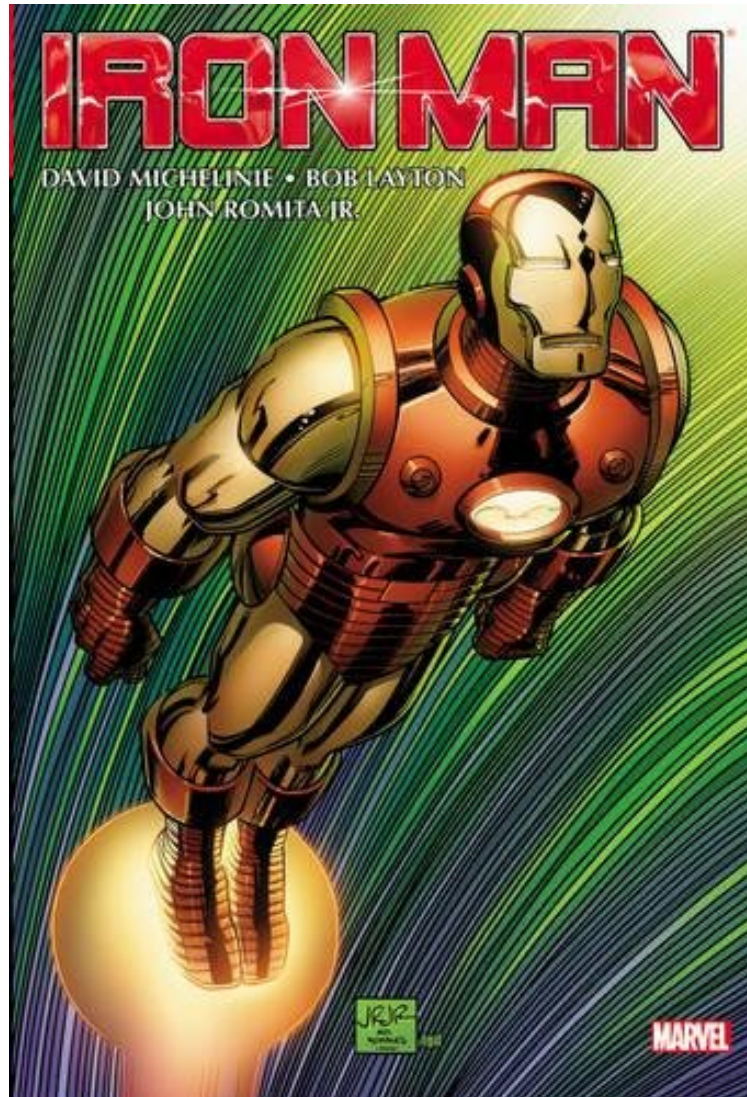


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Iron Man, Vol. 1

David Michelinie, Bob Layton, Bill Mantlo
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David Michelinie, Bob Layton, Bill Mantlo : Iron Man, Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Iron Man, Vol. 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you're going to own one Iron Man book, make it this one. By Obviously In the late 70's Iron Man was a stagnating without much major character development since his first appearance in 1963. Enter the creative team of David Michelinie and Bob Layton who had just fled from writing a few minor books at DC which was about to slim down their staff as comic book sales were declining. When given the choice of which books to work on, books that were slated for cancellation due to low sales numbers, Layton jumped at

the chance to write for Iron Man, a character that the more DC focused Michelinie was unfamiliar with. Iron Man entered a new era with the fresh perspective of Michelinie and the fan knowledge of Layton. Needless to say, Iron Man ended up not getting cancelled and the rest is history. Up until this point Tony Stark had mostly just been a vehicle to move the story along until Iron Man showed up but now he's become far more human, plagued by the stresses of running a company and being a super hero while also just wanting to live his life as the playboy he is. Excessive drinking would evolve into full-blown alcoholism in this book's most famous arc, "Demon in a Bottle," and a character that used to be known for his physical frailties would develop some compelling and believable mental ones. While "Demon in the Bottle" is undoubtedly the spotlight, so much of this book will come to define how Iron Man stories would be told in the future. Corrupt industrialist villains like Justin Hammer and corporate espionage plots play perfectly into the character's playboy businessman roots, adding a distinct dash of James Bond like adventure into the basic super hero formula. Iron Man is tossed against many memorable villains both new and old and even goes toe-to-toe with the Hulk in a fantastic three part story. Later in the run we're given the two-part "Doomquest," based on a story that Bob Layton had thought up when he was young. Iron Man and Dr. Doom are transported to King Arthur's Camelot where they join in battle on opposite sides. It's an incredibly fun adventure and pits Iron Man and Doom directly against one another for the first time. The two armored super geniuses with very different personalities and views instantly make for perfect adversaries. The pairing is a bit of genius that will leave you wondering why no Iron Man writer had thought of it before. In this run we are also introduced to popular supporting characters like the awesome bodyguard/love-interest Bethany Cabe and Tony Stark's best friend, the future Iron Man and War Machine, Jim Rhodes. It also introduces the idea of specialty armors so Iron Man can accomplish tasks his normal armor would be ill suited for like executing stealth missions or going into space. Last but not least the art is done by a young John Romita Jr. While he doesn't yet possess the unique style he'd come to be known for his work here is bold and dynamic, in many regards similar to John Byrne's art who he would later work with on Iron Man in the early 90's. The already solid art is definitely enhanced by Bob Layton's now classic inks which give Iron Man's armor a crisp, metallic quality that it never quite had previously. There's not much else I can say. This is THE definitive run on Iron Man and the place where anyone interested in the character should start. The only thing it's missing is a Mandarin story which is unsurprising since the Mandarin as he was at that time didn't really fit the kind of stories they wanted to tell. Regardless, if you are new to comics and you want to know what the comic book Tony Stark is all about, this is the volume you need and every fan of the character will tell you the same.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent storytelling! By Brian St John This Iron Man run made me pay attention back in the early 1980s when they were on the stands. I loved the eye-grabbing art and I enjoyed the plotlines. Re-reading this was as fun as when I read them the first time through, all those many years ago. For you Iron Man movie fans, this collection gives you the "vibe" of Tony Stark that the movies employ. If you are a casual comics fan but love the movies, you will probably enjoy this book. Be forewarned - it's thick and heavy! It's put together solidly and the colors look beautiful. Cover art is included in the body of the collection. Enjoy some 1970s goodness!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great to get to re-read these great Iron Man tales ... By Robert E. Behers Great to get to re-read these great Iron Man tales from the early 80's. David's story telling was at his max with these tales beautifully rendered by Bob and John. This was my Iron Man, from my age. Tony with a developing alcohol problem, constant business attempts to take over Stark Industries, guest stars from mighty Marvel's endless bullpen! Worth every buck! You won't regret purchasing it!

Up-and-coming talents David Michelinie, Bob Layton and John Romita Jr. joined forces to take on Marvel's Golden Avenger in 1978 - and captured lightning in a bottle! Now, their history-making first run is collected in one massive volume! From Tony Stark's taboo-shattering struggle with alcoholism to Iron Man's legendary clash with Dr. Doom during King Arthur's time, this one's got it all - including Justin Hammer's introduction; a brutal battle against the Hulk; the menaces of Madame Masque, the Melter, Blizzard, Whiplash, the Dreadnoughts, the Titanium Man and more; and the debut of Tony's outer-space and stealth armors! COLLECTING: Iron Man (1968) 115-157