

Podcasting Pocket Guide

Richard Giles, Jack D. Herrington and Kirk McElhearn, 2006, 102 pages.
O'Reilly, Sebastopol, CA, <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/podcastingpg/index.html>.
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This book is eligible for the FRPCUG member discount from O'Reilly

Rating: Small hill*

The authors claim that “(t)his pocket guide will help get you started, both as a listener and a podcaster.” That is a claim that is hard to dispute, as the information in the book is very basic. That is my problem with this book. It really is *too* basic—for me. Readers that are new to computers and/or to internet audio may find this book a helpful starting point.

There a few positive comments I can offer. It is short (actual content is just over 90 pages), so it won't take you long to read it. It is inexpensive (less than \$10, even without the User Group discount) and it will almost fit into your pocket, if you have a large pocket.

There is information for iPod® owners on using iTunes® for various podcasting activities, including finding, subscribing to and downloading podcasts—for those who need assistance with these topics. There is a small section on “Working with Other Podcast Software,” which I did not find helpful.

There are two chapters on creating podcasts. One is (slightly) technical, and the other contains program format recommendations. Again, this information is very, very basic. There is an interesting graphic on page 40. It is called “A Simple Radio Clock for a One Hour Show.” The graphic provides some insight into how professionals plan their radio (and perhaps also their video) programs.

Perhaps the best information in the book is the discussion on audio editing tools, sound recording applications, and fixing common audio problems. I need to emphasize again that this is basic information, but at least, for these topics, helpful information.

There are 30 pages (almost one third of the book) dedicated to a list and description of various podcasts. Someone may find that information useful. I didn't.

This guide will be useful only to the novice computer user, in my judgment.

*Ratings Key:

Sandpit--Avoid

Small hill--Not recommended

Foothill--Average

Timberline--Excellent

Fourteener--Must have