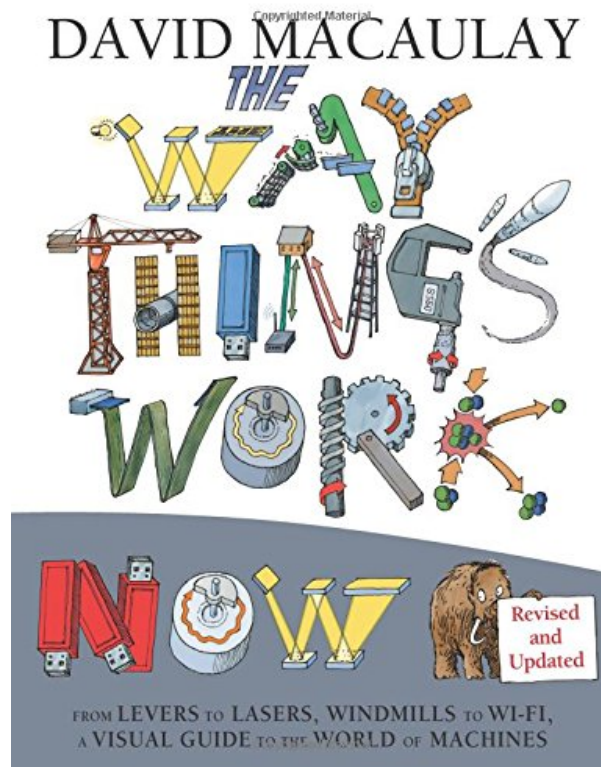


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From School Library Journal

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A New York Times Bestseller

Explainer-in-Chief David Macaulay updates the worldwide bestseller *The New Way Things Work* to capture the latest developments in the technology that most impacts our lives. Famously packed with information on the inner workings of everything from windmills to Wi-Fi, this extraordinary and humorous book both guides readers through the fundamental principles of machines, and shows how the developments of the past are building the world of tomorrow. This sweepingly revised edition embraces all of the latest developments, from touchscreens to 3D printer. Each scientific principle is brilliantly explained--with the help of a charming, if rather slow-witted, woolly mammoth.

An illustrated survey of significant inventions closes the book, along with a glossary of technical terms, and an index. What possible link could there be between zippers and plows, dentist drills and windmills? Parking meters and meat grinders, jumbo jets and jackhammers, remote control and rockets, electric guitars and egg beaters? Macaulay explains them all.

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Most helpful customer reviews

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

A rare masterpiece, updated

By one bad cat

I'm unusually attached to this book: I laid my hands on the earlier edition as a very young child, and it probably shaped my interests more than anything else - ultimately setting me on a very interesting and rewarding life path. I've gotten the 1998 edition for my eldest son when he was perhaps four, and it's been his favorite for many years now.

In the end, "The Way Things Work" is quite simply spectacular, packed with information about the world around us, funny, accessible, and inspiring. While there are one or two illustrations that aren't as clear as they should have been, and a minor error creeps up here and there, it's still a magnificent piece of work born out of true passion and skill. If you have a technically inclined young kid, chances are, you will not regret buying them this.

As for the updated 2016 edition: compared to the 1998 version, the changes are incremental but fairly substantial, with a treatment of e-paper displays, digital cameras, accelerometers, and so on. Some of this may make you nostalgic - say, a mechanically simpler optical mouse takes place of the rolling ball design - but overall, it's a much-needed and worthwhile reboot.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

It's a book to entertain minds and satisfy curiosity

By Steve S. Yang

I learned this edition of the book on a NPR interview with the author recently and immediately placed a pre-sale order on Amazon. It arrived the 3rd day after it went on sales. These days while everything and anything can be found online through Google or Bing search by a few keywords, knowledge and information seem cheap and vast, but rarely pure and condensed like what are provided in this book. Turning the pages, there are beautifully hand-drawn schematics and pictures to illustrate how things around us work, clear and simple, complimented with easy-to-understand English to explain in details what's not covered by drawings. The book covers wide range of topics from how a key works to what makes a scanner ticking. It explains extremely well the physics, mechanical engineering, electronics, etc in things that surround our modern daily life. No question about it, such book should be had by every family, every school library, or everywhere education, especially STEM education, is in need. Oh, yeah, it is also entertaining and artistically appealing.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

High Level explanations.

By Paula R. Schoeff

I have all of his books, but this one seems to be very, very technical. Much more geared to middle or high school -- or adults who are already technically inclined. Seems like he lost the fun on the original book. I will continue to use the previous version for my students.

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