

Review

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**C++ for C programmers (2nd ed.)**

[Pohl I.](#), Benjamin-Cummings Publ. Co., Inc., Redwood City, CA, 1994. Type: Book (9780805331592)

Date Reviewed: Oct 1 1994

Full Text

One of the best writers on the subject has produced a welcome addition to the literature of the C and C++ language family. It continues in the tradition of Pohl's earlier work: it is thorough but simple and clearly written, examples are explained in detail, and it includes cogent reviews and ample and appropriate exercises.

This book is intended as an introduction to programming in C++ for the programmer or student already familiar with C. Its approach is to use an evolutionary teaching process with C as a starting point. The programmer can stop and use the language facilities up to that point in the text. We start with C and end with C++. The book is a tutorial on C++ programming (p.v).

The first chapter (chapter 0, of course) is an overview of object-oriented (OO) concepts, including an explanation of the dual nature of C++: both as a "better C," with modest language improvements, and as an OO superset of C, with extensive new language features. This chapter is followed by an overview of C++ itself, including a brief survey of the ground to be covered.

Chapter 2 details the relatively simple language improvements that C++ makes over both classic K&R C and ANSI C, including single-line comments, the use of *inline* and *const* to avoid the preprocessor, the use of *void* and the scope operator `::`, function prototypes, call by reference, default arguments, overloading, and *new* and *delete*. Chapters on specific OO C++ features follow: classes, constructors and destructors, operator overloading and conversions, inheritance, and templates and exceptions; the material on templates and exceptions is new to this edition.

Each chapter is carefully crafted, including sections for review, exercises, and a section on style and pragmatics. This last material is especially welcome, introducing the programmer to the sometimes elusive world of real practice in the C++ community. Pohl's trademark dissection method presents simple examples that are analyzed line by line.

The book concludes with appendices covering the standard *iostream* I/O class and a language reference. These appendices alone will prove valuable to the reader, being succinct distillations of material usually made available only in much more depth.

A thorough knowledge of C is required, of course. I recommend the book to programmers making the transition from C to C++, especially those who have found Pohl's other work useful.

Reviewer: [Cliff Joslyn](#)

Review #: CR117873

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