

The Comic Pricing Academy: Comic Book Price Guides, Determining Comic Book Value Estimate

Welcome back. Hope you had a value added time with my last lesson. And if you have purchased a copy of the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide (for the electronic version you can use the link in the footer of this document, and thanks) I hope you found some of the sections in the guide interesting and entertaining. Now on to what the meat of the guide is all about, determining what a comic book estimated value is. Let's start with the holy grail of all collectible comics, Action Comics #1, the first appearance of Superman. Refer to the next figure as we go through our discussion.



Action Comics #1 © DC



Action Comics #210 © DC

	GD	VG	FN	VF	VF/NM	NM		GD	VG	FN	VF	VF/NM	NM
	2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	9.2		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	9.2
Fantagraphics Books: Winter 1993-94 - Present (quarterly, various sizes)													
1-Introduces Jimmy Corrigan; Chris Ware-s/a in all 1 3 4 6 8 10							34,35,38,39	277	554	831	1759	3030	4300
1-2nd and later printings							36, 40: 36-Classic robot-c. 40-(9/41)-Intro/1st app. Star Spangled Kid & Stripesy;	300	600	900	1920	3310	4700
2-3: 2-Quimby							Jerry Siegel photo	290	590	870	1856	3178	4500
4-Sparky's Best Comics & Stories	1	2	3	4	5	7	37-Origin Congo Bill	245	490	735	1568	2684	3800
5-12: Jimmy Corrigan in all							41						
13,15-(\$10.95-c)							42-1st app./origin Vigilante; Bob Daley becomes Fat Man; origin Mr. America's magic flying carpet; The Queen Bee & Luthor app; Black Pirate ends; not in #41	271	542	813	1734	2967	4200
14-(\$12.95-c) Concludes Jimmy Corrigan saga							43-46,48-50: 44-Fat Man's i.d. revealed to Mr. America. 45-1st app. Stuff	271	542	813	1734	2967	4200
16,19-(\$15.95, hardcover) Rusty Brown							(Vigilante's oriental sidekick)	239	478	717	1530	2615	3700
17-(\$16.95, hardcover) Rusty Brown							47-1st Luthor cover in comics (4/42)	314	628	942	2198	3849	5500
18-(\$17.95, hardcover)							51-1st app. The Prankster	239	478	717	1530	2615	3700
Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth (2000, Pantheon Books, Hardcover, \$27.50, 380 pgs.) Collects Jimmy Corrigan stories; folded dust jacket							52-Fat Man & Mr. America become the Ameri-commandos; origin Vigilante retold; classic Superman and back-ups-c	297	594	891	1901	3251	4600
Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth (2003, Softcover, \$17.95)							53-56,59,60: 56-Last Fat Man. 59-Kubert Vigilante begins?; ends #70. 60-First app. Lois Lane as Super-woman	194	388	582	1242	2121	3000
NOTE: Multiple printings exist for most issues.							57-2nd Lois Lane-c in Action (3rd anywhere, 2/43)	206	412	618	1318	2259	3200
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE: THE DC UNIVERSE STORIES OF ALAN MOORE (Also see DC Universe: The Stories of Alan Moore)													
DC Comics: 2003 (\$19.95, TPB)													
nn-Reprints selected Moore stories from '85-'87; Superman, Batman, Swamp Thing app. 20.00													
ACTION ADVENTURE (War) (Formerly Real Adventure)													
Gillmor Magazines: V1#2, June, 1955 - No. 4, Oct, 1955													
V1#2-4	6	12	18	31	38	45	71-79: 74-Last Mr. America	110	220	330	704	1202	1700
ACTION COMICS (...Weekly #601-642) (Also see The Comics Magazine #1, More Fun #14-17 & Special Edition) (Also see Promotional Comics section)													
National Periodical Publ./Detective Comics: Comics: 6/38 - No. 583, 9/86; No. 584, 1/87 - No. 904, Oct, 2011													
1-Origin & 1st app. Superman by Siegel & Shuster; Marco Polo, Tex Thompson, Pep Morgan, Chuck Dawson & Scoop Scanlon; 1st app. Zura & Lois Lane; Superman story missing 4 pgs. which were included when reprinted in Superman #1; Clark Kent works for Daily Star; story continued in #2	120,000	240,000	360,000	870,000	1,400,000	1,900,000	80-2nd app. & 1st Mr. Mxyzptlk-c (1/45)	142	284	426	909	1555	2200
1-Reprint, Oversize 13-1/2x10". WARNING: This comic is an exact reprint of the original except for its size. DC published it in 1974 with a second cover filling it as a Famous First Edition. There have been many reported cases of the outer cover being removed and the interior sold as the original edition. The reprint with the new outer cover removed is practically worthless. See Famous First Edition for value.							81-88,90: 83-Intro Hocus & Pocus	103	206	309	659	1130	1600
2-O'Mealia non-Superman covers thru #6	7715	15,430	23,145	57,863	96,432	135,000	89-Classic rainbow cover	110	220	330	704	1202	1700
3 (Scarce)-Superman apps. in costume in only one panel							91-99: 93-X-Mas-c. 99-1st small logo (8/46)	84	168	252	538	919	1300
4-6: 6-1st Jimmy Olsen (called office boy)	4857	9714	14,571	36,428	60,714	85,000	101-Nuclear explosion-c (10/46)	123	246	369	787	1344	1900
7-2nd Superman cover	11,429	22,858	34,287	85,718	142,859	200,000	102-Mxyzptlk-c	82	164	246	528	902	1275
8,9	1829	3658	5487	13,718	22,859	32,000	103-107,109-120: 105,117-X-Mas-c	76	152	228	486	831	1175
							108-Classic molten metal-c	87	174	261	553	952	1350
							121,122,124-126,128-140: 135,136,138-Zatara by Kubert	73	146	219	467	796	1125
							123-(8/48) 1st time Superman flies, not leaps	74	148	222	470	810	1150
							127-Vigilante by Kubert; Tommy Tomorrow begins (12/48, see Real Fact #6)	74	148	222	470	810	1150
							141-150,152-157,159-161: 156-Lois as Super Woman. 161- Last 52 pgs.	71	142	213	454	777	1100
							151-Luthor/Mr. Mxyzptlk/Prankster team-up	74	148	222	470	810	1150
							158-Origin Superman retold	135	270	405	864	1482	2100
							162-180: 168,176-Used in POP, pg. 90. 173-Robot-c	69	138	207	442	759	1075

