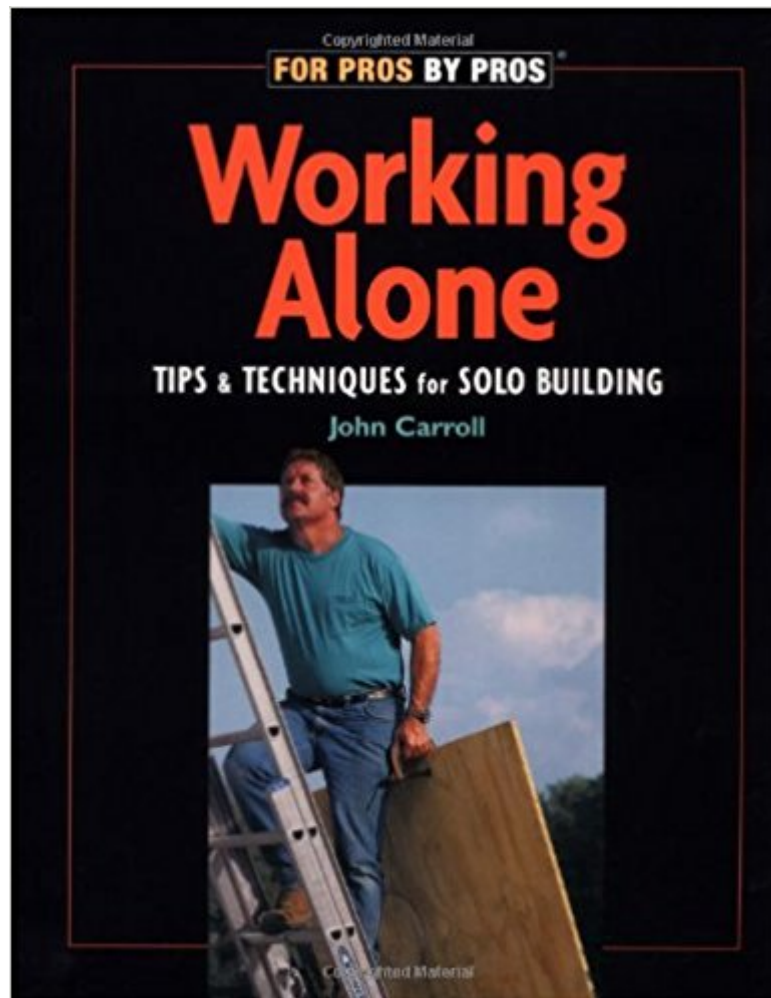




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# Working Alone: Tips & Techniques For Solo Building (For Pros By Pros)



## Synopsis

If you're working alone, this book will be your second set of hands. You won't have to wait for a helper or pass up a job that seems too difficult to do alone. And if you're a homeowner working on your own house, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish. Written by a builder with 30 years' experience, *Working Alone* is packed with more than 50 innovative tips and techniques. You'll learn how to handle nearly every aspect of home construction alone, from foundation layout to raising walls to building decks. This book, the only one of its kind, offers a myriad of unique solo solutions. A perfect example is the problem of bringing a large sheet of plywood up a ladder. Even with a helper, this is a difficult and dangerous task. But if a large C-clamp is fastened to one end of the plywood, it's easy to pull the sheet up the ladder from behind. Clever techniques like this will have you solving common problems safely and efficiently.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Carpenters will be enthusiastic about both these new efforts. Together they make a complete package for anyone interested in building. Spence has produced a hefty textbook-style guide to carpentry that covers the entire process of building from planning through finishing. The scope is impressive—704 pages and 2300 black-and-white photographs and drawings, building codes, foundations, framing, doors and windows, exterior finishing, cabinet construction, and tools. Newer

techniques, such as steel framing and popular trends, like post-and-beam construction, are covered in separate sections. The comprehensive safety section is outstanding. Many of the processes are way beyond the comfort zone of the average do-it-yourselfer; however, there is something here for everyone, beginner to expert. Most do-it-yourselfers have encountered jobs where they could have used three or four hands; Carroll, a solo homebuilder, has come to their rescue with a slim volume that shows many of the tricks he uses to safely and efficiently complete work on his own. Readers who have completed projects will be surprised at how much easier their projects would have been had they known Carroll's techniques. Using straightforward text and line-drawings, he shares a variety of tips and labor-saving techniques for masonry, framing, siding installation, measuring, and hanging drywall. He shows how to cope with problems such as the collapse of the overextended tape measure. There really isn't anything else like this book on the market. Spence's title will get greater use in the library because it is a more general reference title; but both are excellent and will appeal to both do-it-yourselfers and professionals. Recommended for larger public library collections. A Jonathan N. Hershey, Akron-Summit Cty. P.L., Akron, OH Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

