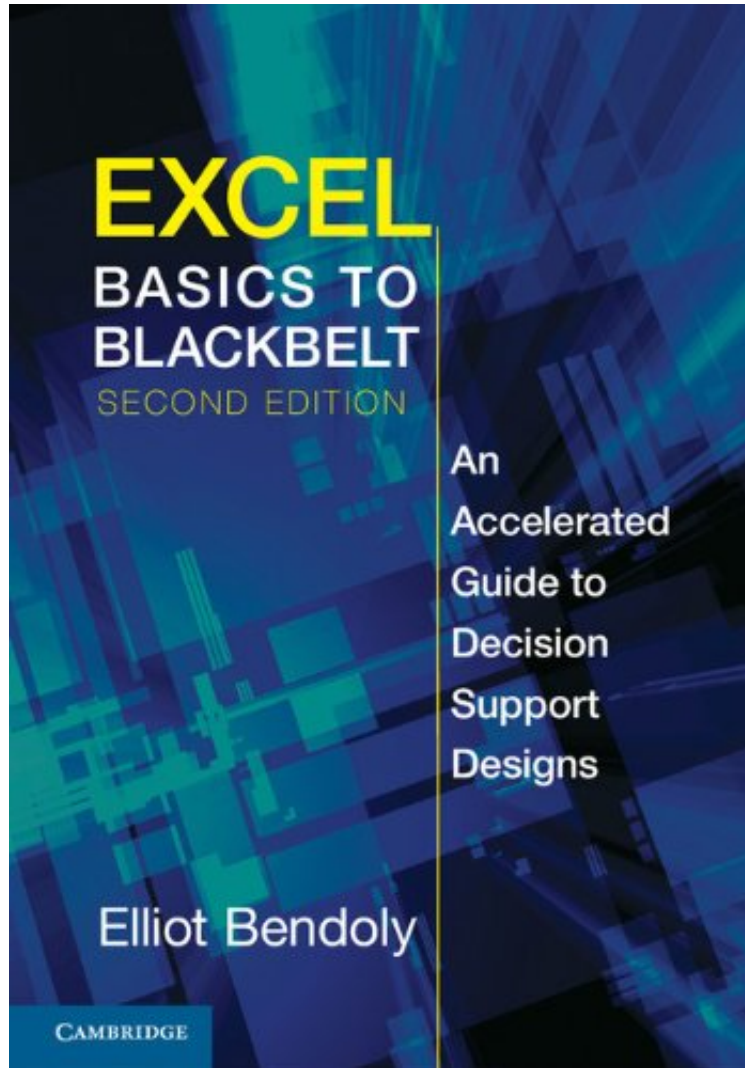


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Elliot Bendoly : Excel Basics to Blackbelt before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Excel Basics to Blackbelt:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Tutorial and Reference for Quality Analysis (that maybe you didn't even know) you can perform using ExcelBy Mark J. CotteleerBendoly makes the statement that "being familiar with the functions covered up to this point..." differentiates one from 90 percent of current Excel users. I think that is meh; and the statement comes on page 24 of the book! I work with lots of other top 10 percenters and am recommending this book to each member of my team. The narrative here is clear and the examples are both topical and engaging. I find three elements of the text to be particularly compelling. First, Chapter 4 on Visualization provides terrific insight into data visualization. This is particularly valuable (for me) when it comes to the discussion in section

4.5 on Complex-Form Heat Mapping, an underused and potentially powerful tool for communicating analysis and ideas. Second, the data simplification tactics discussed in Chapter 5 offer valuable opportunities for anyone tasked with conducting moderate to advanced analysis — particularly if it is survey or market segmentation based. Far too often we see naive analyses in these situations. Furthermore, many analysts feel they lack the necessary tools. This chapter can help teams do better by applying an already familiar tool set! Third, Chapters 8 and 9 on simulation approaches help readers understand alternatives for tackling uncertainty in their analyses. We often see this dimension of problems ignored in the business cases and other decision-making models we create, much to our detriment. I am convinced that the reason for this lapse is that people just don't know how to handle the challenge. Help is provided here. To be sure, there are other insightful gems available here (I will use the later chapters on Visual Basic editing as reference to be sure). In that sense, this book will be valuable to me both as tutorial and reference. Overall, a great find for those who endeavor to perform quality analysis using Excel.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must get!

