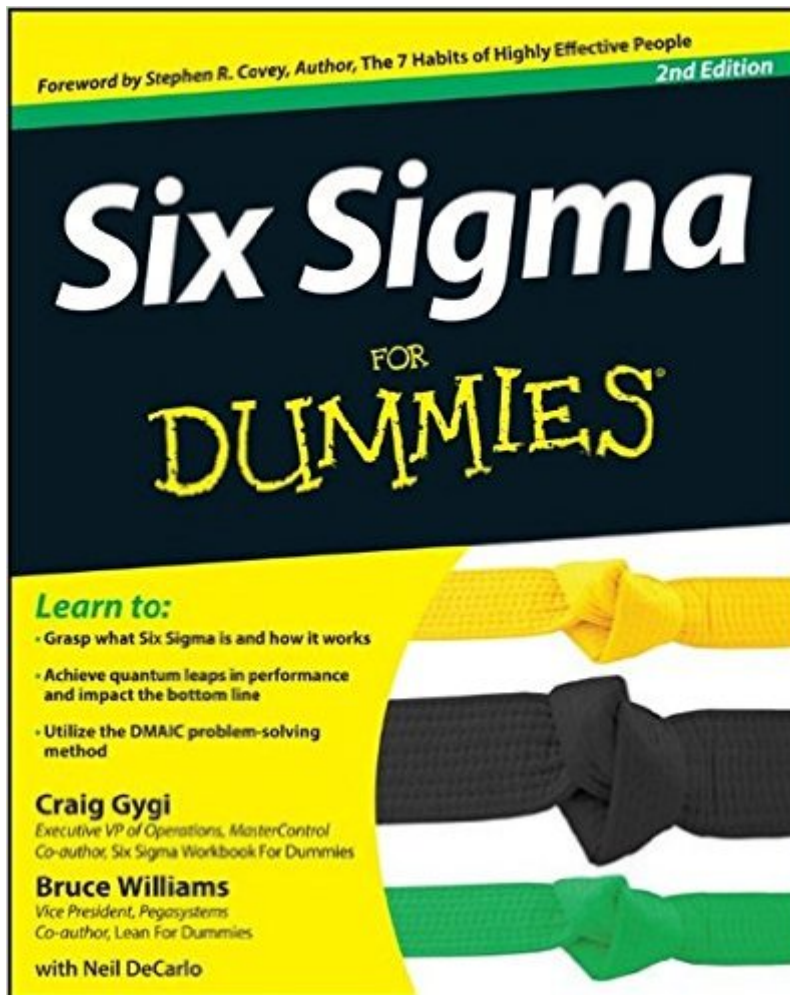


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Six Sigma For Dummies



Synopsis

The fast and easy way to understand and implement Six Sigma The world's largest and most profitable companies—including the likes of GE, Bank of America, Honeywell, DuPont, Samsung, Starwood Hotels, Bechtel, and Motorola—have used Six Sigma to achieve breathtaking improvements in business performance, in everything from products to processes to complex systems and even in work environments. Over the past decade, over \$100 billion in bottom-line performance has been achieved through corporate Six Sigma programs. Yet, despite its astounding effectiveness, few outside of the community of Six Sigma practitioners know what Six Sigma is all about. With this book, Six Sigma is revealed to everyone. You might be in a company that's already implemented Six Sigma, or your organization may be considering it. You may be a student who wants to learn how it works, or you might be a seasoned business professional who needs to get up to speed. In any case, this updated edition of Six Sigma For Dummies is the most straightforward, non-intimidating guide on the market. New and updated material, including real-world examples

What Six Sigma is all about and how it works The benefits of Six Sigma in organizations and businesses The powerful "DMAIC" problem-solving roadmap Yellow, Green and Black—how the Six Sigma "belt" system works How to select and utilize the right tools and technologies Speaking the language of Six Sigma; knowing the roles and responsibilities; and mastering the statistics skills and analytical methods Six Sigma For Dummies will become everyone's No. 1 resource for discovering and mastering the world's most famous and powerful improvement tool. Stephen Covey is spot-on when he says, "Six Sigma For Dummies is a book to be read by everyone."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For full disclosure, I spent a few years as a practicing six sigma black belt for a top six sigma corporation, so my review is certainly biased. I'm comparing this small inexpensive book to six weeks of training, several years of practicing, and a stack of training materials measuring 30 inches deep. This book compares very, very well to that training in most regards. I docked it a star because there are a few gaps that I think are huge misses, but I could easily see this book with 5 stars. Key things I liked about the book: + Many, many six sigma tools are explained very well, especially my favorites: the Failure Modes Effects Analysis (FMEA) and control charts. I didn't find anything wrong about the explanations, and in fact, identified the key points I would highlight to a student (e.g. caution about how Detection scoring flips on you for the FMEA). + There's a nice introduction into Lean, which is truly a close cousin to six sigma. No six sigma instruction should be without it. (My employer treated it as part of six sigma.) + When I saw the quote "in God we trust, all others bring data" I knew these guys were experienced practitioners. + Explanation not only of the statistical equations, but more importantly, the statistical tools you need to consider getting. Because NO ONE is hand-calculating this stuff people! You need the tools to play around with the data, see how it works, identify errors, etc. What didn't I like? - No discussion of Design for Six Sigma, DESPITE a brief mention of it! Again, my previous employer saw DFSS as part of six sigma, and learning it (like Lean) is required for a black belt. They should have included a short intro to it like they did for Lean.

Having been a GE Employee and having studied to become a Six Sigma Blackbelt, I know the DMAIC model quite well. Six Sigma was a staple of our work life and drove every project we undertook. The tools were fantastic for getting past becoming emotionally involved in a project and allowing measurable variables to speak for themselves. Six Sigma is more than just a quality initiative ... it's a way of operating that demands rigor and discipline. This book on Six Sigma gives a thorough introduction to the hierarchy of Six Sigma (the levels of depth involved in a project which is portrayed in a martial arts belt color paradigm - from Yellow Belt to Black Belt and beyond) as well as its deployment. While this book is labeled as a "For Dummies" book, you will definitely want to have a background with at least some basic statistical analysis knowledge. This book can assist the Six Sigma practitioner in learning to read data and charts but it cannot lay the groundwork that needs to be available to grasp and deploy a Six Sigma project and model effectively. This book takes a tough topic and brings it a little closer to earth (not completely down to earth) because no

matter how you slice it, there is a learning curve. There may be simpler books on the topic but I can assure you they will not have the depth. That being said, there is a book on the topic that I really prefer The Six Sigma Handbook, Third Edition. But for a good starter book that gets to the nitty gritty stuff, this one is it.

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