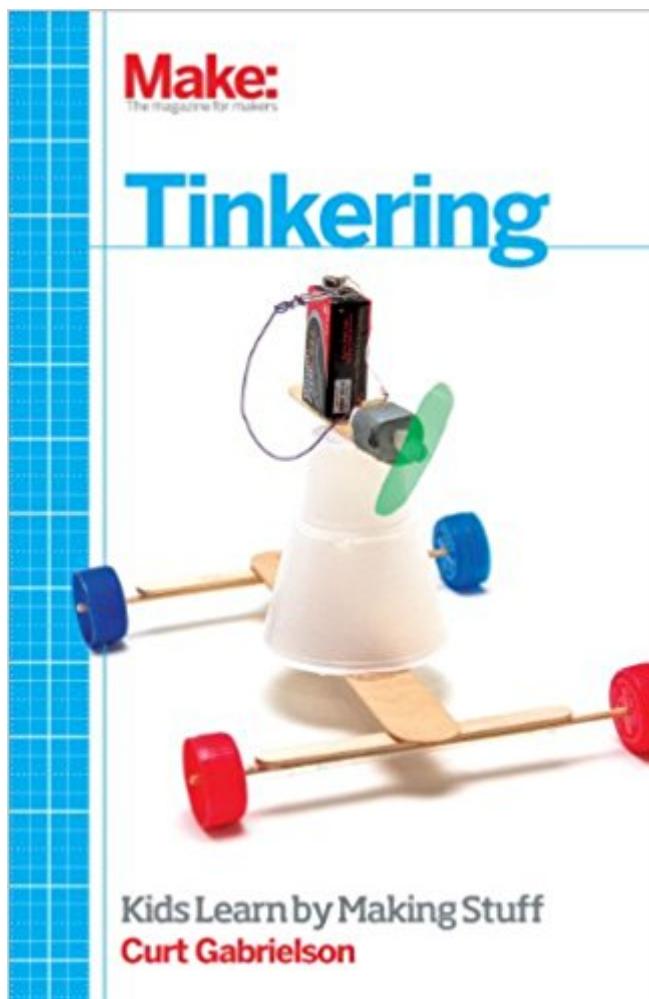


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# Tinkering: Kids Learn By Making Stuff



## Synopsis

After-school and out-of-school programs—as well as home schooling—have been growing steadily for nearly a decade, but instructors are still searching for high-interest content that ties into science standards without the rigidity of current classroom canon. The author draws on more than 20 years of experience doing hands-on science to facilitate tinkering: learning science while fooling around with real things. In this book, you'll learn:Tinkering techniques in key science areas How to let kids learn science with hands-on tinkering Engaging techniques for science learning at home, in school, or at a makerspace or library Step-by-step instructions for activities that don't end with a single project, but that provide many paths for "tinkering forward".

## Book Information

Age Range: 11 - 17 years

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## Customer Reviews

This book is terrific! The philosophy couldn't have been better stated. Curt writes beautifully; it's very readable and his overall message is indisputably valuable, especially in these times of electronic gadgets. As the book points out, in recent years we find our kids can't even tie their shoes! Thus, in order to truly learn science, they need access to these sorts of hands-on opportunities more than ever. So hooray for the very valuable notion of community science workshops, such as have been pioneered in California!Paul Hewitt, Author of Conceptual Physics

Curt Gabrielson runs the Watsonville Environmental Science Workshop and works with science education in East Timor. He has been a science educator for more than 20 years, with positions in the California public schools, the National University of East Timor, and San Francisco's Exploratorium Teacher Institute.

This book is filled with low cost ideas for exposing kids to science. Although the primary audience is adults (teachers or group leaders of kids), there is no reason why younger people can't enjoy the projects. Curt has worked for years with "at-risk" and rough kids--kids falling through the cracks. The techniques and materials described are useful for after school or home school students. The hands on activities are a useful exposure to science and, more importantly, the tinkering provides successful experiences that build confidence. When I was a little kid, an aunt used to provide me with broken mechanical alarm clocks to "fix." I was quite good at tearing them apart (not so good at putting them back together). Years later, I went to college and became an electrical engineer. I honestly believe that exposure to this type of "tinkering" helps a child learn about herself and her world. If you want to help kids, pick up a copy of this book--you won't be disappointed.

This is an awesome book for jump-starting your kid's imagination from stuff that is easily at hand. My only complaint is that the print edition DOES NOT HAVE COLOR PHOTOS in it which makes for a disappointing reading experience, since the photos are so crucial in the context of this particular book:(

I liked the ideas in the book, but for a 10 year old, some pictures inside would have been nice.

Wonderful resource for anyone interested in getting familiar with tinkering as an educational tool. The book is written for beginners and, although it caters for educators, it was very useful and interesting for me as a parent.

The photos in this book are horrible to see. It is so draining to try to figure out what is going on that I have no interest in this book whatsoever. What a waste of money.

Quality of the print is horrible, interior book design very cheapo, and tons of typos. I expected more from Make magazine. But the ideas are good.

Even from a young age my grandson showed an interest in making things that worked, so that it carried him beyond Legos. This was the perfect book for him to refer to in order to get involved with a hobby that teaches him about how the universe is organized and what is possible to make in order to pursue his passion.

I like looking through these kind of books. Some interesting ideas in this one. Worth getting.

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