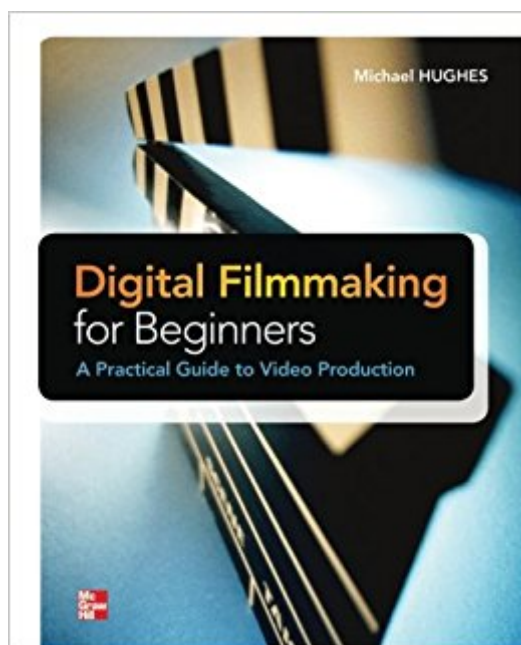


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# Digital Filmmaking For Beginners A Practical Guide To Video Production



## Synopsis

Discover how to create professional-quality digital videos--faster than you can say "lights, camera, action" Digital video cameras are everywhere--even on our phones! But cameras don't make great movies; filmmakers do. Written by a seasoned pro with 40 years of teaching experience, *Digital Filmmaking for Beginners* is your fully illustrated introduction to all technical aspects of digital filmmaking. Featuring clear, concise instruction--accompanied by online video demonstrations--this comprehensive guide covers the best methods and techniques to plan and script projects; set up lighting, microphones, and cameras; and shoot, edit, and apply postproduction effects and other finishing touches. Whether you're an amateur film buff or an aspiring professional videographer, this is the source for everything you need to bring your ideas from the page to the screen. Coverage includes: Best practices to ensure smooth operations in all project phases, from planning to post production Recommendations on selecting and purchasing cameras, filming gear, and the best editing and effects software to fit your budget and needs Advice on planning, shooting, editing, and other technical elements Fully illustrated tutorials on composition, framing, and other visual storytelling techniques Exclusive bonus online content, including finished video demonstrations of key filmmaking techniques and informative articles

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whenever I order a book on a fast-evolving topic (e.g. "Digital Filmmaking") I always check the publication date to make sure I am not buying an outdated text. Unfortunately, with this book I got

cheated anyway. The author has a friendly style and is undoubtedly knowledgeable on the topic of television and film production, with long experience. However he offers an overview of analog and television equipment and stops at digital tape based formats such as DVCPRO and Digi Beta. These formats were introduced in the early 1990s, and are by now obsolete. No word about tapeless or video DSLR equipment. This is not usable information for somebody who is a beginner in digital filmmaking; this is a nostalgic lesson in TV equipment history. Secondly, each and every topic in the book takes 2-3 paragraphs. There is no practical advice found inside - unless suggesting that you edit your own video and write your own music counts as practical. Reading this whole book may make you knowledgeable enough to know when to nod while listening to a conversation about video production, but only if you have had absolutely no prior knowledge on the matter. In my opinion, a "practical guide" is supposed to teach you certain skills and offer you some advice on a particular topic. For example, buy this or that piece of equipment, get this or that piece of software and try to do this and that with it. But you will not find such advice in this book. The information is so generic so as to be useless. And as I said before, it is hopelessly outdated. This book may have been published in 2012 but has been written not later than 2002. I cannot imagine anybody who would qualify as a beginner in digital production today and would benefit from reading this book. Do not buy this book.

I am writing regarding Mike's Digital Video Production for Beginners. I have read his book and found it to be very clear and easy to understand. He covers every detail in the production process and I anxiously anticipated his personal sense of humour, making this book easy to read. The book covers everything from the creative side of scripting, technical details, shooting formats, and editing. Mike leaves nothing out! I especially liked the pictures and the numbered diagrams for the digital editing process. Mike makes several suggestions as to software products that might work for me. The book helped me to narrow the field on appropriate equipment as well. I also found that learning the 'lingo' of the Video Production business would be helpful when applying for work in this creative business. His "step by step", made it easy to understand. I can hardly wait to get started with my first production!

This book has many helpful and up-to-date tips on getting started in digital filmmaking. Things like lighting and camera angles especially useful for beginners are explained in depth (although some chapters seemed a little too short). If you want to make movies, but don't know where to start, or even if you know a thing or two already, this book will be a good reference to have on hand.

"Digital Filmmaking for Beginners A Practical Guide to Video Production" offers a lot of information in a concise and easy to read style. The book isn't a technical manual, though it does provide technical information on how to create a video. It's primary purpose is to educate the novice filmmaker and home videographer on how a video production actually comes to fruition, from idea to presentation. The book is written in easy-to-understand language and is an excellent launch into more technical reading material.

I have read Digital Filmmaking for Beginners by Michael Hughes and I'd like to say I loved it. I've read many books aimed at beginners and I must say, I liked this one because of Mr. Hughes' simple, unpretentious and straightforward style. He sounds like a real person yet, you can tell without reading too far behind the lines that he knows his stuff. And speaking of beginners, what I liked best is that this book is aimed right at the beginner. It assumes you know little or nothing and goes from there. That's important because beginners today may be young people who probably haven't a clue how today's digital recording technology evolved from the old tech stuff. That's helpful as I've often wondered where many techniques being practiced today came from. And if you are beyond an absolute novice, this is still great because he sends you to a website where you can get excellent updates and advanced tips to learn even more. Overall, an easy read, just the right level of detail, well worth the money.

Michael Hughes is an experienced professional filmmaker who also has a long career as an instructor at the college level. In Digital Filmmaking for Beginners: A Practical Guide to Video Production, he has done an outstanding job of explaining all of the elements which go into professional video production. I was impressed with the thoroughness of his presentation which employed humor to not only illustrate important points, but which also kept the book quite readable. Professional terminology and jargon are explained in an easily understood manner as it is needed in the text. The book contains considerations to be made when selecting equipment as well as its usage. Digital Filmmaking for Beginners gives instruction in the pre-production, production, and post-production stages of filmmaking. Although it makes an excellent text for a course in filmmaking, it is quite usable as a stand alone source of information for anyone who wants to produce professional quality digital films. I highly recommend the book to anyone who is seeking "A Practical Guide to Video Production"! Dr. Gary W. Nix, Ph.D.

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