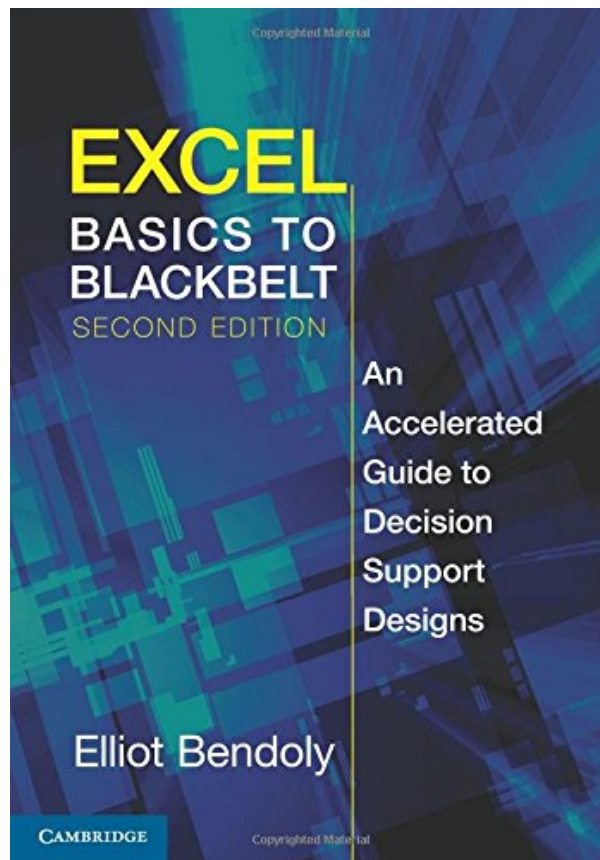
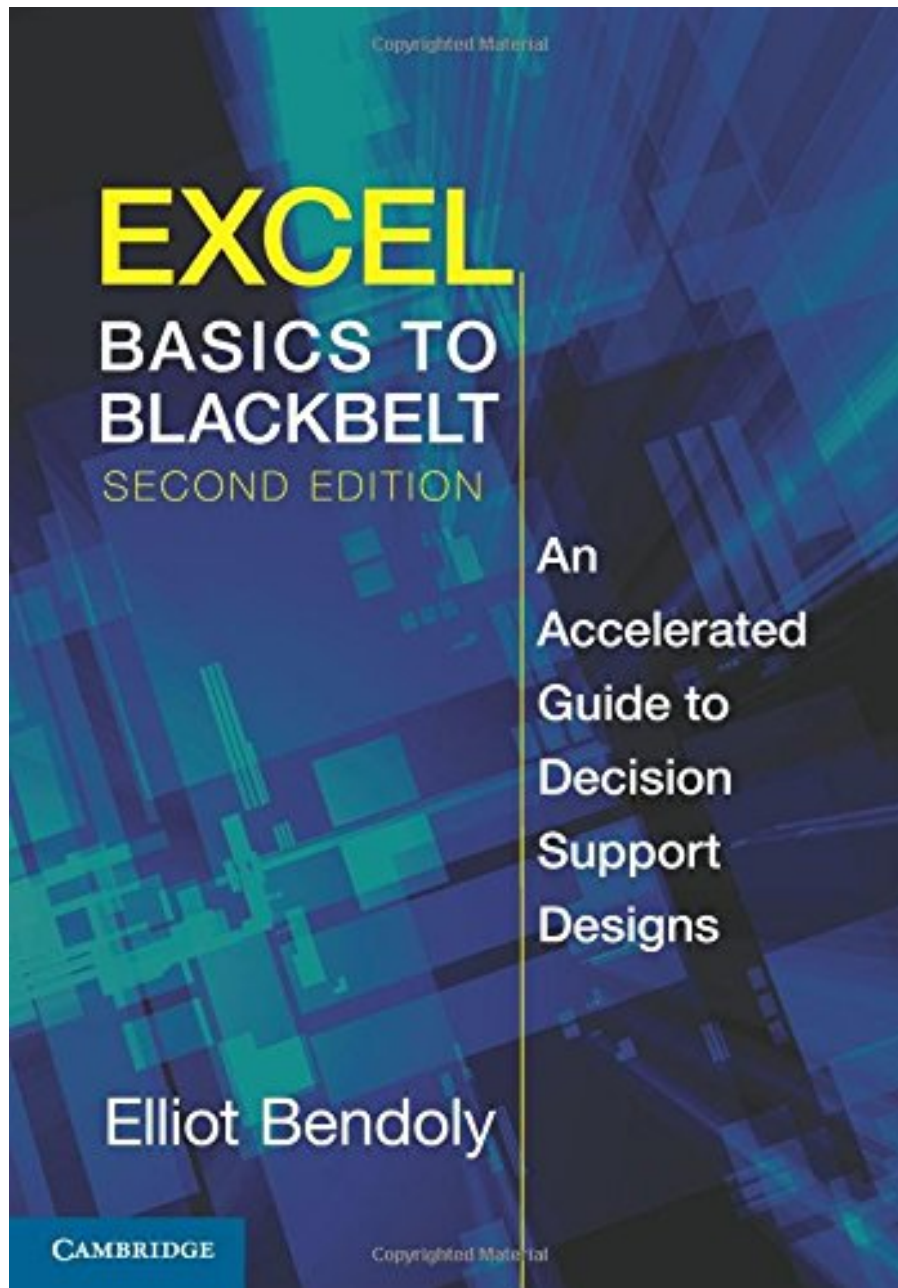


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## Review

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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.

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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 Excel  
By Mark J. Cotteleer

Bendoly 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 me... 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 naïve 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

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A firmer grasp on Excel through an easy to follow book.

By Amazon Customer

The book is a great complement with any excel class that you might be taking. I personally found the chapters visually explained for students who do not even have a hardcore excel background. The progression of the book makes it easy to follow and the chapters have some very useful tips and tricks that are helping me in my internship in analytics.

Buy this book if you want to have a firm grasp in excel and how powerful excel can be to visualize data. There are instances and examples of things that you would not even believe excel can do! The VBA coding introduction and shallow dive towards the end helps one in form creation and excel programming to handle complex projects and real world problems, all within excel.

Overall, very helpful! Highly recommended!

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