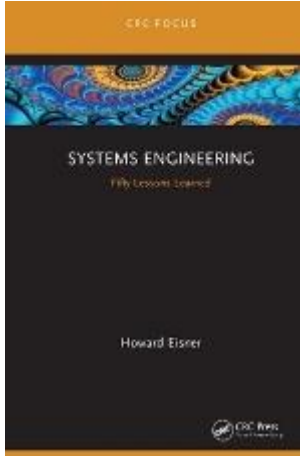


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW <sup>1</sup>



Book Title: **Systems Engineering: Fifty Lessons Learned**

Author: **Howard Eisner**

Publisher: CRC Press; 1st edition

List Price: \$26.95      Format: Softcover, 138 pages

Publication Date: January 2022

ISBN: 978-0367422424

Reviewer: **Jaime Chavira Moreno, MBA, PMP, CSM**

Review Date: June 2023

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### Introduction

Within this valuable compilation, Howard Eisner presents a wealth of lessons learned that offer practical wisdom applicable to diverse professional fields. The author takes a direct approach, diving into a wide spectrum of topics including general systems technicality, management and leadership, idea-based concepts, people-oriented aspects, and miscellaneous insights. This approach grants readers immediate access to a rich array of lessons and their real-world applications. Drawing from his own experiences and expertise, Eisner imparts invaluable knowledge that can enhance the day-to-day work life of professionals across various industries.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The book's structure comprises six primary sections, each focusing on distinct chapters of lessons learned from Howard Eisner. The initial section covers the first nine lessons learned in the "technical" category of systems engineering. The subsequent section encompasses nine lessons in the "management" category. Following that, the book delves into ten lessons in the "idea-based" category, followed by twelve lessons in the "people-oriented" category. The final section presents ten lessons in the "miscellany" category. Together, these five categories encompass a comprehensive collection of fifty lessons learned. Additionally, the book concludes with the author's top ten lessons learned.

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<sup>1</sup> How to cite this work: Moreno, J. C. (2023). Systems Engineering: Fifty Lessons Learned, book review, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XII, Issue IX, September.

## Highlights

Please note that the following highlights contain spoilers. Within the book, the author shares fifty lessons learned from over fifty years of experience in the field of systems engineering. Notable highlights from the technical category include Lesson 5, which emphasizes the importance of conducting cost-effectiveness analysis before attempting integrations to avoid resource allocation issues, and Lesson 8, which underscores the significance of active participation in contract negotiation and ongoing monitoring of contract outcomes. In the management category, Lesson 11 squanders for under promising and overdelivering and advocates for understanding and striving to achieve project requirements. Lesson 25 in the idea-based category stresses the value of staying updated on emerging tools and utilizing them as needed. Within the people-oriented category, Lesson 31 explores effective leadership traits in the modern world, while Lesson 32 delves into establishing crucial relationships with superiors to positively impact one's career. Lastly, in the miscellany category, Lesson 45 encourages thinking outside the box and embracing different perspectives.

## Highlights: What I liked!

Throughout the book, I found the lessons learned within the management, people-oriented, and miscellany categories particularly noteworthy, as they offer practical applicability across diverse professional domains. In addition to the highlights mentioned earlier in this review, I have identified five additional top lessons that resonated with me: Lesson 29, "Building a Highly Productive Systems Engineering Team," explores the significance of effective team leadership and addressing disruptive team dynamics. Lesson 34, "Meetings," emphasizes the importance of preparation rather than relying on impromptu approaches. Lesson 36, "Becoming a High-Tech Manager," provides valuable insights for career advancement into managerial roles. Lesson 40, "Man vs. Machine," underscores the immense potential of the human mind. Lastly, Lesson 49, "Obversity," offers a comprehensive overview of best practices to consider.

## Who might benefit from the Book?

This book is well-suited for a diverse audience engaged in systems engineering, including practitioners, engineers, project managers, and students studying the field. Moreover, professionals in related domains like project management, systems analysis, and organizational development can also derive value from the practical wisdom shared within its pages. Additionally, individuals aiming to expand their problem-solving techniques and refine their decision-making abilities will find the book's comprehensive lessons highly beneficial. Overall, this book serves as a valuable resource for professionals seeking to augment their knowledge, gain practical insights, and draw upon the experiences of others.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, "Systems Engineering: Fifty Lessons Learned" by Howard Eisner provides a wealth of practical wisdom that extends beyond the boundaries of systems engineering. The author's insights and lessons can be applied to diverse professional fields, offering valuable guidance and enhancing day-to-day work life. The book's comprehensive structure, covering a wide range of topics and categories, ensures readers have access to a rich array of lessons and their real-world applications. Whether you are a practitioner, engineer, project manager, student, or professional in related fields, this book will equip you with valuable knowledge, practical insights, and a fresh perspective to excel in your respective domain. Invest in this valuable resource and embark on a transformative journey towards professional growth and success.

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For more about this book, go to: [https://www.routledge.com/Systems-Engineering-Fifty-Lessons-Learned/Eisner/p/book/9780367534301?qclid=EAlalQobChMI7s-ux-r\\_gAMVGCzUAR0v0AGSEAQYASABEgJtmPD\\_BwE](https://www.routledge.com/Systems-Engineering-Fifty-Lessons-Learned/Eisner/p/book/9780367534301?qclid=EAlalQobChMI7s-ux-r_gAMVGCzUAR0v0AGSEAQYASABEgJtmPD_BwE)

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## About the Reviewer



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**Jaime Moreno** is an accomplished professional with a strong background in customer service, healthcare process improvement, Accounts Payable automation, and project/product management. With his exceptional organizational skills and results-driven mindset, he is dedicated to assisting businesses in their growth and success. Recently obtaining PMP certification in early 2023, Jaime brings a wealth of project management expertise to drive successful outcomes and ensure streamlined project execution. He can be contacted via e-mail at [Jaime.Moreno@JVKStrategies.com](mailto:Jaime.Moreno@JVKStrategies.com) or LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaime-chavira-moreno/>

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