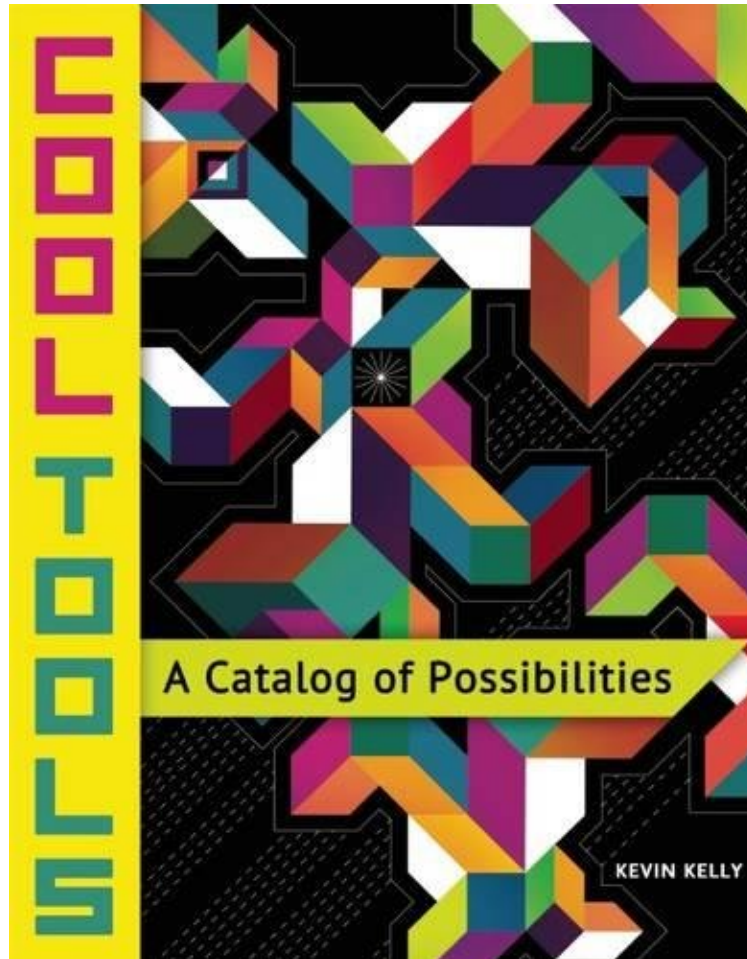


(Download free ebook) Cool Tools: A Catalog of Possibilities

Cool Tools: A Catalog of Possibilities

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File Name: 1940689007472 pages
Cool Tools A Catalog of Possibilities | File size: 60.Mb

From Ingramcontent : **Cool Tools: A Catalog of Possibilities** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cool Tools: A Catalog of Possibilities:

68 of 72 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinarily useful, endlessly fascinating
By Home At Last
COOL TOOLS is a sprawling compilation of useful tool reviews that author Kevin Kelly and a thousand contributors wrote over a 10-year period on Kelly's blog of the same name. Every tool in this massive (472 pages, 11" x 14") collection was recommended by an avid tool user who actually used the tool. Every tool in COOL TOOLS is either the best, the cheapest, or the only thing that works. As a former editor of Fine Homebuilding magazine, I thought I knew a bit about tools. Not anymore. Kelly and his crew have put together the most exhaustive, inventive and mind-bending selection of stuff I've ever seen. For starters, their definition of tools encompasses more or less every human activity on earth. So in addition to hand jacks that can raise 7000 lbs., the Teeny Turner (a pocket sized driver),

