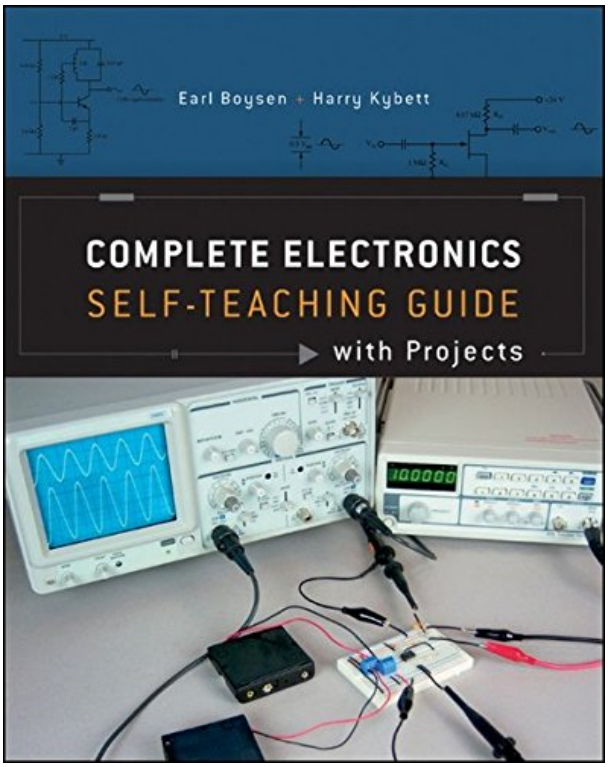
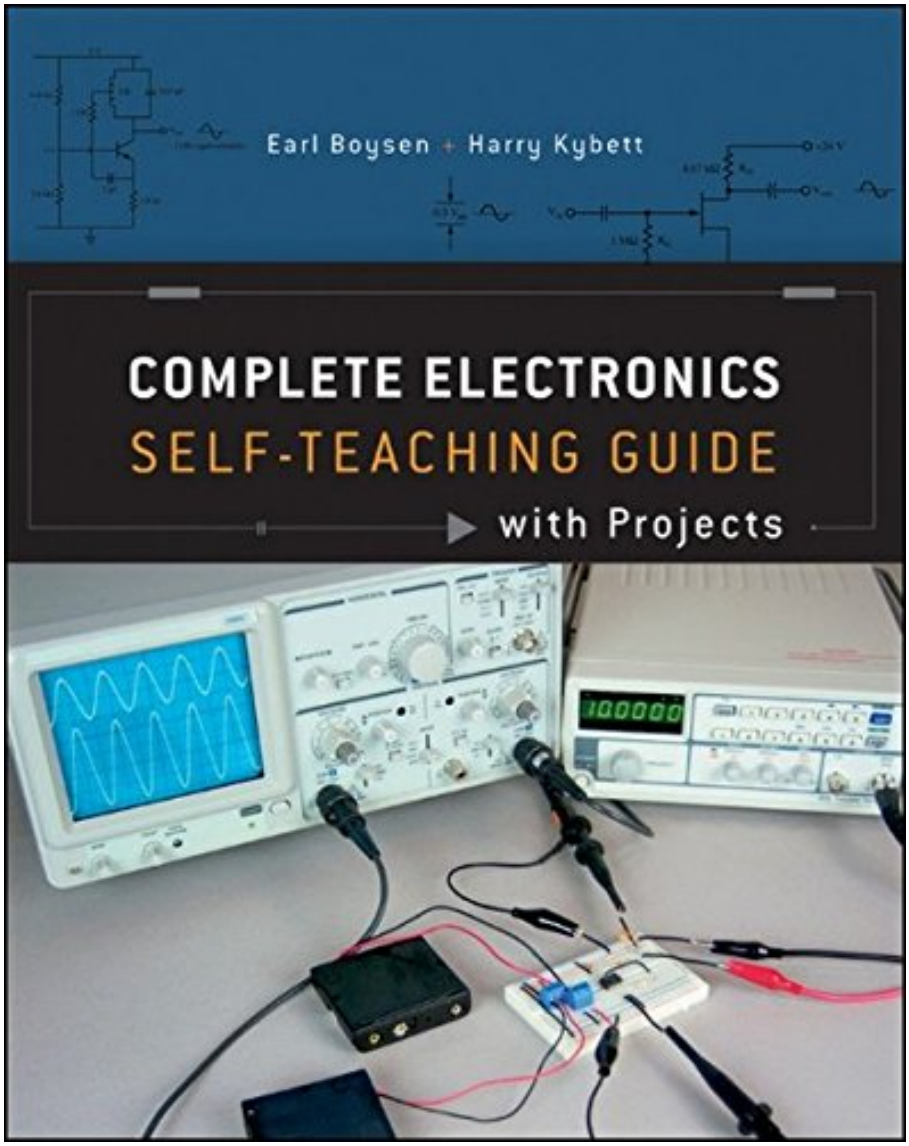
COMPLETE ELECTRONICS SELF-TEACHING GUIDE WITH PROJECTS BY EARL BOYSEN, HARRY KYBETT





