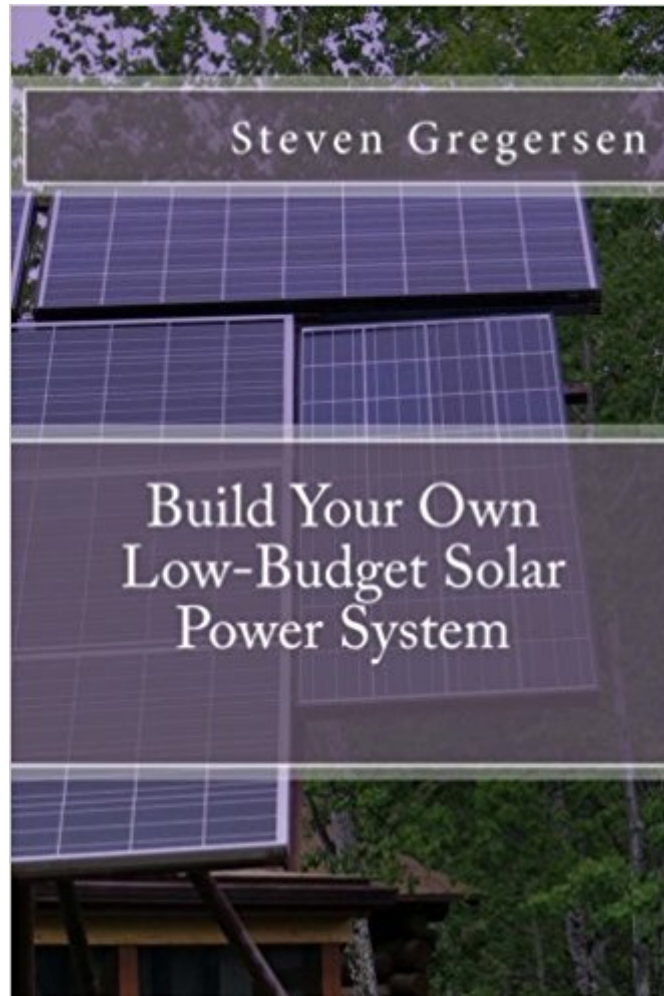




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Build Your Own Low-Budget Solar Power System



Synopsis

This book is designed to address the concerns of those whose only desire is to build a simple, small-scale solar energy system but don't know where to start (or end!). We've been living off the grid for well over ten years now and the most common inquiry we get is from people who want to set up a small solar energy system to power a cabin or camper, or to keep a refrigerator and a few lights on if the grid goes down. Some have already tried and ended up with woefully inadequate systems lacking the power and balance needed for off-grid life. But there's more to off-grid living than watts, volts and amps. It's important to understand how a solar power system works and how to size it properly for the job you want it to do. In this book I've condensed all the information you need to design your own simple, off-grid, solar power system. I'm not going to teach how to build your own solar panels but I'll tell you how purchase factory components to build the system that fits your needs the best and hopefully save you a lot of frustration and cash while putting it together. We'll see how to understand watts, volts, amps, and ohms and how they apply to deciding how many solar panels you need, the watt ratings you'll have to have for your inverter and charge controller and even how many batteries you'll need for your battery bank. You'll learn about resistance, and how it affects your solar power system. I will explain with diagrams and text the differences between sine wave, modified sine wave and pure sine wave inverters and how that applies to you. I'll explain charge controllers and the reasons for and against PWM vs. MPPT vs. single-stage vs. multiple-stage controllers and which is best for you. I'll tell you a little secret about "efficient" vs. "less efficient" solar panels that will keep you from wasting money on something that's a relatively minor issue. Even if you don't want a "whole house" system you'll learn how to put together balanced small-scale power systems at whatever size you can afford. We'll also look at solar power "kits" and I'll show you how to put together your own that outperform commercially available kits and get more power for less money. My goal here is to simplify that which has been made complicated. I want you to be able to pursue your dream of independence from the grid without spending enough money to break the bank. It can be done, and for less than you may imagine!

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Customer Reviews

Steven Gregersen lives with his wife on a 20 acre (almost!) self-sufficient, off-grid homestead in the mountains of northwestern Montana. His early years were spent in Kansas where he worked summers on his grandparent's farm. He enrolled in the auto-mechanic's course at the local vocational school while still attending High School. Upon graduating he served three years in the USMC. After that he pursued a career as an auto mechanic, eventually owning his own auto repair business. Steven has been a life-long student. He grew up hunting and fishing and, as an adult, added trapping, ammunition reloading, gardening, animal husbandry, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, photography and other skills. He earned his college degree in his late 30s and served as a pastor and Christian camp director. His primary source of income at this time is writing. He's had articles published in Fur-Fish-Game magazine, Traditional Bowhunter magazine, Primitive Archer magazine, Backwoodsman magazine, Back Home magazine, Backwoods Home magazine, and several others. He currently has two books in print and is working on a third. His writing is not based on research but on his experiences in life. He's a "hands on" type of guy. When there's a new skill to be learned he's never content to just read or watch a Youtube video. He has to do it himself. When he writes of homesteading, shooting, reloading, hunting or any other topic you can bet that he's done it himself and is sharing that experience with you.

I found this book really helpful. I've read a few other books and several articles, blogs and discussion threads on this subject, but I like the way Gregersen lays out the requirements, options and calculations and gives the reader an easy way to grasp it all. I have come back to this many times, and use it as my main guide supplemented by other resources.

This was a very useful book for understanding and planning out an off grid solar system for our cabin. The author uses great examples to explain the basic electrical concepts you need to know,

without bogging you down in technical jargon. All of the components of a complete system are covered, including practical tips and opinions learned for his own experiences. It's a short read, and I now feel versed enough on the subject to start buying components and building a system that should meet our needs. My recommendation if you want a practical guide to assemble a system; BUY this book!

This is a great book gives you all the information you need regarding building a home solar electrical power system. In plain language it tells you what you need to know. And how to put it together with common sense applications. No fluff, just the stuff. Thank God for a great book on solar at long last.

Great down to earth, easy to understand book. Author gives technical information in easy layman's terms. Just expect to "reduce the use" of electricity if you want a "LOW BUDGET SYSTEM".

What a non-intimidating and informative book! This book will get you motivated to go with solar power. Very accessible writing and methods described.

This is a good book for the DIYer - which I learned is not me - but without this book I probably wouldn't have figured that out - and now I can approach getting it done with a great deal more clarity and insight. The author is detailed and practical - and gives the background on how he came by his information - usually the hard way.

I think of this book as the "start line". I highly recommend that everyone should read this book if they plan to build their own system. It will teach you how to plan out your system so that you will be able to build it the right way the first time. No wasted time and money. It also showed me how solar sales companies are selling customers things they don't need. I built a small system for my well for under \$200. Now I have running water even in a power failure.

Lots of great information in an easy-to-understand format. Just bought some remote property so it will be useful for figuring out what size of system we'll need to install.

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