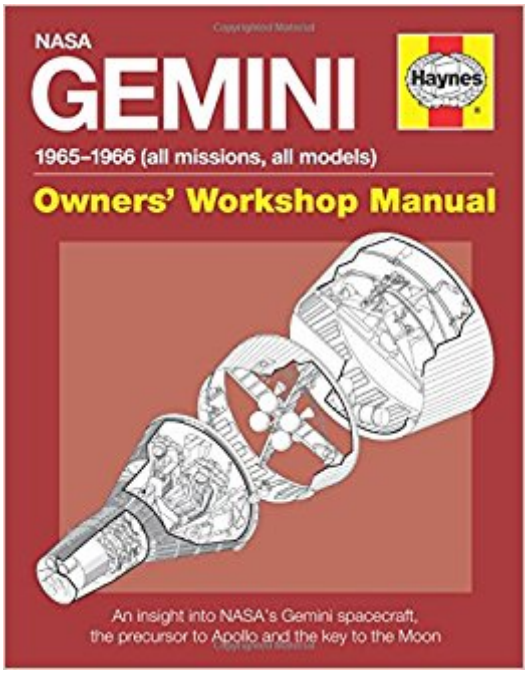
NASA Gemini 1965-1966, Owners' Workshop Manual



Synopsis

The Gemini space flight program is all but forgotten, having been eclipsed by the spectacular drama and success of the Apollo flights to the Moon. Neither was it a pioneer, coming after the heroic and pathfinding Mercury project. But whereas Mercury was derided as 'spam-in-a-can' and Apollo was a truck towing a lunar lander, the Gemini spacecraft was an agile flying machine for fighter pilots. Initially called the Mercury Mark II, it gave the United States the tool it needed to learn how to fly in space, and in so doing it prepared the country's space agency, NASA, to set off for the Moon.

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Customer Reviews

W. David Woods has studied the American space programme for 20 years and curates the Apollo Flight Journal website, hosted by NASA. He wrote How Apollo Flew to the Moon, an acclaimed book on the techniques and technologies of the Apollo programme. He co-authored the Haynes Lunar Rover Manual. David M. Harland has written extensively about space and astronautics with two-dozen books to his name. These include the highly regarded Exploring the Moon: The Apollo Expeditions and Apollo 11: The First Men on the Moon. He also authored How NASA Learned to Fly in Space: An Exciting Account of the Gemini Missions.

This edition of the Owner's Workshop Manual series presents a comprehensive look at the Gemini spacecraft, including its role in a historical context. It is well written with language suitable for 6th grade readers and up. I liked its use of many rare color photos, including some from private

sources.From the perspective of someone who knows the subject at a deep technical level, I don’t see anything really new. The technical level is at about the level of the Gemini Press Reference Book, which appears to be the source of many of the illustrations. And many illustrations from the Gemini Familiarization Manual are also used. The presentation is high in quality. It does a good job of contrasting the advanced technology of its day with the technology we take for granted today. I also liked the way each Gemini mission was discussed in terms of the technological and personal challenges. EVA (space walks) had its own section with a good discussion of the specific challenges and how they were overcome.I changed my rating of this book from 4 stars to 5. I originally thought its description oversold the technical nature. But the Gemini Familiarization Manual is a technical source that perhaps has not been referenced in published books. Since most readers will not already be "familiar" with that source, it does present an uncommon technical depth, and with impressive breadth as well.One final note: be ready for UK spellings such as "programme" instead of "program."

My rating is actually 4-1/2 stars, but I rounded up as this is a particularly good book about the Gemini spacecraft. The first two thirds of this book describe the Gemini spacecraft in general to specific details that almost anyone could understand. The illustrations, many taken from Gemini technical manuals, are reproduced well and many have been "enhanced" or colorized to make them easy to follow or understand. Some may believe there are too many details, while others (like myself) would like more. The authors have struck an excellent balance in my opinion. One nitpick I have is the illustration of the spacecraft instrument control panel is described as "typical." All well and good, but maybe a table listing what controls or displays varied between various Gemini spacecraft should have been included. The title does read, "all missions, all models."The real surprise to me was the last third of the book. It describes Gemini’s various missions and was far from being the typical, dry rehash that I have read over and over again. It is well illustrated and nicely succinct. The pictures illustrating this book are a pleasure to examine. The reproduction values are high and the photographs from the various missions are unusually sharp and crisp with vibrant colors. Better still, many of them, almost half, are not the standard photos one sees over and over again. The authors have included many unusual and rarely seen pictures in this book.Overall, this is book is thoroughly enjoyable and a valuable addition to anyone’s Project Gemini collection.

This is a great book on one of the most essential NASA manned spacecraft that the general public knows nothing about. The Gemini program was absolutely vital to facilitating the much more well

known Apollo project. With the Gemini man learned how to work in space and conduct orbital mechanics including matching orbits with other spacecraft and docking with them. It was a huge leap over the initial Mercury program.This is a great book and although for space nerds like me it is nothing really new but it puts it all in very nice magazine like format with great pictures, explanations of the systems, and the missions, plus some of little know Gemini programs like the Gemini Blue and the Gemini B Manned Orbital Laboratory. Great stuff.

An outstanding book detailing the development, technology, mission histories, and systems for the Gemini craft. I watched the TV coverage as a kid, built models of all the capsules - Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. This book is what I have long desired, a truly comprehensive tome on this project. Many thanks to Haynes for creating this book series!

I followed all the coverage of the Gemini missions when I was a kid; it was a great spacecraft. This Haynes Manual has a wealth of detailed information about the ship and the missions, from operations of the booster's engines to all the pyrotechnic devices on board to suit construction.

I love this book..! I've already learned a great deal more about Gemini than anything I've ever read about it before. This book contains several diagrams and photos never before seen. One that stands out is a launch of a manned Gemini mission with a Saturn V in the background. I didn't know they had both constructed in the same timeframe. Informative read!

This is the book on the Gemini spacecraft that I've been waiting for ever since I watched the missions on TV as a kid. Let me emphasize that this book is excellent at going into the details of the spacecraft itself, especially for a non-engineer like me, and for that it gets five stars without quibble. The mission coverage is sketchier, though more than adequate when delving into how the spacecraft's design and modifications served its operational role.

This is a well done guide to the Gemini Spacecraft systems Between 1964 and 1966 there were 12 total flights. Author pulls together a very readable book techinical guide. Great color graphics are and not seen before pictures are included..

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