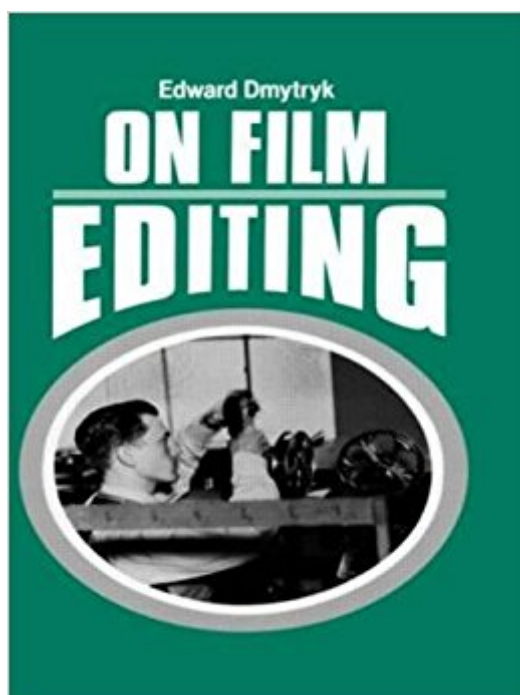


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# On Film Editing: An Introduction To The Art Of Film Construction



## Synopsis

On Film Editing explains, in simple terms, the principles of film editing, using examples and anecdotes. Written in an informal "how-to-do-it" style, renowned director Edward Dmytryk shares his expertise and experience in film editing in an anecdotal and philosophical way. In On Film Editing, Dmytryk contends that many technicians and professionals on the film crew-- from the cameraman and his assistants to the producer and director-- must understand film editing to produce a truly polished work. In this book he explains in layman's terms the principles of film editing, using examples and anecdotes from almost five decades in the film industry.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Focal Press (November 4, 1984)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0240517385

ISBN-13: 978-0240517384

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Television > Direction & Production #68 in Books > Humor & Entertainment >

Movies > Video > Direction & Production #80 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies >

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## Customer Reviews

"Editing is the creative force of filmic reality." So Dmytryk, director of the American classic "The Caine Mutiny" begins this little book, which he hopes will aid film directors and editors in perfecting their art. It is informative for general audiences as well, demonstrating how deeply the experience of any film relies on the creativity and versatility of its editor.

In On Film Editing, Dmytryk contends that many technicians and professionals on the film crew-- from the cameraman and his assistants to the producer and director-- must understand film editing to produce a truly polished work. In this book he explains in layman's terms the principles of film editing, using examples and anecdotes from almost five decades in the film industry.

Half a century later this book is still relevant. The reason - it does not delve into minutiae of film stocks and editing machines, but talks about the principles of combining visual and aural elements to obtain something that is more than sum of its parts. The book explains concepts of straight cut, dissolve, jump cut, timing, pace... The rules - if you want to treat them as hard rules - are substantiated by explaining how human perception works. The last chapter is almost completely taken by a piece of movie script, this may be a less engaging read just because it is a one big example. Still, it shows how a movie can be re-shaped in the editing room after it has been shot. This book is a classic. Recommended for anyone interested in principles of movie editing.

I'm an amateur video editor however I thought reading this book would help my editing work look more professional. This is an excellent book that definitely gets you in the mindset of a professional editor, as well as the types of cuts to make for a more professional result. The book more focuses on the principles of editing, rather than focusing on the details of how to handle specific situations (although many examples are given to illustrate the principles). I think focusing on principles is a better idea, because every edit scenario is unique yet the principles can be applied universally. The book has been written from a "film" perspective, however any video editor can easily see that the information is easily applicable to video editing, as video editing is still done in terms of frames (actually I feel sorry for the people who cut film, what a pain that must have been!). The book also talks about the role of the editor versus the director and the types of working relationships. This is very important because I've seen experienced a producer just saw me as an equipment operator telling me every cut and frame to use, versus others who give me total control and only call out edits they don't like. I would agree with the premise that good directors ideally should have a knowledge of the edit process. When I'm asked to video a local event, I definitely think about the story line, shots, coverage and safety I'm going to need to give me the most flexibility during editing. I would highly recommend this book. I haven't experienced anything better than this for editors. I would view this as a classic text and a must read.

Delivers on its promise of containing the wisdom of a master. I had to skip over some parts where - as so many other similar books do - the author walks you scene by scene through the process, but I did get what I wanted from this book (which is more than I can say for other books on editing), i.e. a taste of the mindset of a master of the art.

This is another true classic if you wish to learn the craft of editing. It is a quick read packed with

truisms and axioms about film editing. One of the best is the last one: Substance first, then form. There is much wisdom in this small book. If you call yourself an editor or are trying to be one, you have to have read this.

One of the greatest book on editing. This small book is packed with knowledge on editing and you will not be disappointed. It's a fun little read that teaches you the principles on editing.

this is an excellent book on this very delicate craft. I also liked "the eye is quicker" but this was very informative and a better read. there is no substitute for actually editing and what works is hard to describe in words but this book demonstrates some very subtles points and Mr. Dmytyk is a film maker. If your just starting read the eye is quicker but if you have some experience and want to go to the next level, this is a good one.

A very great read that highlights the important principles needed when editing. Translates very well to the modern digital age.

great book with some caveats - it's a little dictatorial

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