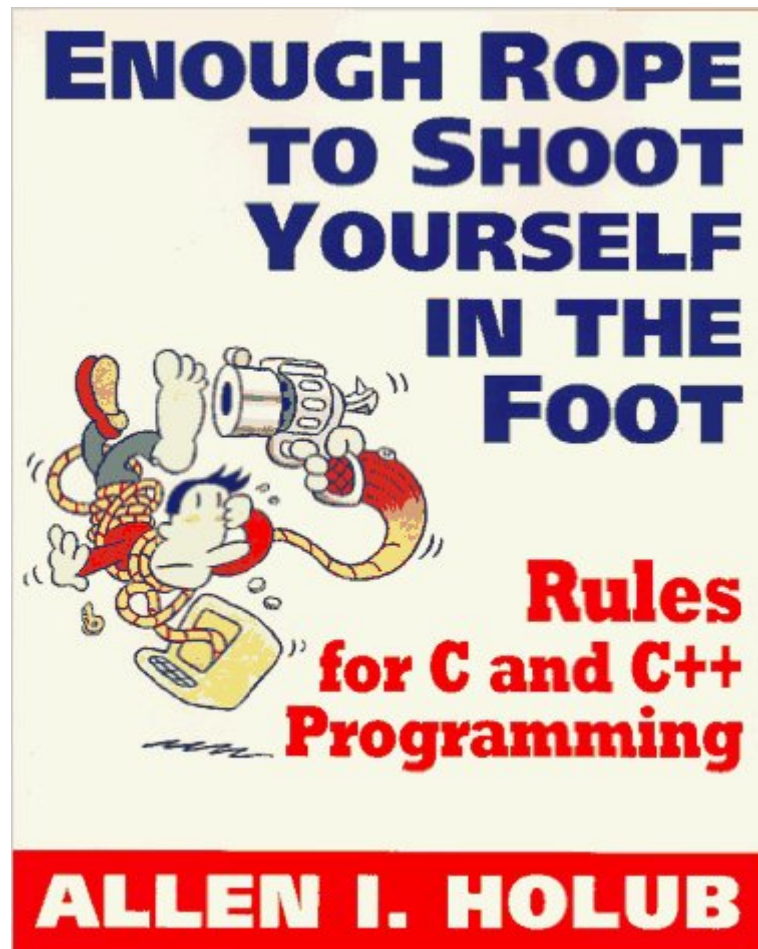


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# Enough Rope To Shoot Yourself In The Foot: Rules For C And C++ Programming (Unix/C)



## Synopsis

Programmers, engineers, scientists, students, and others who work with C or C++: If you want to write better code without wading through a maze of technical material, this concise yet pithy guide is precisely the tool you need. *Enough Rope to Shoot Yourself in the Foot* offers well over 100 rules of thumb you can use to create elegant, maintainable code. And since it comes from an acknowledged expert in the field, you can't go wrong. Allen Holub provides an indispensable set of guidelines, tips, and techniques to help you use these extremely powerful languages to the fullest potential. But don't expect another dry programming guide. Holub manages to make a serious subject refreshingly readable by sprinkling the text with humor and insight.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I almost passed on this book because of some of the negative reviews. Okay, it is no *Code Complete*, but this book is an absolute gem. I have been programming C++ for about 6 years now (VB users be darned, it is my favorite programming language, period) and I was amazed how much I agreed with this author's advice. Yeah, I learned a lot from Scott Meyers' canonical "Effective" books. But what I like about this book is that it is a no-nonsense, in-your-face, tell-it-like-it-is book that I think is essential for those wet-behind-the-ears C++ programmers (or those whiners who claim that C++ is too hard). It will probably piss off a lot of Windows programmers as well as he is somewhat anti-Microsoft. However, I am primarily a MFC programmer and what he says about MFC

(earlier editions) and Windows programming in general is absolutely correct. This book is a must for every novice C/C++ programmer. The experienced C/C++ programmers will probably tell you that they know all about this, so most of them will give it a pass. However, as a experienced C++ programmer, I think that they are making a mistake. They need to get this book on the shelf as well. At the very least they can loan it to the beginners.

