

DV Filmmaking From Start to Finish

A book review by George Hawkins,
Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron

By Ian David Aronson from O'Reilly Digital Studio \$39.95 USD.

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This book was more than I expected. Like its title indicated, it provides a comprehensive look at the process of Digital Filmmaking.

I was really looking for a book that provided information about the process of making videos, but this made me aware that filmmaking is more than just shooting and editing videos. Filmmaking is a process of planning, production, post-production activities, and distributing the finished product. This book addresses all of those areas in a straight forward and understandable manner.

An introduction to digital video, and the specifics of digital cinematography, provides a good foundation for understanding the other aspects of digital filmmaking discussed in the book. By addressing subjects like composition, lighting, audio and video editing it provided information in areas of most interest to me.

Examples used in the book included professional and semi-professional equipment, but it was easy to make comparisons to the equipment that I use to understand the principles involved. For example, with video editing, Final Cut Pro was used to illustrate techniques. This program is a high end video editor that is just below the types of editors used by major film studios and production companies.

I find this book to be very informative and will be a good reference for future use when I will need to supplement my knowledge and upgrade my digital video skills. I recommend it for anyone that might be interested in using video clips and still images for more than just sharing with friends and associates.