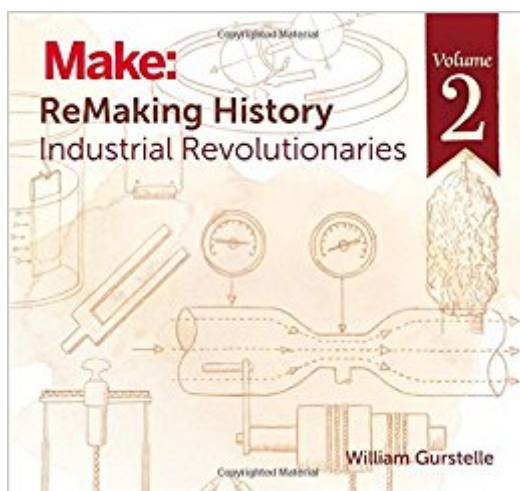


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ReMaking History, Volume 2: Industrial Revolutionaries



Synopsis

Industrial Revolutionaries is the second volume in William Gurstelle's unique exploration of history's great inventors. Each chapter revisits the life and times of one of the forward-thinking revolutionaries who helped create the world we live in. You will not only learn about their great inventions, you'll also get step-by-step instructions for recreating them yourself. History will come to life as you have never experienced it before when you build it with your own hands. Inside this volume, you will discover: Joseph McKibben and the Air Muscle, Squire Whipple and the Iron Bridge, Abe Lincoln and the Campaign Torch, Samuel Morse and the Telegraph, J.F. Daniell and the Storage Battery, Ben Franklin and the Leyden Jar, Charles Goodyear and the Vulcanization of Rubber. Be sure to also check out ReMaking History, Volume 1: Early Makers and ReMaking History, Volume 3: Makers of the Modern World.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bring history to life by making it yourself

William Gurstelle is an American nonfiction author, magazine writer, and inventor. He is a feature columnist for Make: magazine and the Pyrotechnics and Ballistics Editor at Popular Mechanics magazine.

Volume 2 of Make's "ReMaking History" series offers readers another skillful blending of history,

scientific and mathematical principles, plus do-it-yourself projects that help demonstrate the spirit of discovery. "The projects in this book," William Gurstelle explains, "were inspired by inventions of the time period from about 1700 to 1875, a period often known as the Industrial Revolution....." It was a time, he adds, when people began to "use machines instead of human labor to make lots of stuff more cheaply, and doing so would be the way of the future." Some of the DIY projects in this book are more difficult than others, and none of them appear appropriate for young children unless they are closely supervised by adults who are competent with tools. Middle schoolers and high schoolers should be supervised, as well, since some of the projects involve flames, corrosive chemicals, drills and other tools. Some of the book's projects include: copper-plating a small metal sign; fireproofing some pieces of cloth and wood; creating a Chinese (or differential) windlass for lifting heavy weights with a simple crank and not much force; and making a static electricity generator, plus a Leyden jar similar to the one Benjamin Franklin used to prove that lightning was electricity and not something supernatural, "the work of demons." Other projects include making a homemade electric arc lamp (powered by a battery and not a wall socket!), making a vacuum pump, making a tuning fork, and making vulcanized rubber erasers. Gurstelle's book is well illustrated with photographs, drawings and other graphics. And his text is nicely written and easily accessible. While keeping his explanations short and to the point, he offers engaging details about the history, people, and beneficial accidents or encounters that enabled the discoveries to occur and be exploited for progress. My thanks to Maker Media for providing an advance review copy.

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