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From the Back Cover

Follow hands-on projects so you can work with electronic circuits

Are you ready to keep up with the rapidly evolving world of electronic products? From smartphones and tablets to MP3 players and digital cameras, this resource will build your understanding of how the latest electronic circuits work. You'll dive into hands-on projects and walk through the calculations and concepts for key circuits to get you up to speed. As you progress through the chapters, you'll learn how to build the circuits, and then observe or measure how they work so you can apply the information on your own.

- Learn how to control the flow of electric current
- Design a transistor circuit, and compare the switching action of a JFET and a BJT
- Explore the use of resistors, capacitors, and inductors in bandpass and band-reject filters
- Use BJTs, JFETs, and operational amplifiers in amplifier circuits
- Find out how an oscillator works, and then design and build one
- Discover how a transformer converts AC voltage to a higher or lower voltage
- Calculate the values of components that produce a specified DC output voltage for a power supply circuit

The book's website (www.buildinggadgets.com) provides project pages that include links to suppliers and are kept up to date with supplier part numbers for components you'll need.

About the Author

Earl Boysen is a veteran engineer who maintains two technology-focused websites, www.buildinggadgets.com and www.understandingnano.com. He is coauthor of the first edition of Electronics For Dummies as well as Electronics Projects For Dummies and Nanotechnology For Dummies, all published by Wiley.

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An all-in-one resource on everything electronics-related!

For almost 30 years, this book has been a classic text for electronics enthusiasts. Now completely updated for today's technology, this latest version combines concepts, self-tests, and hands-on projects to offer you a completely repackaged and revised resource. This unique self-teaching guide features easy-to-understand explanations that are presented in a user-friendly format to help you learn the essentials you need to work with electronic circuits.

All you need is a general understanding of electronics concepts such as Ohm's law and current flow, and an acquaintance with first-year algebra. The question-and-answer format, illustrative experiments, and self-tests at the end of each chapter make it easy for you to learn at your own speed.

- Boasts a companion website that includes more than twenty full-color, step-by-step projects
- Shares hands-on practice opportunities and conceptual background information to enhance your learning process
- Targets electronics enthusiasts who already have a basic knowledge of electronics but are interested in learning more about this fascinating topic on their own
- Features projects that work with the multimeter, breadboard, function generator, oscilloscope, bandpass filter, transistor amplifier, oscillator, rectifier, and more

You're sure to get a charge out of the vast coverage included in Complete Electronics Self-Teaching Guide with Projects!

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Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

189 of 204 people found the following review helpful.
CAUTION: Disproportionate number of Vine reviews. A 3 star book with numerous problems
By One-Reader
This could be a truly excellent book, but ... it needs some competent technical editing.