I have very much enjoyed reading this book. I found Mr. Holub's style engaging and entertaining. A lot of the other reviewers disliked his style, but I liked his content & was not offended, except when he expressed negative opinions about Math grads (I'm one). The table of contents serves as a list of all his rules -- very useful. There are a few typos in the book, so you have to know C++ to catch them. E.g., on p.119 the keyword "inline" is missing in 2 spots. If you do what the book literally showed, you'd have problems. I checked. I removed the inline keyword from a function declaration in the class and the function definition in the header, below the class definition. It compiled, but when I tried linking an application to this library code, it failed to link. So this is not a book for beginners. (I found the McGraw-Hill web page for Errata, but it only had a handful of books and this book was not one of them.) But I enjoyed the book and valued his insights. Other reviewers prefer Scott Meyers. I don't like Dr. Meyers books. Meyers rambles and beats around the bush. "Code Complete" by McConnell is just way too long. Time is money. I started to read Maguire's "Writing Solid Code" and closed the book after the 1st chapter. Not impressive at all. I have "Industrial Strength C++" by Henricson and found it dry - no fun to read, but nice reference. "C++ Distilled" by Pohl is nice reference, but also not fun. Have I told you yet that I enjoyed reading Holub's book?

I'm a 11-year mostly C programmer and I AGREE WITH EVERYTHING IN THIS BOOK. I've been a consultant for 5 years - and fixed a lot of code. Beginner programmers should read this and follow it. Computer Science and MIS degrees focus on algorithm design and efficiency and theoretical programming. THIS IS NOT THEORETICAL - this is PRACTICAL. Please, people, write code that's easy to read for the idiot that will come after you; over 50% of the cost of a program is MAINTENANCE and if you write a simple routine that takes twice as long to execute, OH Well, unless it's a visible delay, no one cares about efficiency. Use this book as a CORPORATE STYLE GUIDE FOR C & C++ PROGRAMMING. If you follow it and write easy-to-read programs, your employer will SAVE MONEY IN MAINTENANCE. I literally agreed with everything in this book - with one exception. He poo-poops working over 8 hours/day. I disagree. True, programming is creative work and you can burn out, but I find 10 or 12 hour days highly productive because people don't

interrupt me, and I try to task switch enough to give myself breaks (or stare out the window blankly to do some subconscious-problem-solving). In Short - Buy This Book, or borrow it - and save your employers money by creating simpler programs. You'll look like a star by creating something even a junior programmer can modify easily. If you're an expert C or C++ programmer, it's very worth it, too - you get another perspective on ease-of-use. I changed my mind and now will consider using `const` (I had only used `#defines` to simplify things - he made a good argument that the compiler is better than the preprocessor at catching brainfarts). Also, If you can, give it to your manager. They need to know this stuff, too.

I really enjoy this book - it is one of the most enjoyable programming books I have found. Yes, I will agree with most of the points - that he is opinionated, and sometimes wrong, but he is just giving advice, and you are free to examine his coding practices and pick and choose what you like. Yes, Code Complete is a good book, but it is generic, whereas this book is all C/C++ advice, which I find more insightful, where McConnell is more obvious. And it is just plain fun to read.

Allen Holub doesn't disappoint. First, I read his compiler tome, which was excellent given the size and the topic. It's a well-written book with no annoying US colloquialisms or padding. Next, I read Holub's patterns book, and found it excellent also. It's unusual that Holub's writing style has changed to suit the different material he covers. The compiler logic in the first book was well-known and highly technical, whereas the patterns book was highly abstract, with the relatively new concepts of patterns. I found it much more approachable than the Gang of Four book. I couldn't resist reading another of Holub's books - this one. Again, Holub has changed his writing style. Reader's may think he's opinionated (something which is not evident in the two aforementioned books) but he admits he has personal preferences that may well differ from others. To avoid sounding opinionated, the author would have written "I think that...", or "In my opinion...", time after time, which would have made the material both weak and bloated. Better to take a stance. Holub has done a great job with this book. I have read and re-read Scot Meyers' "Effective" books, which I've found excellent, although they vary a lot from Holub's book. But there is no reason why the books of the two authors need to be mutually exclusive. Holub has covered C, which Meyers' has not. I found Holub's book less technical, for the most part, but roughly the same when covering the more advanced C++ in the last part of the book. C is still around, and many programmers, myself included, have had trouble learning C++. It's great that the author has covered both languages, and I think that you'll get insights into C that will help with C++. Overall, an enjoyable book, recommended to

any C or C++ programmer. The material would be applicable to second or third year of a Computer Science Degree.

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