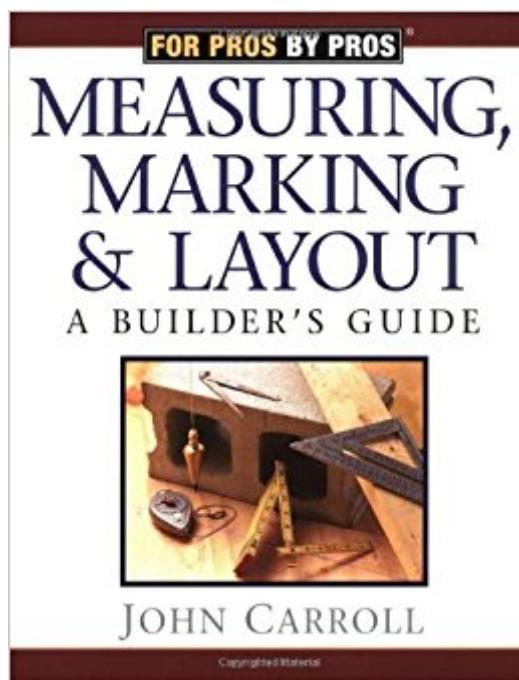


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# Measuring, Marking & Layout: A Builder's Guide (For Pros By Pros)



## Synopsis

You don't have to invest a fortune in space-age gadgetry to make accurate measurements, and you don't need advanced training in math to build complex houses. Author John Carroll provides dozens of beautifully simple techniques for highly accurate measuring, marking, and layout using a number of basic tools. Good habits of measuring and marking not only ensure high quality but also save materials and money and increase productivity. *Measuring, Marking & Layout* shows how to do the job right the first time. If you find it more enjoyable to end up with clean, professional-looking work than with sloppy work, *Measuring, Marking & Layout* gives you what you want.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The common and sensible dictum among carpenters--"Measure twice, cut once"--is only the beginning for Carroll, who manages to take some very complex information and distill it into readable and understandable form. There are chapters devoted to laying out foundations, frames, roofs, stairs, masonry units, and finishing materials, and many little-known tricks of the trade and shortcuts. Carroll covers all the basics of tools and techniques, shows how to measure larger dimensions on projects while working alone, and shows that one needn't be a master mathematician to assure accuracy in projects, nor use space-age, high-tech equipment to achieve near-perfect results in a building project. From the simplest how-to project for a home handyperson

to constructing an entire house, proper, accurate measurements are the very foundation of a successful result. Using common sense and care in measuring can save time, materials, and money on any home repair or construction plan. This is the book to tell you everything you need to know before you get started. --Mark A. Hetts --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

John Carroll began his career in the late 1960s roofing houses during summer vacations from high school. He is still building and repairing houses in and near Durham, NC. He is a frequent contributor to Fine Homebuilding and JLC magazines and is the author of three books on building.

This book is a must-have for anyone who considers themselves beyond an entry-level carpenter. A lot of the ideas, tips, and theories in the book build upon common practices, and most of the projects are a little more advanced than hanging a shelf. The book covers everything from planning the site for a new construction, to framing the walls and roof, installing siding and shingles, etc. But even as a first-timer, there is plenty of knowledge in this book for you. My usage for this book has mostly been for cutting rafters, both on a jobsite and for a shed I just built. This book gives you detailed instructions for measuring and cutting rafters without getting into the painful details of a beginner's guide to carpentry. I was able to calculate everything quickly and precisely, and there was even a guide on how to build a time-saving template to lay out your rafters identically. This is the 2nd time I have bought this book- I loaned my first copy to a coworker who didn't want to give it back! I told him Merry Christmas and bought another copy for myself. John Carroll definitely knows what he is talking about, and I appreciate his writing style. For the record, I am a licensed residential contractor with 10 years of experience, and I still found this book helpful. This was not written so advanced that the beginner won't understand- I think it is very clear and concise, and will give people a better understanding of the more technical side of the job.