John Carroll began his career in the late 1960s roofing houses during summer vacations from high school. He is still building and repairing houses in and near Durham, NC. He is a frequent contributor to Fine Homebuilding and JLC magazines and is the author of three books on building.

If your fairly new to carpentry and will be working alone, this book/author is wonderful. Being alone has lots of challenges. I know this well. He offers many helpful ideas on getting over obstacles confronting single workers. If he did not solve a problem for me, his general advice was often inspirational in helping me come up with my own novel solutions. I also have his book on measuring, marking and laying out. It too, is essential reading for single workers. I dare say, anything he writes is more than worth the price. I'd have never been able to renovate my house without him. I would have needed help. I offer suggestions to other authors. Old homes are not built to precise specifications. We need more on how to work around things encountered. Also a book about various tools and how they can be very useful. Like a 3.5 inch planer, an oscillating tool, etc. People working alone or finding problems need to know about tools that will help them. Repairing houses is far more challenging than building from scratch. I'd like to see and clearing house on the net with tips on working alone or overcoming obstacles. Youtube is helpful at times. just thought I'd pass it all on! I often found Youtube more helpful than many of my how-to books.

One of the most important things mentioned in the book is that when you don't work alone, you tend to work in ways that ASSUME dependency: getting help to do things that could be done better alone, or doing things in wasteful ways, just because that's the unconscious-default...Whereas, when working alone, one HAS to plan more, think more, but...the /benefit/ of working alone is that one can work one's own right way...One of the few things he says he won't bother doing alone is the layout-work for a first foundation( if you're adding, you use the foundation that is already there, & measure from it...if you're putting in the first foundation on a site, NOTHING is there, so all your measurements are on the raw ground, and having someone else there to help make certain everything gets layed-out right definitely helps )He notes that when you build a roof with help, you probably use trusses, to cut down the time need to do it...but when you work alone, you probably stick-build the roof, because you can't manage/manoever a truss...Use C-clamps for putting handles on plywood...( that's what he's done in the cover-photo )etc...This and the "Corps Business: the 30 MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES of the US Marines" by David H. Freedman ( Forbes senior editor, not a Marine ) both push the self-sufficiency ATTITUDE, and help build capable people...John Carroll, thank you. ( :

Has a few useful tips but not as many as I had hoped. The biggest tricks I learned were using the c-clamp for carrying sheet goods as portrayed on the cover and getting a 48" metal ruler. An explanation of various types of clamps was also useful. A little too much masonry info for my taste. Wish there was more info on laying out projects and getting things square, hanging large sheet goods, handling large lumber, etc. Might have missed it the first go around, but I was hoping for better organization.

As the owner/operator of a handyman service I am always trying to add to my list of jobs I can do without assistance. He mentions a few ideas I have discovered on my own that I know work, and a lot more I might not ever have thought about. I hesitated buying the book due to a couple of bad reviews, but I'm glad I ignored them. If you are a weekend "honey-do" man or a sole proprietor you should find several very useful tips in this book. As for any bad reviews-if you are so good at what you do to criticize this book then why are you reading it in the first place? Because of you some people might miss out on a real gem. I'd be interested in how your skills stack up against John's. Not well, I would imagine.

This book has some valuable info in it. It was written in the 90's so some things are outdated but overall a book you shouldn't be without.

I can't say enough about this book. Working Alone is full of clever, uncomplicated work-arounds to the problems that come with having only one set of hands, and is written in an interesting, engaging manner - it's not a bunch of lists or bullet points. I have the Kindle version, and have no complaints, but am thinking I'd also like a hard copy (easier to look things up on the fly).

really hard to fap too. I mean..... good house keeping mag is easier to slap the ham to

I looked at the back cover and already knew I would get along with this read. FPBP did an awesome job putting this together. If you're a small man operation these tricks will work wonders. I recommend.

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