If this book is quickly scanned and "flipped through", and the table of contents read, it might seem an outstanding book for those starting electronics. However, actually reading the book and going through the problems sets reveals there are just too many errors and ordering issues. (see below).

The problems start as early as chapter 1, "Review and Pre-Test". Questions are frequently asked before the information for an answer is provided, not the other way around as is appropriate for a self-teaching guide.

For example, the authors ask a question, for which readers are expected to provide an answer on the blank lines provided, "What is electrical current?". However, they provide the information for this answer after, and not before the question.

There are throughout this book more factual and calculation errors than expected or acceptable. In the presentation of the V-I curve, the curve is presented with current on the vertical axis and volts on the horizontal axis. The authors then ask the question, "what is the slope of this curve?".

The slope of a curve is (y2-y1)/(x2-x1). Ohm's law provides R = V/I not R=I/V. However, the authors state the slope of this curve is the resistance. This would be true if the curve was reversed, i.e., with volts on the vertical axis and current on the horizontal one, but is not true as presented.

Here are a few other errors that provide an understanding of the problems present: To get the answers provided on page 26 Problem B, the total current has to be less than that stated by the authors. The formula on page 27 is not the correct one for I2 but for I1. In Chapter 2 readers are shown a circuit on page 81 and than asked to answer a question about that circuit on page 82. Unfortunately, not enough information is given to answer the question asked. However, in the answer an assumption, for which no basis is presented, provides the missing information, etc. These seemingly "small" mistakes could be particularly confusing to beginners.

The authors are not consistent about rounding, providing answers with two digits after the decimal point in some places and one in others. This is problematic as it often results in reader's answers not agreeing with the authors, particularly where the final answer requires several consecutive calculations. For example, Chapter One's DC Pre Test provides "wrong" answers to some problems such as 9 and 10B, where apparently rounding was used in some steps and, thus, the answers obtained are not correct to any reasonable degree of precision.

Because of these problems, confidence in the material presented is often low, and readers need to independently confirm that the information provided is correct.

Care in learning earlier material often makes independent confirmation possible, although not always. The mistakes present may even enhance learning for confident students, as they catch the mistakes. However, for those with less confidence, the presence of many mistakes could be a significant problem.

The problems clearly result from inadequate technical editing, and attention during writing. This is unexpected from a usually outstanding publisher such as Wiley, particularly for a book in a later edition. Some beginners may find the relatively large number of mistakes daunting.

Hopefully, later printings or editions will correct a large portion of this printing's (the first) problems. Another book in this series, "Quick Calculus: A Self-Teaching Guide, 2nd Edition" while now an exceptional book, also had numerous errors in its earlier printings.

-----A hopefully gentle rant-----

I hope Vine reviewers will not be too upset with these next comments, as these reviewers may perform a useful function for an item that has no reviewers.

However, those of us who pay for our books have more "skin in the game" than Vine reviewers. We "buyers", perhaps, read our purchases more carefully, and are less tolerant if a book has problems and probably less hesitant to point out its weaknesses.

I often rely on reviews to make a purchase decision. Unfortunately, here the ratio of Vine reviewers compared to "real" buyers seems disproportionate and inappropriately high.

The number of positive ratings a book receives often correlates to the chronology of posted reviews and their evaluation. For example, reviews made before a book has many "real" buyers tend to be high. That is the case here, where most of the highly rated reviews, the leading review is an example, are from Vine reviewers

who apparently received the book before many "real buyers" did. This may be a cautionary sign.

Often a five star Vine review, even if not the most highly rated review, heads the review list. This appears, to me, to be a disservice to potential buyers, although perhaps not to potential sales.

Amazon should reconsider its policy, if it involves "flooding" Vine reviewers shortly after a book is published with free copies, as this may serve to raise a book's evaluation, perhaps inappropriately.

If a potential buyer selects to "See all customer reviews", Amazon now defaults to reviews that show the "Most Helpful First" rather than the "Newest First". To see the newest first the potential buyer must make a manual selection. This default is likely to present Vine Reviews first, as these reviewers often appear to get books to evaluate before buyers, and in some instances appear to rate a technical book even before it is completely "worked through". This seems an inappropriate default, as the first page frequently presents some Vine reviews first, owing to their postings chronology.

