PIC Programming for Beginners (Softcover)

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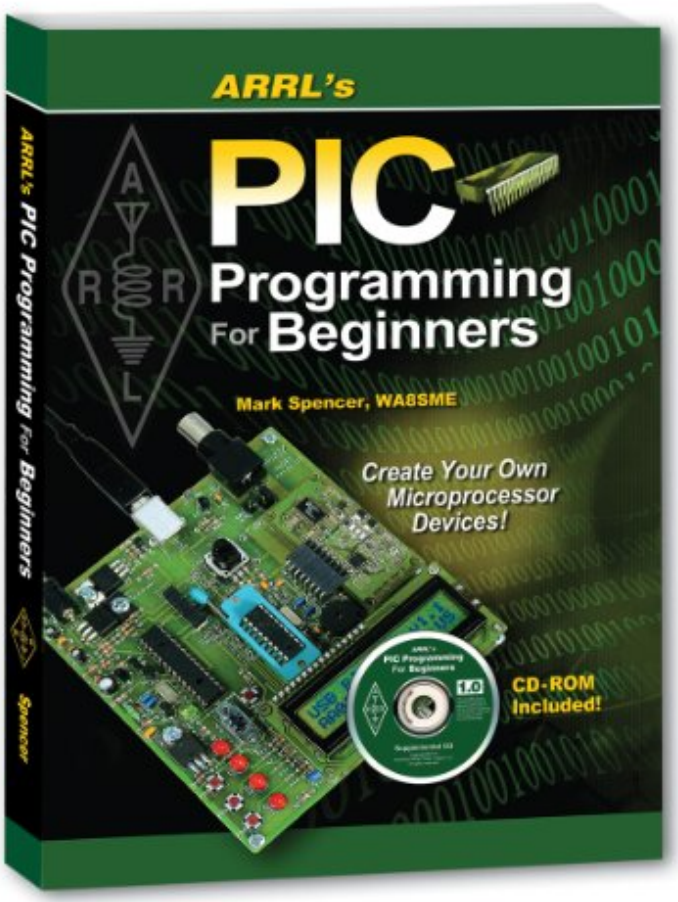

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arrl : PIC Programming for Beginners (Softcover) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised PIC Programming for Beginners (Softcover):

29 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Don't be fooled by the picture on the cover.By Dale A. HainesI ordered a copy of this book based on the fact that, to my mind the picture of the PIC-EL 111 on the cover sort of implied some link between the book and that well know PIC experimentation board.How wrong can you be?The book has no reference to the PIC-EL 111 and that board can't even be used for any of the stuff in the book since the PIC type used in the book cannot be programmed and tested in the PIC-EL.Despite claiming that it is a beginners guide, in my opinion it is no more than a glorified book covering the programming and subsequent construction of a morse keyer.Unlike most books it requires you to own either the PicKit 2 or PicKit 3 programmer or one that uses MPLab IDE in exactly the same way. However it also neglects to tell you much that is required to get these programmers to

work satisfactorily if you've never used them before.This certainly isn't up to the normal standard of ARRL technical books and it's certainly not a cheap book either. OK it comes with a CD of this that and the other but then again so does every other book these days.Overall it's an interesting book but in my opinion certainly doesn't come up with the goods it promises.26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. ARRL Did Hams A Disservice With This One-Premature ReleaseBy Paul G. TabatschkowI am an owner of perhaps 70-80 ARRL books(besides their CDs/DVDs). Most, I would rate as a 4 to 5.BUT, this one is the ONLY ONE that I ever found compelled to review since it is SO NOT READY FOR PUBLICATION. Sorry to have to say that: 'Something got really wrong in the writing, editing, review and production cycle with this book'. Obviously, marketing and product promotion got this book out the door before a good review/edit was done; before even the chapter titles could be properly correlated with their contents and worse. There are so many poor items that a good review/edit should have caught. So sad.Understanding computers for novices/beginners can be a big step. Accuracy is vital in descriptions and related figures/schematics/screen shots. Otherwise, confusion abounds. This book breeds confusion.To Mark(the lead author) I ask:What happened to this book? Never mind that, even if the mentioned kit was available; how did this get out the door so prematurley? Your other works are a quantum leap better than this. Why was it released in this state?Owners of the first version of this book should be given credit towards a hopfully-greatly-impproved-re-released version (if it ever happens?).Being a long time programmer, ham radio operator, and and micro-processor user, I can make some sense out of the contents. However, for others, I must really say:'AVOID THIS BOOK'.There are so many other better choices (unfortunately for the ARRL) in this subject space. I find it hard to even give this a rating of 1. It would be a 'honest service' to hams for the ARRL to say 'Sorry, we goofed.' and withdraw this book from sale until a rework is done.Regards, PaulT28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Well written but not for beginnersBy CustomerI hate giving a negative review to an ARRL book... but I'm about to. Let me be clear: Mr. Spencer created a well written book. The circumstances around it, however, are unfortunate.I have experience with many micros... starting in school with the Motorola 68HC11 and 68HC332. Like the PIC, these are not beginner chips. The texts and professors were good and I learned how to use them... but that was engineering school. This is amateur radio/electronics. I am not saying that amateurs cannot learn this material... many certainly can. But this book is targeted toward amateurs and beginners.I would rate this book as "intermediate" instead of "beginner" -- in fact, I would almost make it volume three of a set... Volume 1 would be a course in digital electronics -- TTL/CMOS stuff. Volume 2 would be a course in the PICAXE micro. The reader would be experienced enough to interface to the chip's IO pins and wouldn't be turned off by the machine language. Volume 3 would be this book, on the PIC. The reader would already have the confidence to work with a microprocessor and would be interested in using the more advanced code to unlock the entire realm of the PIC.And yes, I completely agree with Brian J, having an available parts kit would be extremely helpful. I know that today's amateur has very easy access to electronic components with the Internet and local electronics stores, but remember, for better or for worse this book is for "beginners" and the ARRL should make things easy for them, in the beginning, that is.My real complaint about the book, is that I read through the first few chapters and nowhere did I see (correct me if I'm wrong) a pictorial demonstrating how to connect the PIC to your computer for programming. Maybe it's in the nonexistent kit. Anyway, you get to page 3-5 where it is explaining the programming software and all of a sudden you have "...loaded the program into the PIC16F676." There is a small mention on page 3-3 where you "Plug the connecting USB cable into your computer..." but how does this connect to the PIC? I flipped through and, while there are a number of quality illustrations of breadboarded circuits, I didn't find one that showed the programming interface.I would also like to see the ARRL publish a book about the Arduino microprocessor... these are very powerful and very user friendly.... even better than the old Basic Stamps. Lots of amateur applications are possible... and, the Arduino has a following that reminds me of the followers of ham radio -- very helpful and encouraging toward each other. They are very easy to interface serially and would make a great processor behind some powerful APRS hardware.

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