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David A. Clark
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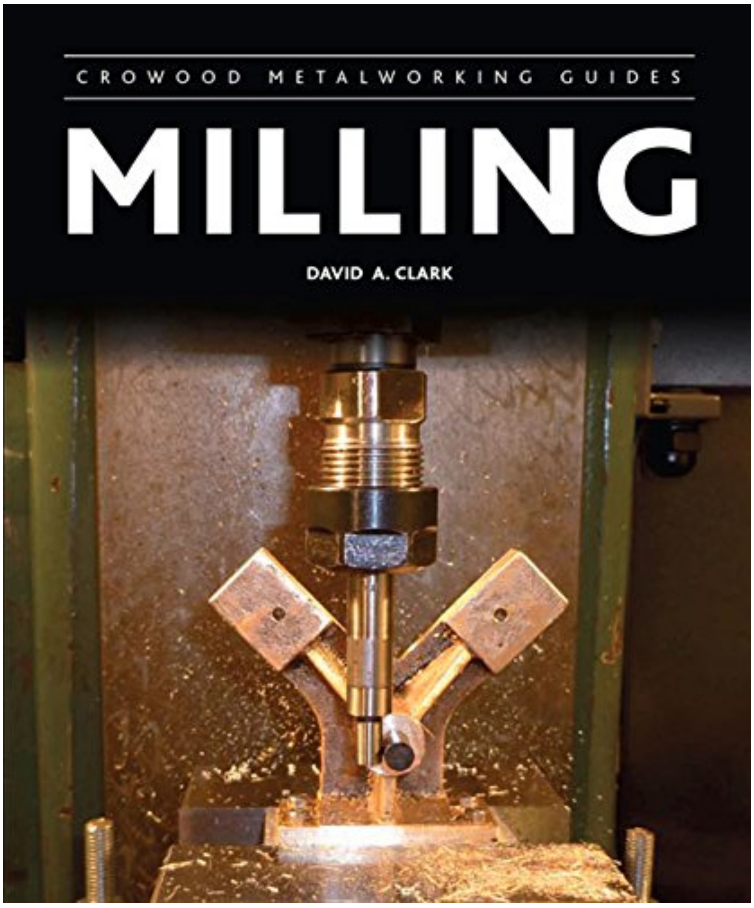

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#400939 in Books 2015-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.50 x 8.75 x .50l, 1.35 #File Name: 184797774X112 pages | File size: 68.Mb

David A. Clark : Milling (Crowood Metalworking Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Milling (Crowood Metalworking Guides):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Idea had promise but execution is disappointingBy D. GillerThis book was a good idea: a concise introduction of techniques for hobbyists or other "occasional" or non-professional machinists.The problem is that the sales pitch is more thorough than the text. You are led to believe that this book will give you insight into all of the basic techniques used in machining. But it really doesn't. There are a handful of operations that are addressed in minimally-sufficient detail (like face-milling an irregular piece of stock true) but for the most part, the techniques are barely addressed. For instance, the author devotes quite a few pages to describing and presenting photographs of edge and center finders. But there are no photographs showing one in use, and the text describing its use is limited to a couple of vague sentences. Basically, if you knew what an edge-finder was before buying the book, but didn't know how to use one effectively and with precision, you still don't know after reading the book.About half of the book is dedicated to a rather tedious (but reasonably thorough) description of a wide variety of machines and accessories that a prospective buyer might want or need to consider. But it is very frustrating that the

author uses very local (in this case UK-specific) terminology, which does not match the common language you will find on the Internet, or from online suppliers. This is especially frustrating as the author is apparently a long-time editor of magazines for hobby machinists, so he should know better. If this is to be considered acceptable, the book should be identified as specifically for UK audiences.Examples:- The author distinguishes between what he calls "slot drills" and "end mills", the former having two flutes and being capable of plunge-cutting, while the later has more than two flutes and cannot plunge. The rest of the world uses "end mill" to describe all of these cutters, and distinguishes between those that can and can not plunge by calling them "center-cutting" or not.- Small, cheap 3-flute carbon or high-speed steel cutters are presented as "FC3 cutters", with no explanation of the name. This appears to be UK-specific language.- The author refers to "inserted tooth cutters" where most of the world uses the term "indexable cutters".- The author presents "side lock cutters", which most of the world knows as "end-mill holders".Why does this matter? In this age, "casual" machinists will probably buy their tooling online. The terminology used in this book will not match what most of the world uses, so the reader will have to work out the translation on their own.- The text recommends against trying to sharpen your own cutters, then presents several pages of photos showing examples of cutter grinders you can buy... but doesn't actually describe how to grind cutters.- In the section on taps, the author points out that there are differences between taps sold as "hand taps" and "machine taps", but no discussion on planning tapped holes, or the distinction between taper (or through) taps, plug taps, or bottoming taps... and, most importantly, no actual description of the best way to tap holes. There is an illustration of how to make a tapping guide, but no description in the text of how to use one or why you might want to.- Countersinks (and cutting chamfers) and dies are not mentioned in the text at all. Roughing cutters are described, but there is no discussion of when or why you might want to use them.Essentially, the book falls prey to a classic fault in technical writing. The author wants to address an entry-level audience, and so focuses on a level of description that is not useful to non-beginners. But the author's language assumes familiarity with many concepts and terms that only the non-beginner would have.To be fair, the book contains some practical advice and photos regarding work-holding, which is probably one of the most important concepts for a beginner to learn. Those pages, however, only make up around 10% of an already very short book.I'm definitely in the target audience for this book. I'm not aware of a better book on the topic, but I was disappointed with this one.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good readBy Clay WellsI have absolutely no experience in this field but am interested. This book allowed me to learn what I don't know so that I can make informed choices as to equipment as well as books to purchase in the future.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Roy BeerA good clear instructional book, ideal for inexperienced people starting out in this range of machining activities.

Aimed at everyone with a workshop, particularly home metalworkers, engineers, and professionals, use this guide to to make full use of a milling machine and enhance milling skills Milling is one of the principal and most versatile machining processes for sizing parts in the workshop. Whether a professional engineer looking for advice, or an amateur looking to install your first milling machine, this book will show you how to make full use of your milling machine safely and effectively, and enhance your milling skills. Focusing on the commonly used vertical mill and vertical turret mill, and with practical advice and diagrams throughout, the book includes a guide to buying, installing, and using a small milling machine and accessories and basic cutting tool principles, with more advanced milling methods, including drilling, tapping, and reaming. There is also instruction on a variety of techniques ranging from work holding in the vice to using a rotary table.

About the AuthorDavid A. Clark is a freelance writer who has spent more than 30 years in the engineering industry using milling, turning, and grinding machines, both manual and CNC. He was the editor of Model Engineer and Model Engineers' Workshop for many years.