Well, that figure was harder than expected to create. It is a little fuzzy but the points I want to discuss, show through well enough to make my discussion understandable.

Now at the top with the red arrow, is each comic's physical grade column. They are 2.0 (GD), 4.0 (VG), 6.0 (FN), 8.0 (VF), 9.0 (VF/NM) and 9.2 (NM). The guide only lists data up to 9.2. Anything above this has to be discussed and negotiated for any transaction you may want to become involved in. Physical grading, in general and at this level, can become quite subjective. Third party grading intervention may also be needed.

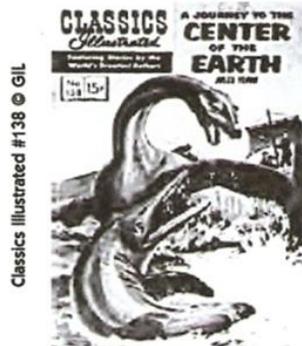
Now look at the blue arrow. This is the start of the Action Comics section. And the listed value estimates for each physical condition for Action Comics #1 is listed at the yellow arrow. These are listed as: 2.0 - \$120,000; 4.0 - \$240,000; 6.0 - \$360,000; 8.0 - \$870,000; 9.0 - \$1,400,000; 9.2 - \$1,900,000. As you can see, physical condition plays a major role in comic book value.

Well, if you have finished drooling and fantasizing, like I do, over this very rare comic (less than 100 left in the world I have heard), let's look at the early history of The Amazing Spider-Man in the figure below:

