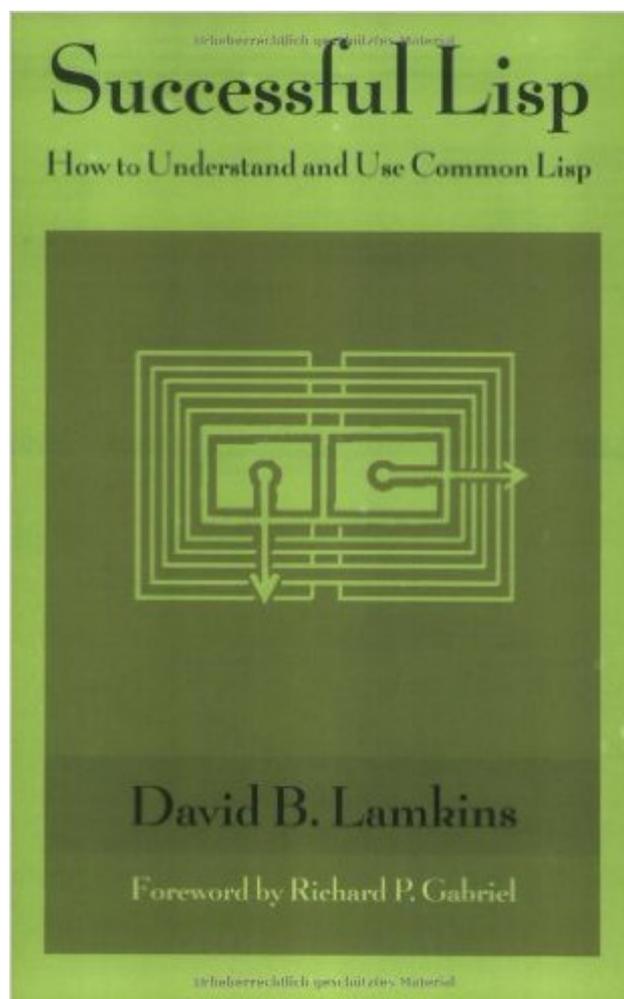# Successful Lisp: How To Understand And Use Common Lisp

Synopsis

This tutorial is written with the professional programmer in mind. Using a hands on approach it introduces the ANSI Common Lisp standard. Practical examples of working code provide an in depth view of Common Lisp programming paradigms. David B. Lamkins explains why this programming language is by far the most powerful industrial strength tool available for advanced software development.

Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: bookfix.com (December 8, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3937526005

ISBN-13: 978-3937526003

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,081,612 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #65 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Lisp   #6110 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science

Customer Reviews

First, this is most emphatically, not a book for beginners. There's an assumption that you are already familiar with programming ideas at a reasonably high level. If you know Python well, or Perl+OO, or C++ or Java, you're probably going to be able to work through it. If you've only used VisualBasic, you might be hurting. That's fine with me, it meant I could ready every chapter, and not skip the "boring stuff," which potentially would mean I'd lose little tidbits of insight.Overall, I found the book a good survey of the language, presented in an excellent order. I do wish there had been a "project" attached, as it really only gives you the flavor of the language. I feel like I could read most Lisp code now and understand it, but I'm not sure that I could structure and write an application quite yet. The content, for what its goals are, is good, unfortunately it falls short of giving a programmer a full taste of large Lisp programs, and honestly, if you're writing 10 line programs, why use Lisp?Also, as the book goes on, and perhaps this is more organizational than a sign of anything, the chapters seem to get shorter and shorter, until they are nearly tiny. Perhaps some could be combined together, but I get the distinct impression that the author simply got tired and

didn't put in everything that he could have at the end. Perhaps a second edition could tackle a project in the last few chapters, integrating the more advanced concepts into the issues addressed by an application. This would move the book way up in usefulness for me.Please don't take some of these criticisms as invalidating the book, as it's excellent writing for what it is trying to accomplish. I only wish it was trying to accomplish more. It provided me with the background to grok code that other people have written, and begin to explore writing my own. Unfortunately, it ignores some of the big huge issues (like ASDF) that become major issues. Now I feel ready to tackle my own code.Overall, I'd give the book a B+. What it's missing is that "thread" that ties everything together, which for a programming book, is often an application.

