



Macintosh Bible Condensed

This is the Mac. It's supposed to be fun

Do you remember the book *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex, But Were Afraid to Ask*? Well, anyone who knows my father—the editor-extroinaire of this august newsletter—always assumes that I, too, am a power user... *Not*. Yet, from time to time, I pretend to know more than I do—afraid to ask, “Now, the finder and the desk-top are sort of like the same thing, right?”

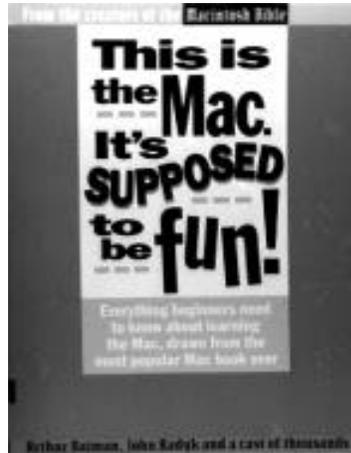
So you will understand my joy whenever I find a book that understands my level of comprehension. *This is the Mac. It's supposed to be fun!* claims to be everything beginners need to know. While this may be a small exaggeration, it is a good overview of many concepts. Best of all they assume *nothing*. When the “pointer” is referred to it is *defined*—a true relief to the closet non-hackers of the world.

The book is a distillation of *The Macintosh Bible*; as such it is filled with information on a variety of subjects. It is divided into four parts.

Part One, The ABCs of the Mac, begins with the Ten Commandments, a lighthearted reminder that you are able to master your Mac. Having addressed your self esteem, the remainder of Part One begins the meat of the book. They address everything from the trash can to pull-down menus.

Part Two, Hardware, explains RAM vs. ROM, hard drives vs. floppy disks, CD ROM, monitor resolution, the mouse, and more. Throughout this section the beginner will learn tips to make the best use of the equipment you have (virtual memory?!),

tips for buying more peripherals (oh, aren't you impressed with my new vocabulary!!), etc.



Part Three, Software, is a thumbnail sketch (in the true sense of the phrase) of the major categories of software on the market. Very few specific programs are addressed, however. It is designed to help the novice define the difference between a word processor and a page layout program while offering tips on what to look for when making a purchase. Telecommunicating, modems, bulletin boards, online services, and networking are also found in this section.

Part Four, Reference, has a chapter on troubleshooting, a glossary, and an extensive index.

I would recommend this book as a good, basic reference manual for a beginner. I did not find it necessary to read it “cover to cover.” It was fairly easy to find sections of interest to me and to make sense of the material. Undoubtedly, I will refer to it again as I continue to learn about and enjoy my Mac.

reviewed by Leslie Kidwell

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by the creators of *The Macintosh Bible* (Arthur Naiman et. al.)
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