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Make: Like The Pioneers: A Day In The Life With Sustainable, Low-Tech/No-Tech Solutions



Synopsis

You may have mastered Arduino and 3D printing, but what will you make when the power goes out? This book, featuring projects drawn from previous issues of Make: and Craft:, features projects you can build with little or no technology. Whether it's making your own cider or starting a fire with a bow drill, the projects in this book will let you keep making even when you're away from civilization. Whether you're on a camping trip or fortifying the last human settlement against hordes of zombies, you'll find something in this book that will keep you happy, engaged, and most important of all... alive! Projects include: Making fire with a bow drill Old-school bookbinding Kitchen table cider making Hogwash bacon soap Da Vinci reciprocating mechanism The Rok-Bak chair Olive oil lamp

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

Customer Reviews

This is a collection of 13 articles from Make magazine, written by different authors, each one being a maker project that does not involve any electrical components, and you could probably have done most of these 150 years ago. It's a relatively thin volume for the price, but the projects are all interesting and things you might actually want to make. You can see the full contents in the "Look inside this Book" feature of for the complete list of projects. The book is only around 100 pages long, so there are just a few pages for most projects, and the writing and illustration varies

depending on the author and age of the article. But I found all the projects interesting, and will consider trying them all out at some point. The projects are divided up into "morning", "afternoon", and "evening" projects, though this division seems sort of unnecessary and forced. Most of them don't require exotic materials, and you might either have the tools and materials laying around your house already, or a quick trip to just about any store would set you up. Having some outdoor space to work would be a requirement for many of them. Would be a good gift book for a teenager or anyone interested in making things with their hands. G.

This is an interesting little book that focus on low tech projects, not really the usual for make. Overall I thought that this was a fun book to browse, but was left wondering who the target audience was. I'd say few adults would do many of the projects, but many were also too complex for kids or required power tools beyond their use. The book is pretty thin at 110 pages, but contains 13 projects that span cooking to knot tying to making a stool. While many of these were interesting, it again confused me as to whom this is aimed. Making your own soap and cider targets one group, but making a chair, stool, or DaVinci mechanism are very different from this. The most useful thing I found was the lashing lesson on effectively building things with branches/logs. The cooking projects could be useful as well, but are not anything revolutionary. In the end, if you have a young child and are looking for some fun projects to do together that get you outdoors, in the shop, or in the kitchen, this isn't a bad place to start. Lots of ideas to be had, but not for the lone adult or lone kid in my opinion. Another good thing is that book is pretty cheap considering all of the nice color figures inside.

I was not familiar with Make: magazine, though now I've learned it delineates DIY projects that are often electronic and modern in focus, so this manual is a departure from their usual style. This manual collects 13 projects culled from the last ten years of the publication. Each article is written by a different author, and the editors have organized the projects into a pioneer's day. The topics are making: a fire with a bow drill, bacon lard soap, apple cider, paper, bookbinding, a stool and a chair. There is a great lesson on lashing things together -- very useful for gardeners! -- as well as instructions for pickling, brining a turkey, roasting pumpkin seeds, and building da Vinci's reciprocating mechanism and a prehistoric oil lamp. The projects are interesting, and I was really impressed by the clear instructions and plentiful, useful photos. My only complaint is that I would have liked more projects! This is fun and informative for the DIY-er, but would also be useful for homeschooled who want to talk about pioneer (or Renaissance or prehistoric) life.

I have been a fan of Make magazine for years. One of the reasons for it is due to it's range of projects which go from the simple to the complex. This one is no different. (The projects range from roasting pumpkin seeds in the oven to recreating a Da Vinci invention.) Reading this, I was very much reminded of the Foxcraft books which were popular in the 1970s and 1980s although this book has far nicer photos and a hipper edge to it. (In fact, the photos are the best part. Nearly every step of every project is accompanied by photos.) If you've ever wanted to press your own cider, make your own soap, or bind your own books, then this book is for you. Even if you're not a hardcore DIY-er or someone who plans to live off the grid, even doing a few of them will make you appreciate the effort that went into some of the many things that we take to granted today like paper. Best off, there are a few projects in here that even young kids will do. (I plan on making the paper with my 6 year old.) My only beef: I wish there were more projects in here, in place of the photojournal project on lashing that takes up several pages.

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