We should also be cautious of reviews from reviewers with more that 930 book reviews. That would average about one book a week, for each of the 18 years since 1995 when Amazon first went active. This is, to me, an impossible schedule if it includes fully reading and solving the problems in technical books such as the one reviewed here.

Reviewers who have NOT worked though a technical book before reviewing, do a disservice to potential buyers.

Hopefully, Amazon can develop an algorithm that minimizes Vine reviewers' contribution to a book's "star rating" once the proportion of buyers providing reviews is relatively high. It seems appropriate for Amazon to consider accepting only a single Vine review from Vine reviewers who have not bought the book reviewed.

Hopefully, the ratings problem will correct itself over time as more buyers obtain and read this book, and potential buyers read and rate the reviews of buyers, as opposed to Vine reviewers. Now, however, to this reader/buyer in view of the errors and other problems present, the book's rating seems inappropriately high.

----- End of rant -----

This book really has a lot to offer to its intended audience. The basic organization and design of this book is exceptional. With the proper editing this book clearly deserves, and proper attention given to the ordering of information, it could easily deserve five stars.

However, the errors now present are egregious and pervasive. Until, and if, they are corrected, three stars seems appropriate.

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful.
Please correct errors...
By elcaudio
Although errors have already stated with detail, I would like to add that some of these errors go back several editions. I have been teaching electronics for years, and picked this book up while the Second Edition was its most recent incarnation. For students who are new to electronics, minor errors are BIG headaches. In algebra, we're taught that slope = rise/run (vertical/horizontal; y/x; etc.). Early on, the book says resistance is slope of graph, but the horizontal (volts) and vertical (currents) are reversed; that is, the graph (shown in a

figure) is of I/V, which is reciprocal of resistance.
I like the presentation of the book, and have recommended it to others, However, my caveat has always been explaining where the errors are so that students don't get confused. It is my hope that careful editing will improve future editions. The same errors being repeated over and over don't help anyone, nor do they reflect well on the publisher. Friendly criticism, I hope, for the book is (mostly) excellent. Best regards, ELC

48 of 66 people found the following review helpful.
A Terrific Book to learn about discrete electronics circuits at your own pace
By Mark Colan
WHAT THIS BOOK IS

This is a great beginner's book on discrete electronics. It combines reading lessons with lab experiments to solidify the learning; there is a great emphasis on learning by doing. It assumes you know just some basic information about AC and DC electronics, such as the difference between these two, and Ohm's Law, but would like to understand the operation of components used in simple solid-state circuits.

The focus is on discrete electronics - diodes, transistors, JFETs, and the like. It also covers operational amplifiers. While integrated circuits are in widespread use today, an understanding of discrete electronics is also essential, and complimentary to them. Working with ICs is easy, and you can learn by doing. But often you need to use them together, and without the knowledge of discrete electronics, that can be tough. If you know a lot about discrete electronics, you will understand using integrated circuits much better; the reverse is not necessarily true.

It would be fair to compare this to another great beginner's book, Make: Electronics (Learning by Discovery), another book I love and find exciting. That book and its experiments are sometimes like playing, but with important lessons learned through observation. Make covers both ICs and discrete, but without as much depth on the latter. By comparison, Complete Electronics is less playful, deeper and more comprehensive on discrete. It is a self-paced, workbook-oriented, self-taught course with lots of questions, quizzes, and answers.

Depending on what you plan to develop, you will need to understand discrete, ICs, or both. There are plenty of places to learn ICs. They are comparatively easy to understand. There are fewer that will help you understand discrete electronics and the test equipment that go with them.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS NOT

This book does not cover digital components (logic, processor, controller chips) for the most part; the focus is on analog components. A knowledge of how analog components work is very helpful for understanding the basic operation of digital components, but a deep understanding of analog is not necessary to be able to design with digital components.

