

## **Carpenter's Guide to the SAS® Macro Language, Second Edition by Art Carpenter – Preview Copy**

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Book reviewed by Charles Patridge – January 13, 2004

### Specific Comments:

1. In the beginning, it would be helpful to illustrate several of Art's Macro examples by showing the "resolved macro values" using `mlogic / symbolgen` to make it clearer to the less advanced readers.
2. Also, Art points out in several situations why it is necessary to use double quotes versus single quotes to resolve a macro variable – it might be wise to show this as an example to illustrate the point.
3. In Section 12.2.1 there is a typo in item #1 – it appears to be an OVERTYPE situation
4. Finally, Art mentions some new macro features/system macros that we can expect in SAS Version 9 throughout his book. I recommend that all new features/system macro variables in SAS V 9 should ALSO have a section of their own to highlight to experienced macro users what to watch out for and quickly review without having to search through the book.
5. It would also be useful to have all the macros listed in an appendix of this book with references as to where they can be found as well as hyperlinks to a website to be able to download them for testing and usage.

### General Comments:

I only wish I had been asked to review Art's First Edition of this book as it is an excellent reference and tutorial on the SAS Macro Language and Environment, and how it works. I **STRONGLY** recommend all SAS users (beginner to advance) should have a copy in their library and read it from cover to cover! This book may be more advance for the beginner but the novice SAS user should read and re-read this book as he/she starts to dabble into the SAS Macro environment and advance their knowledge of the SAS system.

Having used SAS for 25 plus years, I can honestly say I am always amazed at what I learn from reading books by users and the little things I may have overlooked or forgotten. I wish Art's book was available 25 years ago so I could have learned the SAS Macro Language more thoroughly than I did.

Art did an excellent job writing this book with plenty of good examples and well-documented bullets and callouts of each step within his examples to explain. He has also included a number of good macros that could be used by any SAS developer and incorporate them into their library of tools.

This is a must have book for the serious SAS developer who wishes to use and learn the SAS Macro Language.

Sincerely,

Charles Patridge  
Senior Consultant  
The Hartford Financial Service  
Phone: 860-547-6644  
Email: Charles.Patridge@thehartford.com