I purchased this book with the "DeWalt 20X Builder's Level" because I saw it being advertised as "Customers who bought this item also bought..." As I have little experience with a Builder's Level, I thought it prudent to get a guide to describe best practices for that tool. I had no delusions that this book was exclusive to using that tool, but I felt it would give at least a fifth of the book towards using it. This was MY mistake. NOT because this book doesn't have useful information, but because it has VERY LITTLE to do with using a builder's level. Instead of being a leader, I became a lemming, so in this regard, I can only fault myself. On a personal note, I read through the book with the hope of

finding something to make it a worthwhile purchase (for my purposes), only to find two or three mentions that I already knew. I don't think this book should be "FOR PROS by pros" but "An idiot's guide to..." Additionally, the author tends to wax and wane on "war stories" instead of giving only enough information to instill knowledge. Understand, I can appreciate personal experience lessons given in an educational setting, but to get the most out of an experience, you should keep to that the same example in successive lessons. Instead, each lesson starts with a whole new project. As the author points out, to reduce cumulative error, instead of using successive new reference points, always start from the same reference point(s). Also, there is one much easier way of verifying how square your markings and layout are, which the author neglects to mention; you measure the distance between opposed corners and see if there is a difference greater than 1/8". If there is, then the corners are off-square with the longer measurement corners being too acute while the shorter measurement corners being too obtuse. \*\*\*\*I also hate when someone touts their hidden agendas. Essentially, a half page is dedicated to the glory of the metric system, and denouncing Americans (obliquely) for being backwards for following what the rest of the world already enjoys; "the more efficient metric system." It isn't a more efficient system. It isn't more accurate. Point of fact, imperial has just as many finer gradations of measurement. It's a DIFFERENT system that is a LITTLE easier because it uses a basis of ten, that's all. Just because you have gradations of measurement based on tens, doesn't give you spidey senses of accuracy. A person who is in the finer gradations with an imperial ruler, will be just as inaccurate with the finer gradations of a metric ruler. As corroboration, the author points out that few people who use the Imperial system, remember how many feet are in a mile. While this might be true, it is also true that metric countries are showing students and adults who are finding fractional math extremely difficult. Countries that, historically, scored very high in fractional math. For the record, SOME math equations MUST be done in fractions and cannot be accomplished in decimal. The author neglects to point this out while thumbing his nose at the imperial system and mostly Americans. In other words, if the author felt that strongly about the metric system, then he should have accomplished the entire book in metric and not tried to be sycophantic to such "a small portion of the world population" by using an inherently antiquated measuring system. Again, I don't fault that this book contains good information FOR THE BEGINNER, but certainly NOT "for PROS."

I have consistently bought construction books on actual building with the intent that I will inevitably waste money. This guy here is no joke, nails construction concepts on the head, with diagrams. He provides a practical point of view of construction from foundation, along with varying foundation or

basement types, to the roof, and provides the building blocks of being a real construction person. Whether professionally, or doing your own like a professional. He goes through the trouble of lending an understanding of construction nuts and bolts where tools are concerned as well. A MUST HAVE FOR ANY DO-IT-YOURSELFERS. If all you want to do is go to the bank and get money so someone else will build it, reading this book will help you draft your blue prints to the actual sizes needed to accommodate exactly what you are really looking for. Well worth the money.

I wish I'd had this book a long time ago. Granted, a lot of the knowledge and practice in here is stuff you will pick up on the job-site, but probably some time after you could've used it. After a brief introduction, the author follows the construction process from foundation to roof, providing a wealth of mistake saving and even mistake correcting information. Confidence is essential to planning, executing and efficiently completing any project and this book delivers just that. It should be considered absolutely essential for those seeking to become proficient builders, whether professional or not. If I believed in employees, I'd make sure they all had a copy and I'd pay them to read it. The basics of tool selection and use, practical accuracy, and formulas are included with a lot of tips, tricks and explanations. I intend to make this book mandatory reading for my sons, it will save me a lot of time teaching, and save them a few years of correcting blunders.

For a woman do it yourself is perfect!

AWESOME!!

A benchmark for the way "how to" books should be written. Clear and well illustrated. Probably should be considered a foundation (no pun intended) book for your home improvement library. Measuring, marking, and laying out correctly save you time, material which equals money and less frustration.

Seemed to cover a wide variety of building planning, marking and laying out your construction. Much was way over my head. It served its purpose for me. I found all I needed to know plus a lot that I didn't need. Contains a lot of time saving tips on many building projects.

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