This is not a project-oriented book of the sort that you would want to show off to your friends and maybe keep around. The projects are not uninteresting, but they are designed for their educational purposes rather than coolness factor. Unless, of course, you find it way cool to watch waveforms on an oscilliscope and take measurements to verify the outcomes of calculations you have made, in which case you're all set.

Think of the projects here as learning lab experiments, not fun toys. Remember that most project-oriented books are not designed to teach you the theory and mathematics of how electronics works, and that is what this book is all about.

WHO IT'S FOR

I learned about Ohm's Law and current flows in sixth grade. At that age I would have found this book quite challenging, but I would have gotten something out of it. Certainly by eigth grade or high school I could have managed this book - I really wish it was available then! It is probably best suited to bright kids or adults who know some basic algebra, have learned the basics of electronics, and are willing to work at it - they should have no trouble getting through this book, given enough time and perseverence.

STRUCTURE

The book has 554 pages, consisting of the table of contents, some introductory material, 12 chapters, 7 appendices, and the index. To understand the teaching method, let's have a look at a typical chapter, Chapter 4, The Transistor Switch.

The first 14 pages has a mix of teaching text with schematics, along with questions and their answers, including the mathematics that shows how to calculate the answers. At that point you get to Project 4.1, The Transistor Switch, in which they present a simple circuit to generate an infrared light (with an IR LED), and another that sounds a buzzer when the expected IR light is blocked. A transistor is employed in the latter. They spend six pages telling you how to build it with schematics, parts list, clear pictures of the breadboard, and step-by-step instructions. Then there are variations, and lots of questions. After about 37 pages of discussing various using standard transistors, they introduce a JFET in a similar role, again with teaching text, an experiment, and lots of questions. The chapter is about 51 pages long; it is a bit longer on average than the others.

In the middle of the book is a color photo section for the projects. This is probably to save money; the Make book took a more expensive approach and uses a lot more color throughout, but it is a shorter and more expensive book. Within the projects pages are less-expensive black-and-white photos. Obviously they are less useful for things like color codes, but they are rather good as b&w photos go (much better than Tab books for example) and clear enough to be useful. In the section reviewing AC circuits, there is a 5-page inset on using the oscilloscope.

CONTENTS

Appendix F: Equation Reference
Appendix G: Schematic Symbols Used In This Book

TEST EQUIPMENT

Aside from learning how circuits work, working through the experiments in this book will give you plenty of knowledge and experience in using test equipment such as multimeters and oscilliscopes, which will be handy for troubleshooting and for fixing things that don't work. Don't balk at the idea: such test equipment is available for less than you might think, either by way of the used market, or by way of new, solid-state equipment being made in China which is better than you might think for the money (such as Rigol). Gaining more familiarity with the oscilliscope in particular was a big attraction for me.

ELECTRONICS PARTS

You will need some parts to do the projects, and doing the projects will be an essential part of the learning. But the breadboards and the parts you will use are inexpensive and readily available.

COMMENT

Another reviewer dismissed this book as "dated" because it does not feature integrated circuits. I would argue that it really depends on what you need to do. You can't build everything out of just integrated circuits; discrete circuits are not obsolete. To be sure, ICs are in widespread use, and for good reason, but if you go looking at circuits in other books and on the Web, you'll find a lot of discrete components mixed in, and there are plenty of circuits with no ICs. Also, if you expect to repair electronic devices, understanding the circuits and how to use the equipment that analyzes them is essential. When you do, this looks like the book to start with.

And that reviewer says read Make instead. I say read Make also. They are BOTH great books.

BOTTOM LINE

I have not yet worked through all the experiments to know that everything works and to know that there are no errors, but I have spent enough time with this book to know that I want to go through it in detail, and plan to do so. I find it very exciting, and see nothing I would improve in it. I do not often give five star reviews ("I Love It") but I love this book!

See all 60 customer reviews...

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