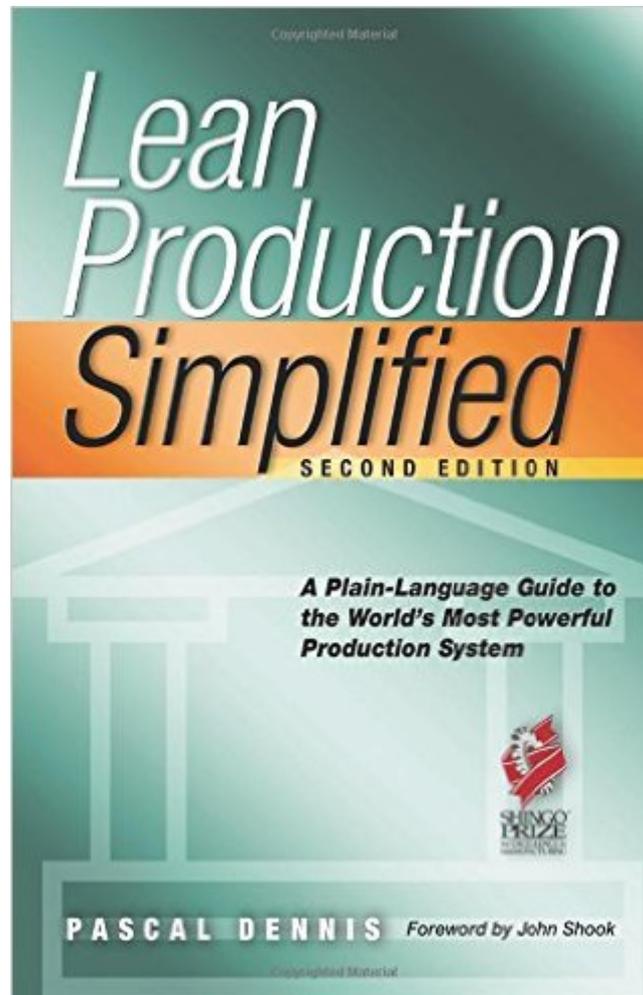


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Lean Production Simplified



Synopsis

Winner of a Shingo Research and Professional Publication Award
Lean Production Simplified, Second Edition is a plain language guide to the lean production system written for the practitioner by a practitioner. It delivers a comprehensive insider's view of lean manufacturing. The author helps the reader to grasp the system as a whole and the factors that animate it by organizing the book around an image of a house of lean production. Highlights include: A comprehensive view of Toyota's lean manufacturing system A look at the origins and underlying principles of lean Identifying the goals of lean production Practical problem solving for lean production Activities that support involvement - Kaizen circles, suggestion systems, and problem solving This second edition has been updated with expanded information on the Lean Improvement Process; Production Physics and Little's Law - the fundamental equation for both manufacturing and service industries (cycle time = work in process/throughput); Value Stream Thinking - combining processes required to bring the product or service to the customer; Hoshin Planning -- using the Planning and Execution Tree diagram and Problem Solving -- including the "Five Why" method and how to use it. Lean Production Simplified, Second Edition covers each of the components of lean within the context of the entire lean production system. The author's straightforward common sense approach makes this book an easily accessible on-the-floor resource for every operator.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read many of the more popular lean books (see our other reviews), and have been doing lean

full-time since 2000. In my view this book has the best, most complete field of view of them all, touching on several concepts that get no attention in any other lean overview text. It should be noted that as far as depth goes however, the name says it all... Lean Production Simplified. Pro: -Shingo prize winner - Brief yet complete coverage of lean topics - Coverage of several topics not found elsewhere, including the much ignored hoshin kanri - Decent chapter summaries, ample examples and figures Con: - I guess about the worst you can say is there's too many misspellings for a 2nd edition. - Perhaps too many sentences that start with, "At Toyota" which create some repetitive reading. Bottom line: Highly recommended for exposure to the basics.

The author tried so hard to make a boring topic interesting and I applaud him for that. Things that would have been helpful would be the definition of the Japanese words he used to be present more than once and in the glossary (ie in parentheses next to the word would have been more helpful). As a beginner I felt that much of those references were lost on me if I didn't refer to the glossary for the definition constantly.

The major advantage of this book is the breadth of its topics, as noted by other reviewers. Some concepts such as poka-yoke or hoshin planning are particularly well explained, in only a few pages. What annoyed me a little is that, in the early chapters, the author mentions some concepts that are only explained in later chapters. For someone who discovers lean, reading this book twice would probably be necessary.

I read this book when I was first learning about lean production. At the time I found it to be a great resource to understand many of the concepts and techniques that underpin this. As the title suggests, it is a simplified overview, and probably too simple for anyone who has more than a couple of years experience in lean production.

I thought this was a great read. I have read the book twice. The book goes into greater detail vs. a typical book that simplifies things. How can I put it, enough detail to not bog a person down but enough to wet one's appetite to learn more. I'm reading this book to "learn" about the production system for APICs CPIM certification.

While this book does briefly touch on most of the topics related to Lean I found it to be a very poor resource. The writing is disconnected due to the many references to other sources on the topic and

the examples used are some of the worst I've seen (such as, a mom & pop restaurant and the Detroit Red Wings... I thought this was Lean "Production" Simplified). This book is recommended reading for the SMEs Bronze Lean certification, but for anyone purchasing this book for that reason I'd recommend skipping it. There are far better books that cover the same information and if you have any experience with lean concepts the poor presentation of information and examples in this book will drive you nuts. While it did receive the Shingo Prize I'm convinced it is because it regurgitates the tried-and-true concepts of Lean.

"Lean Production Simplified" is essential reading for anyone new to lean. With a wonderfully clear writing style Pascal Dennis gives an overview of the structure and tools of lean including an excellent short history. Dennis clearly explains the concepts and philosophy of lean - though this is not a "how-to" book and does not give detailed methods for the tools. The book is an excellent introduction to lean. For example, I found its 20 pages on Hoshin planning explained the process better than any other work I've read. You can tell when an author really understands the lean process - they emphasise the importance of behavioural and cultural aspects of lean and recognise that these are at least as important as the tools. Dennis's chapters on involvement and lean culture are excellent. He clearly lives the lean philosophy. "Lean Production Simplified" is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand lean.

If you call yourself a "lean" person and you don't use a ton of the tools in this book then you are doing it wrong. This book is full of mechanics as well as philosophies. It is a must read for anybody in continuous improvement. More importantly, it's a "must apply".

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