6-Origins (rare) Original 1st app. Spider-Man the Amazing Man by Bill Everett, The Cat-Man by Tarpe Mills (also #8), Mighty Man by Filchok, Minimidget & sidekick Ritty, & The Iron Skull by Burgos begins	1667	3334	5000	12,400	22,700	33,000
7-Magician From Mars begins; ends #11	366	732	1098	2562	4481	6400
8-Cat-Man dresses as woman	271	542	813	1734	2967	4200
9-Magician From Mars battles the 'Elemental Monster,' swiped into The Spectre in More Fun #54 & 55. Ties w/Marvel Mystery #4 for 1st Nazi War-c on a comic (2/40)	219	438	657	1402	2401	3400
10,11: 11-Zardi, the Eternal Man begins; ends #16; Amazing Man dons costume; last Everett issue	152	304	456	965	1658	2350
12,13	142	284	426	909	1555	2200
14-Reef Kinkaid, Locke Wayburn (ends #20), & Dr. Hypno (ends #21) begin; no Zardi or Chuck Hardy	116	232	348	742	1271	1800
15,17-20: 15-Zardi returns; no Locke Wayburn. 17-Dr. Hypno returns; no Zardi	103	206	309	659	1130	1600
16-Mighty Man's powers of super strength & ability to shrink & grow explained; Locke Wayburn returns; no Dr. Hypno; Al Avison (a character) begins, ends #18 (a tribute to the artist)	110	220	330	704	1202	1700
21-Origin Dash Dartwell (drug-use story); origin & only app. T.N.T.	119	238	357	762	1306	1850
22-Dash Dartwell, the Human Meteor & The Voice app; last Iron Skull & The Shark; Silver Streak app. (classic-c)	290	580	870	1856	3178	4500
23-Two Amazing Man stories; intro/origin Tommy the Amazing Kid; The Marksman only app.	94	188	282	597	1024	1450
24-King of Darkness, Nightshade, & Blue Lady begin; end #26; 1st app. Super-Ann	94	188	282	597	1024	1450
25,26 (Scarce): Meteor Martin by Wolverton in both; 26-Electric Ray app.						
1-Mike Mignola-s/a/c						3.00
AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL (Also see Spider-Girl and What If...? (2nd series) #105)						
Marvel Comics: No. 0, 2006; No. 1, Dec, 2006 - No. 30, May, 2009 (\$2.99)						
0-(\$1.99) Recap of the Spider-Girl series and character profiles; A.F. #15 cover swipe						3.00
1-14,16-24,26-(\$2.99) Frenz & Buscema-a. 9-Carnage returns. 19-Has #17 on cover						3.00
15,25,30-(\$3.99) 15-10th Anniversary issue. 25-Three covers						4.00
... Vol. 1: What Ever Happened to the Daughter of Spider-Man? TPB (2007, \$14.99) r/#0-6						15.00
... Vol. 2: Comes the Carnage! TPB (2007, \$13.99) r/#7-12						14.00
... Vol. 3: Mind Games TPB (2008, \$13.99) r/#13-18						14.00
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE (See All Detergent Comics, Amazing Fantasy, America's Best TV Comics, Aurora, Deadly Foes of..., Fireside Book Series, Friendly Neighborhood..., Giant-Size..., Giant Size Super-Heroes Featuring..., Marvel Age..., Marvel Collectors Item Classics, Marvel Fanfare, Marvel Graphic Novel, Marvel Knights..., Marvel Spec. Ed., Marvel Tales, Marvel Team-Up, Marvel Treasury Ed., New Avengers, Nothing Can Stop the Juggernaut, Official Marvel Index To..., Peter Parker..., Power Record Comics, Spectacular..., Spider-Man, Spider-Man Digest, Spider-Man Saga, Spider-Man 2099, Spider-Man Vs. Wolverine, Spidey Super Stories, Strange Tales Annual #2, Superior Spider-Man, Spider-Man Vs. ..., Try-Out Winner Book, Ultimate Marvel Team-Up, Ultimate Spider-Man, Web of Spider-Man & ..., Spider-Man in Our Reach)						
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE						
Marvel Comics Group: March, 1963 - No. 441, Nov, 1998						
1-Retells origin by Steve Ditko; 1st Fantastic Four x-over (with FF #12 as first Marvel x-over); intro. John Jameson & The Chameleon; Spider-Man's 2nd app.; Kirby/Ditko-c; Ditko-c/a #1-38	1750	3500	5250	14,000	36,000	58,000
1-Reprint from the Golden Record Comic set	40	80	120	260	520	760
With record (1966)	27	54	81	194	435	675
2-1st app. the Vulture & the Terrible Tinkerer	400	800	1200	3600	7800	12,000
3-1st app. Doc Octopus; 1st full-length story; Human Torch cameo;						
Spider-Man pin-up by Ditko	317	634	951	2695	6098	9500
4-Origin & 1st app. The Sandman (see Strange Tales #115 for 2nd app.); 1st monthly issue;						

Now again, at the blue arrow you see the start of The Amazing Spider-Man section. And at the yellow arrow we have 2.0 - \$1750; 4.0 - \$3500; 6.0 - \$5250; 8.0 - \$14,000; 9.0 - \$36,000; 9.2 - \$58,000. Not near the value of the first appearance of Superman, but quite a healthy listing of values anyway. And this isn't the first appearance of Spider-Man. That was Amazing Fantasy #15.