portable band saws, and laser measuring tools, you can find the best source on how to buy a car cheaply, make a low-budget movie, brew your own beer, rear an optimistic child, design a logo, win a fight, soak in feral (!) hot springs, learn to swim efficiently, prepare for a natural disaster, vagabond the world, do something dangerous (and live to tell about it), run for local office and win, go solar on your roof, or (a great boon to Boomers) remember anything. This list doesn't scratch the surface of what's in COOL TOOLS and that's one of the things that makes it so irresistible--you return to it again and again. Open it at random and you experience something like being six again, with a child's sense of delight and wonder at how clever people can be and what abundance this world holds. Like the Whole Earth Catalogue from 40 years ago, COOL TOOLS might just delight and empower a new generation of people who love learning--and doing. A most remarkable book. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Cool Tools is cool. By J. R. Compton. I still have a dozen or so Whole Earth Catalogs (WEC) from the last century. I visit author Kevin Kelly's Cool Tools site almost every day to see and read about the latest cool tools, and I could just afford this book, so I ordered it before it was published, and it has been open on my coffee table in my living room, ever since it arrived. I page through it often and spend a lot of time reading about specific topics of interest to me - and I always learn new things - and even give attention to areas I'll probably never use. It's a wish book and a daydream book and a down-and-dirty reality book. Nothing since the WEC has been as continually fascinating and educational. It reminds me of a New Age Sears Catalog of everything available - especially tools, which have always fascinated me. I like that the book is easier to navigate than the site, which is still great for browsing, and though many of the tools reviewed are too esoteric for my direct use, it is still vastly interesting. The type is a tad small. I keep wanting to command + it up to decent reading size for my elderly eyes, but I keep a bright lamp nearby for reading. It's over-sized and heavy, and it's not comfortable reading closer to my eyes like most books. So I hunker down over it - maybe I should buy a podium desk, since they're listed along with everything else in the book. Or I might have given it five stars. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A snapshot of possibilities from back in the day - 2013! By S. Richards. Cool concept, but the implementation is lacking. It looks like it has a lot of cool tools contained in it, but I don't know how "cool" they really are. The items listed about topics I am familiar with didn't seem exceptional or novel, which leads me to believe that the items listed about topics that I am not familiar with really aren't that novel either (except that I'm not familiar with them, so I'm learning something new but may not impress people with my knowledge of something that really isn't very novel). The biggest issue that I noted is that the book doesn't stand the test of time. Some of the technology tools (quantified self, fitness and nutrition trackers) are already outdated (picture of a previous model Fitbit that isn't available anymore) or are no longer available (the Zeo sleep tracker), and other things have been around for a while and have come into pretty common use (MyFitnessPal nutrition tracker). I didn't really pay attention to the fact that the book was already two years old when I purchased it, so it didn't occur to me that some of the cool tools would be outdated. There's really no way to get around the outdated technology issues in a printed book except to maybe write a blog instead (which the author does), or maybe to leave out the categories of items that are most likely to be constantly evolving. On the other hand, it's a neat coffee table book that crams a lot of stuff into a coffee table book-size package. Right now, it's like browsing through an old issue of SkyMall. But in a few years, it will be like a snapshot of the early 2010s and will be more like browsing through an old junk store to see what kind of surprises you might find. As a piece of history, it's pretty cool and will only become more cool as time passes. As a useful publication, I question the value. I bought it for my boyfriend, who is a tool geek, and I hope he will appreciate it in the same way that I do - as a window into our modern world that will be fun to look back on.

Cool Tools is a highly curated selection of the best tools available for individuals and small groups. Tools include hand tools, maps, how-to books, vehicles, software, specialized devices, gizmos, websites -- and anything useful. Tools are selected and presented in the book if they are the best of kind, the cheapest, or the only thing available that will do the job. This is an oversized book which reviews over 1,500 different tools, explaining why each one is great, and what its benefits are. Indirectly the book illuminates the possibilities contained in such tools and the whole catalog serves an education outside the classroom. The content in this book was derived from ten years of user reviews published at the Cool Tools website, cool-tools.org.

"Cool Tools is a refreshing antidote to the hype that surrounds the latest hot gadgets. Unimpressed by newness for newness' sake, Kelly is attracted to objects that have withstood the test of time -- and is passing those ideas on to others. It's a habit he learned while editing and publishing the Whole Earth Catalog, the bible of counterculture do-it-yourselfers who wanted in 'tools and ideas for the 21st century.'" (Leander Kahney, Wired News)