By Daniel G. Bachrach There is nothing else out there that covers the full potential of Excel in the way that this text does. It's very easy to read even if you're a novice to graphical decision support tool development, but has gems that I doubt some of the most advanced developers are even aware of. The presentation of various approaches to leveraging Excel with other applications such as MS MapPoint, XLStat, and RISKOptimizer is particularly valuable. Similarly eye-opening are the unique tactics Bendoly presents for capitalizing on many of the built-in but underutilized capabilities of Excel. The application examples provided serve as the building blocks for a whole universe of DDS development now made accessible to readers at all levels. This book should become a standard reference for analysts and consultants regardless of industry.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a very useful

By Tony A bit hard to understand if you are not advanced in excel. Other than that, a very useful book

This second edition of Excel Basics to Blackbelt capitalizes on the success of the first edition and leverages some of the advancements in visualization, data analysis, and sharing capabilities that have emerged over the past five years. As with the original text, the second edition is intended to serve as an accelerated guide to decision support designs for consultants and service professionals. This 'fast track' enables a ramping up of skills in Excel for those who may have never used it to reach a level of mastery that will allow them to integrate Excel with widely available associated applications, make use of intelligent data visualization and analysis techniques, automate activity through basic VBA designs, and develop easy-to-use interfaces for customizing use. In other words, this book provides users with lessons and examples on integrative Excel use that are not available from alternative texts.

of previous edition: 'There's nothing else out there that covers the full potential of Excel in the way that this text does. It's easy to read even if you're a novice to graphical decision support tool development, but it has gems that I doubt some of the most advanced developers are even aware of. The presentation of various approaches to leveraging Excel with other applications such as MS MapPoint, XLStat, and RISKOptimizer is particularly valuable. Similarly eye-opening are the unique tactics Bendoly presents for capitalizing on many of the built-in but underutilized capabilities of Excel. The application examples provided serve as the building blocks for a whole universe of DSS development now made accessible to readers at all levels. This book should become a standard reference for analysts and consultants regardless of industry.'

Daniel Bachrach, University of Alabama of previous edition: 'This is a must-read book for people seeking to get the best out of the wonderful tool of Excel. It fits in the sweet spot between the 'Excel made simple' and the math- and stat-based Excel technical manuals. The practical feel of the book is conveyed through such evocative section headings as Harvesting Intelligence and Leveraging Dynamic Analysis. Though each of the chapters is worthy of comment, I think that the chapter on Scenario Generation and Optimization is of particular interest to managers wanting to put some real muscle behind their search for the best decision in the face of uncertainty. All together, this book is a major contribution to the business literature.'

Richard B. Chase, University of Southern California of previous edition: 'Excel is the duct tape of decision support - handy, pervasive, and surprisingly effective. Bendoly's book helps users unlock its considerable power while avoiding costly errors. You'll be amazed at all you can do with a spreadsheet.'

Thomas H. Davenport, Babson College of previous edition: 'Excel Basics to Blackbelt provides the guidance and tools needed to help anyone develop a solid analytical skill set from the ground up. The skills I learned were instrumental in helping me differentiate myself from my peers and [become] a go-to resource for both my team members and clients.'

Geoffrey Grant, Deloitte About the Author Elliot Bendoly is an associate professor at Emory University's Goizueta Business School. He serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Operations Management, a senior editor for Production and Operations Management, and an associate editor for Decision Sciences. His research has been published in several academic journals including MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, and the Journal of Applied Psychology. He is the co-editor of Strategic ERP Extension and Use and of the Handbook of Research in Enterprise Systems, as well as the author of the first edition of Excel Basics to Blackbelt (Cambridge University Press, 2008). He holds a PhD from Indiana University.