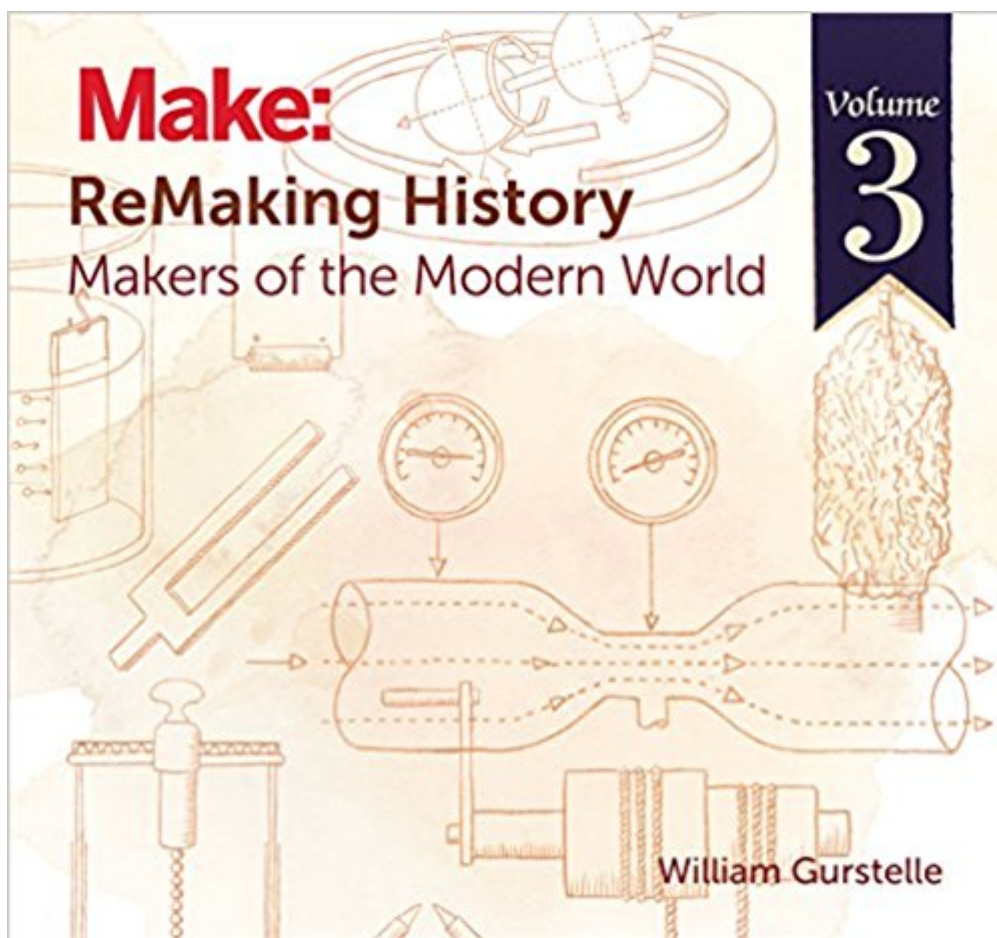


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ReMaking History, Volume 3: Makers Of The Modern World



Synopsis

Makers of the Modern World is the third volume of William Gurstelle's unique, hands-on journey through history. Each chapter examines a remarkable character from the past, one of the people whose insights and inventions helped create our modern world. What sets this series apart from other history books - including other histories of technology - is that each chapter also includes step-by-step instructions for making your own version of the historical invention. History comes to life in a way you have never experienced before when you follow the inventors' steps and recreate the groundbreaking devices of the past with your own hands. This volume brings you to the early modern era and the invention of the electric light, the movie projector, and the automobile. Inside, you will discover: Alessandro Volta and Electroplating Humphrey Davy and the First Electric light George Cayley and the Aeronautical Glider The Lumiere Brothers and the Movie Projector Rudolf Diesel and the Automobile Engine Hans Goldschmidt and the Thermite Reaction August Mobius and the Mobius Strip Louis Poinso's Loads, Moments, and Torques Be sure to also check out ReMaking History, Volume 1: Early Makers and ReMaking History Volume 2 : Industrial Revolutionaries.

Book Information

File Size: 29758 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Maker Media, Inc; 1 edition (February 23, 2017)

Publication Date: March 13, 2017

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06XKJ1LHV

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #602,118 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20

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Customer Reviews

This is the latest volume in a fun, eye-opening and definitely educational series. Volume 3 succinctly covers a range of key discoveries and inventions during the period roughly 1800 to 1950, the so-called "Golden Age of Invention." And numerous projects in the book give readers a chance to try out the discoveries and inventions using modern devices or do-it-yourself parts. The projects range from building and testing a model truss bridge to building a dynamic loudspeaker from scratch, making and using a telegraph key, amplifying a tiny current with transistors, and assembling and flying a model glider inspired by an 1804 design. This is not a book that you can just hand to your kids and say "Go build something." Adult involvement definitely is needed. And even adults with good tools skills may be challenged by some of the projects, such as assembling an air muscle or building a hand-cranked cam and follower that demonstrates how movie projectors evolved. There is one project choice that I think could have been handled better. When you construct a telegraph key, you also are shown how to build a sounder. But the sounder's old 19th-century clickity-click noises commonly heard in Western movies is not an inspiring way to learn International Morse Code, which is still used by many thousands of amateur radio operators worldwide. Instead, a buzzer or simple code oscillator could sound the dots and dashes (dits and dahs) in a more realistic way that can still be heard in 21st century shortwave radio. (My thanks to O'Reilly Media for sending an advance reading copy.)

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