witness the amazing evolution of the Transformers, from physical structure and weaponry to personalities, alliances, and important battles.

## Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: DK CHILDREN; Updated edition (May 21, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756630126

ISBN-13: 978-0756630126

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (75 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #707,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Television & Radio #149 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Film

Grade Level: Preschool - 12

## Customer Reviews

As a longtime Transfan who hasn't even gotten halfway through this book yet, what can I say but...WOW!!!!I'm well aware of just how comprehensive and attentive to detail DK's series of guide books are - from the Marvel and DC Comics character guides to the Star Wars books, from that super-cool James Bond guide detailing every movie up to 'The World Is Not Enough' to the Lego Book which contained almost every bit of info on the Lego company you could cram into print. But the Transformers guide goes above and beyond to appeal to both the rabid fanbase and those uninitiated in the multiverse of the Robots In Disguise. If you're not a diehard Transfan but are fascinated by that little toy line that became something of a pop-culture phenomenon, then this is the perfect place to acquaint yourself with the Transformers saga. For starters, the first part of the book deals primarily with the story that started it all - the Generation One saga. And it's pretty expansive. Everything you could possibly want to know about the Transformers - from the geological makeup of the planet Cybertron to the exact inner workings of Optimus Prime and Megatron themselves, to the personalities that make up the heroic Autobots and the evil

Decepticons - is covered here in glorious full-color detail. Veteran TF scribe Simon Furman was the right man to put in charge of cataloguing every little detail, smartly melding elements of both Marvel Comics' continuity and that of the G1 cartoon AND the newer Dreamwave Productions comics into one cohesive timeline. Furman does pick a little at the continuity conflicts and errors that have cropped up in the past twenty years of the franchise, but it's largely unimportant as the most critical elements are still covered.

When looking at an item such as this you have to factor in three things: 1. Transformers (or any toy, TV show, movie, etc. with a fan base) is personal. Not everyone will like everything all the time and what one thinks is fantastic another will hate. 2. A writer makes promises to his/her reader that should be kept. Mr. Furman tried, but fell flat. Let me explain with some selling points from the back of the book: "Cross-section artworks of the inner mechanics of the TRANSFORMERS". Yes, both of them...there is only 2 such drawings in the entire book (Prime and Megatron) and there are fairly forced explanations of the inner workings. "Extensive reviews of the toy lines, TV series, and comic book chronologies". These are extremely brief...2 pages for the TV series season one (12 episode recap with scarcely more than a paragraph each), 2 pages for season 2 (12 episodes, again the same), 2 pages for the Marvel series (issues 1-37). 37 comic issues in 2 pages is an "extensive review"??? Add to this a quote from page 8: "The saga has spawned many inconsistencies and divergent storylines, but now, at last, the one true history can be revealed". Guess what Furman was referring to...yep, Furman's comic script. A tad biased and not really appropriate for a guide that covers all storylines. Another troubling section is the toy coverage seeing that all this \*is\* based on toys. Let's take Generation 1 for example, only 16 characters are shown in toy form (multiple Primes and Megatrons). Many of the toys actually show paint and sticker wear. This may be a bit unprofessional since it is the "ultimate" guide and they can't get a First Aid with a readable decal? 3. Finally the question: What generation are you?

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