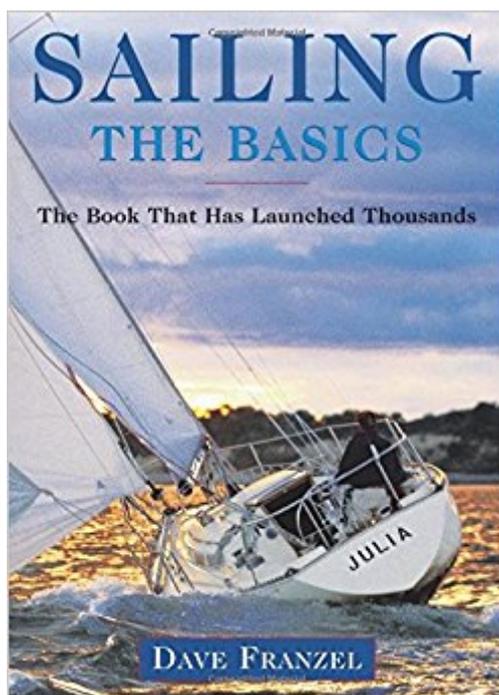


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Sailing: The Basics: The Book That Has Launched Thousands



Synopsis

Quickly and easily master the sailing fundamentals you'll need to get out on the water.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Lyons Press; 1st edition (April 1, 2003)

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Customer Reviews

Contrary to the other reviews, I don't agree that this is "what you need to know if you don't know anything about sailing". As an example, in Chapter 1 page 13 after a brief comparison of "centerboard" or "keel" boats and a very brief touch on "rigging", the author starts to talk about how to go about "bending on the sails". Without as much as a description or definition of the terms, he says: "To rig the mainsail, first find the clew of the sail and, clew first, feed the foot boltrope into the groove in the boom. Attach the tack cringle (grommet or hole) to the appropriate fitting on the gooseneck (the place where the boom joins the mast), then attach the outhaul to the clew cringle and tighten it. Run your hands along the luff from the tack to the head to ensure that it is not twisted, then attach the main halyard to the head of the sail and feed the luff rope into the groove in the mast. As you do this, pull the other end of the halyard and secure it so the first couple of feet of luff rope stay in the mast groove. Insert the battens into their pockets." Good luck with that, and good sailing.

The author or publisher obviously are not modest to title this book "The Book That Has Launched Thousands." The illustrations are sparse, the over use of white space is maddening, and each topic is covered at its highest level. Of the four or five beginning sailing books I have read, I would actually say this is the weakest.

"To rig the mainsail first find the clew of the sail and, clew first, feed the foot boltrope into the groove in the boom. Attach the tack cringle to the appropriate fitting on the gooseneck then attach the outhaul to the clew cringle and tighten it. Run your hands along the luff from the tack to the head..." HUH???? If that makes any sense to you then chances are you are already familiar with sailing and not a novice. I AM a NOVICE!! That sounds like a foreign language to me - or gobble-de-goop nonsense. And I couldn't find definitions for half of those words in the glossary, much less the text. So much for "basics" -- or to be fair, my definition of 'basic' is obviously VERY different from the author's. And this is on page 13 - not all that far into the book. Now, the truth is, I am a writer researching and attempting to learn just enough info on sailing to put my characters to sea. My characters all live on islands, so I desire them to come across as believable and therefore somewhat knowledgeable. But I am not a sailor - so I need a VERY basic intro to sailing. However, isn't this exactly what a person who wants to learn how to sail for the first time needs as well?? I would think so. So "The Basics" I don't think so!. How about "refresher"? What the hell is a 'cringle' or 'luff'?? I don't know because this book didn't tell me. It seems to me the author forgot what being a real "Beginner" really means. NOTE: Just for the record - and to be fair - about two hours after I wrote this review and submitted it, I did find the definition /explanation of Clew and Luff - as well as Roach (not an insect), Battens, Tack, and Foot. They were mentioned on page 11, with a illustration. Amazing. I have still don't know what a cringle is. Blessings.

Recently purchased and have already read it through. One of the smallest books I've seen on how to sail. Straight to the point, thorough, and I even read some little tips that I either missed, or weren't included in other sailing how to books. Very glad I bought it, & I think you will be too.

This book is the best introduction to sailing that I have seen. It covers much essential information beginners will be interested in. But, that said, some of the concepts will take some serious thinking to understand. I figure I will have to read and study it through several times before I can claim to understand it all. Not simple stuff, but necessary.

I'm not new in sailing, but bought the book because I'm moving from my native language to English (as you can see I'm still learning the later), and need to know the English expressions in sailing world. I was pleasantly surprised how much knowledge is packed in a such a tiny volume. The language is not complicated and every beginner can learn a lot. As a matter of fact, I just bought a

second copy as a present for my friend, who started to sail with me and is eager to know more about the topic.

This book is one of my two favorite sailing books, desirable for the clarity of Franzel's descriptions and instructions, flashes of humor, fantastic illustrations, and excellent organization of the material.

an excellent book for the beginner sailor getting ready to step off the dock. Very technical. Found myself reading over things twice to absorb it. Be patient with yourself as you read and the lightbulb will go off over your head.

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