Another Lisp geek heard from. I used this book in a Programming Languages course I taught (SUNY Potsdam, Spring 2008) and I loved it. Students learned Common Lisp from class lectures and this book and, given that they are successfully writing Lisp interpreters, they were well able to do so. The book begins with an introduction (Chapter 3, alone, is worth its weight in gold) and then moves on to advanced topics including compiling and memory management inside the Lisp system. Wade Hennessey's Common Lisp has more detail on the internals but this book is much more accessible.The writing isn't perfect and the motivation for all the powerful techniques provided by Common Lisp is sometimes thin. As a text book, the lack of problems can, itself, be a problem. But for learning Common Lisp, this book is both fun and, over all, successful.

Before reading this book I had already become somewhat familiar with Common Lisp: I had read Land Of Lisp and Practical Common Lisp. Successful Lisp is a great book if you don't want a lengthy description about a certain feature in the language. For example, some of the topics that was covered in a 25 page chapter in Practical Common Lisp was covered in about one to two pages in Successful Lisp. Is this a bad thing? Not if you don't want to know all the little details. If you're looking for a to-the-point description about some feature than Successful Lisp is for you. However, if you want to know some specific details you might not find it in this book (though you might in some instances). I definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning Common Lisp, but another book before this one would not be a bad idea.

A great book, well written, good examples. I have a couple small complaints. It seems to be print on demand, which I am quite fine with, but the quality of the printed book is so-so. The covers, spine, etc., aren't very durable, and I've gone through 2 copies. The print is some sort of half-tone, which

likely saves ink, but makes it a little faint. If I am going to sequester carbon in a book, and I am very old school and prefer books to reading on a screen, I would like good quality and crisp readable print.Otherwise an outstanding book. Kudos to Mr. Lamkins

This is a nice book. Not a good introduction to programming, but a good introduction to Lisp. The text is clear, and covers the basics of Lisp. You'll still need other books for advanced techniques, though (check paul Graham'sÂ On LISP: Advanced Techniques for Common LISP).

A very good and timeless overview over Lisp. I am wondering why this book is so nonfamous in the lisp-community. The last chapters could be a little longer/deeper/go more into the depth of the started topics.I also enjoyed the way of writing - casual and humorous.

I needed this for an AI course I was supposed to take in the fall. I kept reading this in spare moments and worked with the online compiler at school until I had fairly good handle on lisp.

I've gone through this book online, it is an excellent tutorial which clearly guides you into the world of lisp. I'm very excited to have it in paperback.

Successful Lisp: How to Understand and Use Common Lisp On Lisp: Advanced Techniques for Common Lisp LISP, Lore, and Logic: An Algebraic View of LISP Programming, Foundations, and Applications Understand Rap: Explanations of Confusing Rap Lyrics that You & Your Grandma Can Understand Artificial Intelligence with Common Lisp: Fundamentals of Symbolic and Numeric Processing Common Lisp and Artificial Intelligence Paradigms of Artificial Intelligence Programming: Case Studies in Common Lisp Common LISP. The Language. Second Edition ANSI Common LISP Common LISP: A Gentle Introduction to Symbolic Computation (Dover Books on Engineering) Common Lisp The Elements of Artificial Intelligence Using Common LISP Practical Common Lisp (Expert's Voice in Programming Languages) Programmer's Guide to Common LISP Object-Oriented Common LISP Programming in Common LISP Object-Oriented Programming in COMMON LISP: A Programmer's Guide to CLOS Discover Your Spiritual Gifts: The Easy-to-Use Guide That Helps You Identify and Understand Your Unique God-Given Spiritual Gifts How to Open & Operate a Financially Successful Herb and Herbal Plant Business (How to Open and Operate a Financially Successful...) Successful Business Plan: Secrets & Strategies (Successful Business Plan Secrets and Strategies)