The two previous examples have been a couple of the more powerhouse comics. So let's do a couple more in the realm of yours and my comics. Some of my favorite comics when I was young were the Classics Illustrated group, in particular, The Time Machine. Years ago when I went to college and took all my comics with me, they ended up getting stolen. I have since reacquired some of my favorite Classics Illustrated comics. Let's take a look at the Time Machine #133 in the figure below:



CL

		GD	VG	FN	VF	VF/NM	NM-			GD	VG	FN	VF	VF/NM	NM-		
		2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	9.2			2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	9.2		
2	142	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16	2	4	6	11	16	20
3	152	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16	2	4	6	11	16	20
4	149	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16	2	4	6	9	13	16
5	167	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14	2	4	6	8	11	14
6	167	10/64	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14	2	4	6	13	18	22
7	167	4/66	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14	2	4	6	13	18	22
131. The Covered Wagon																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	131	3/56	Original	1	1	6	12	18	40	73	105						
2	143	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
3	152	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
4	158	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
5	167	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
6	167	11/64	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
7	167	4/66	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
8	169	Win/69	New price 25¢; stiff-c; PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
132. The Dark Frigate																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	132	5/56	Original	1	1	11	22	33	90	115							
2	150	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	13	16							
3	167	1/64	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	13	16							
4	166	5/67	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	13	16							
133. The Time Machine																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	132	7/56	Orig.; Cameron-a	1	1	7	14	21	46	86	125						
2	142	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	10	14	18						
3	152	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	10	14	18						
4	158	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
5	167	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
6	167	6/64	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	10	14	18						
7	167	3/66	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
8	166	12/67	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
9	169	Win/71	New price 25¢:	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
139. In the Reign of Terror																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	139	7/57	Original; Evans-a	1	1	6	12	18	40	73	105						
2	154	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
3	167	-	Has orig.date; PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
4	167	7/64	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
5	166	R/1968	C-price 25¢; PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
140. On Jungle Trails																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	140	9/57	Original	1	1	6	12	18	40	73	105						
2	150	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
3	160	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
4	167	9/63	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
5	167	9/65	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
141. Castle Dangerous																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	141	11/57	Original	1	1	7	14	21	44	82	120						
2	152	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
3	167	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
4	166	7/67	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
142. Abraham Lincoln																	
Ed	HRN	Date	Details	A	C												
1	142	1/58	Original	1	1	6	12	18	42	79	115						
2	154	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
3	158	-	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	9	13	16						
4	167	10/63	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						
5	167	7/66	PC-r	1	1	2	4	6	8	11	14						

The red arrow shows The Time Machine listing. My HRN is 132. The values are: 2.0 - \$7; 4.0 - \$14; 6.0 - \$21; 8.0 - \$46; 9.0 - \$86; 9.2 - \$125. Alas, my copy is VG or 4.0 and is estimated at \$14. Not great, but it is one of my more emotionally valued comic books. The Time Machine was also my favorite movie as a youngster!

Now for a final example, I just picked one from my collection. It is a Star Trek, The Next Generation, #2. See the pic below:

1-6-Jeff Moy-a/Jimenez-c 1-Giffen var-c. 2-Lightle var-c. 3-Grell var-c. 5-Allred var-c	4.00	1 (\$1.50, 52 pgs.)-Sienkiewicz painted-c	
STAR TREK: LEONARD MCCOY, FRONTIER DOCTOR		2-6 (\$1.00)	
IDW Publishing: Apr, 2010 - No. 4, Jul, 2010 (\$3.99, limited series)		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION (TV)	
1-4-Dr. McCoy right before Star Trek: TMP; John Byrne-s/a	4.00	DC Comics: Oct, 1989 - No. 80, 1995 (\$1.50/\$1.75/\$1.95)	
STAR TREK: MIRROR IMAGES		1-Capt. Picard and crew from TV show	
IDW Publishing: June, 2008 - No. 5, Nov, 2008 (\$3.99, limited series)		2,3	1 2 3 5 7 9
1-5-Further adventures in the Mirror Universe. 3-Mirror-Picard app.	4.00	4-10	5.00
STAR TREK: MIRROR MIRROR		11-23,25-49,51-60	3.00
Marvel Comics (Paramount Comics): Feb, 1997 (\$3.95, one-shot)		24,50: 24-(\$2.50, 52 pgs.). 50-(\$3.50, 68 pgs.)-Painted-c	5.00
1-DeFalco-s	4.00	61-74,76-80	3.00
STAR TREK: MISSION'S END		75-(\$3.95, 50 pgs.)	4.00
IDW Publishing: Mar, 2009 - No. 5, July, 2009 (\$3.99, limited series)		Annual 1-6 (90-95, 68 pgs.)	4.00
1-5-Kirk, Spock, Bones crew, their last mission on the pre-movie Enterprise	4.00	Special 1 -3(93-95, 68 pgs.)-1-Contains 3 stories	4.00
STAR TREK MOVIE ADAPTATION		...-The Series Finale (1994, \$3.95, 68 pgs.)	4.00
IDW Publishing: Feb, 2010 - No. 6, Aug, 2010 (\$3.99, limited series)		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION (TV)	
1-6-Adaptation of 2009 movie; Messina-a; regular & photo-c on each	4.00	DC Comics (WildStorm): one-shots	
STAR TREK MOVIE SPECIAL		Embrace the Wolf (6/00, \$5.95, prestige format) Golden & Sniegoski-s	6.00
DC Comics: 1984 (June) - No. 2, 1987 (\$1.50); No. 1, 1989 (\$2.00, 52 pgs)		Forgiveness (2001, \$24.95, HC) David Brin-s/Scott Hampton painted-a; dust jacket-c	30.00
nn-(#1)-Adapts Star Trek III; Sutton-p (68 pgs.)	4.00	Forgiveness (2002, \$17.95, SC)	18.00
2-Adapts Star Trek IV; Sutton-a; Chaykin-c. (68 pgs.)	4.00	The Gorn Crisis (1/01, \$29.95, HC) Kordey painted-a/dust jacket-c	30.00
1 (1989)-Adapts Star Trek V; painted-c	4.00	The Gorn Crisis (1/01, \$17.95, SC) Kordey painted-a	18.00
STAR TREK: NERO		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION/DEEP SPACE NINE (TV)	
IDW Publishing: Aug, 2009 - No. 4, Nov, 2009 (\$3.99, limited series)		DC Comics: Dec, 1994 - No. 2, Jan, 1995 (\$2.50, limited series)	
1-4-Nero's ship after the attack on the Kelvin to the arrival of Spock	4.00	1,2-Parts 1 & 3 of x-over with Star Trek: DS9/TNG from Malibu Comics	3.00
STAR TREK: NEW FRONTIER		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION / DOCTOR WHO: ASSIMILATION²	
IDW Publishing: Mar, 2008 - No. 5, July, 2008 (\$3.99, limited series)		IDW Publishing: May, 2012 - No. 8, Dec, 2012 (\$3.99, limited series)	
1-5-Capt. Calhoun & Adm. Shelby app.; Peter David-s	4.00	1-8-The Borg and Cybermen team-up; Tipton-s/Woodward-a; multiple covers on each	4.00
STAR TREK 100 PAGE...		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: GHOSTS	
IDW Publishing: Nov, 2011 - Present (\$7.99)		IDW Publishing: Nov, 2009 - No. 5, Mar, 2010 (\$3.99)	
...Spectacular #1 (11/11) Reprints stories of the original crew; s/a by Byrne and others	8.00	1-5-Cannon-s/Aranda-a	4.00
...Spectacular 2012 (2/12) Reprints; Khan, Q, Capt. Pike, the Gorn app.	8.00	STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - ILL WIND	
...Spectacular Summer 2012 (8/12) Reprints of TNG and Voyager stories	8.00	DC Comics: Nov, 1995 - No. 4, Feb, 1996 (\$2.50, limited series)	
...Spectacular Winter 2012 (8/12) Reprints; Capt. Harriman, Mirror Universe	8.00	1-4: Hugh Fleming painted-c on all	3.00
STAR TREK: OPERATION ASSIMILATION		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: INTELLIGENCE GATHERING	
Marvel Comics (Paramount Comics): Dec, 1996 (\$2.95, one-shot)		IDW Publishing: Jan, 2008 - No. 5, May, 2008 (\$3.99)	
1	4.00	1-5-Messina-a/Scott & David Tipton-s; two covers on each	4.00
STAR TREK: ROMULANS SCHISMS		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - PERCHANCE TO DREAM	
IDW Publishing: Sept, 2009 - No. 3, Nov, 2009 (\$3.99, limited series)		DC Comics/WildStorm: Feb, 2000 - No. 4, May, 2000 (\$2.50, limited series)	
		1-4-Bradstreet-c	3.00
		STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - RIKER	

Again, the blue arrow indicates the series name and my issue is #2. At the yellow arrow you can notice that issue #1 is the only issue that carries values for all physical conditions. My #2 issue only has one value of \$5 for a 9.2. This is commonly done in the guide for newer comic books that don't have much collection value. But this info is well worth knowing about your comics.

I truly hope this lesson has given you valuable insight on using the meat of the guide. Although the Overstreet Guide is considered the Bible in the industry, there are a few other guides worth mentioning. That is what next week's lesson will encompass. And as a reminder, just click the link in the footer to learn how to get your own electronic copy. Thanks. Dave