# 7 Template-Macro Solution Guidelines

*by David Liska*

1. **When possible, invest in the template, not the macro**
   - Page breaks, conditional formatting, print areas, and graphs can often be sufficiently and more easily configured in Excel outside of a macro.

2. **A cell reference does not need to be just a cell reference**
   - Combine cell values together or with literals using "&" or the CONCATENATE function. You may also save a step elsewhere with a value-changing function.

3. **Use tabs to organize or expand capability**
   - As your projects advance in complexity, you can imagine your workbooks as three-dimensional constructs progressed through time by macros.
     Life is too short to be limited to 17,179,869,184 cells!

4. **Show me the $**
   - Using the dollar sign ($) deliberately in formula cell references can allow them to be easily dragged to encompass large areas without modification.

5. **Mind the code!**
   - The use of comments, indentation and VBA variable naming conventions can make it easier to write or revisit code you haven't seen in a while.

6. **You can avoid an empty nest**
   - Nesting formulas within formulas, IF statements within IF statements, and macro loops within loops can allow for incredible amounts of processing capability.

7. **Do as I do, not as I say**
   - Use Excel's Record Macro feature to get started or to learn unfamiliar code.