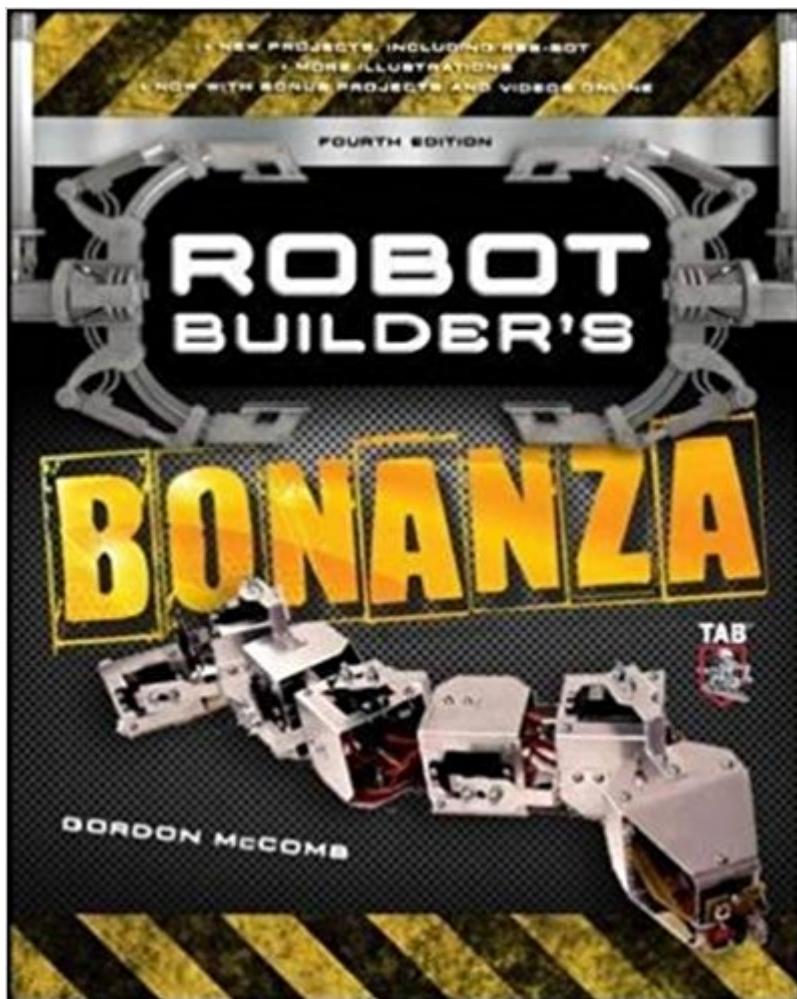


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Robot Builder's Bonanza, 4th Edition



Synopsis

The Bestselling Robotics Book--Now with New Projects and Online Tools! "Amazing...should be required reading for any budding robot builder!" -GeekDad, Wired.com Have fun while learning how to design, construct, and use small robots! This richly illustrated guide offers everything you need to know to construct sophisticated, fully autonomous robots that can be programmed from your computer. Fully updated with the latest technologies and techniques, Robot Builder's Bonanza, Fourth Edition includes step-by-step plans that take you from building basic motorized platforms to giving the machine a brain--and teaching it to walk, talk, and obey commands. This robot builder's paradise is packed with more than 100 affordable projects, including 10 completely new robot designs. The projects are modular and can be combined to create a variety of highly intelligent and workable robots of all shapes and sizes. Mix and match the projects to develop your own unique creations. The only limit is your imagination! Robot Builder's Bonanza, Fourth Edition covers: Parts, materials, and tools Building motorized wooden, plastic, and metal platforms Rapid prototyping methods Drafting bots with computer-aided design Constructing high-tech robots from toys Building bots from found parts Power, motors, and locomotion Robots with wheels, tracks, and legs Constructing robotic arms and grippers Robot electronics and circuit making Computers and electronic control Microcontrollers--Arduino, PICAXE, and the BASIC stamp Remote control systems Sensors, navigation, and visual feedback Robot vision via proximity, light, and distance New! FREE online content at: www.robotoid.com My First Robot tutorial lessons Project parts finder Animated, interactive learning tools How-to videos, robot e-plans, bonus articles, links, and more Plus, go to: www.mhprofessional.com/rbb4 for: Downloadable programs RBB app notes Bonus chapters Make Great Stuff! TAB, an imprint of McGraw-Hill Professional, is a leading publisher of DIY technology books for makers, hackers, and electronics hobbyists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gordon McComb has written more than 60 books and thousands of magazine articles—more than a million copies of his books are in print, in more than a dozen languages. Gordon has been called "The father of hobby robotics" by MAKE Magazine. For 13 years, he wrote a weekly syndicated newspaper column on computers, which reached several million readers worldwide. Gordon is still a regular contributor to SERVO Magazine, and most recently completed seven years as writer of their popular Robotics Resources column.

This book accomplishes something rare: It's straight-forward for beginners and yet detail-rich for experts. I really liked the pace and depth. The material is organized in a way that makes it easy to jump to a topic of interest, which makes it a useful reference book. With plenty of new information, it's worth a read from the beginning. The thing that surprised me is that when I built one of the projects (the Arduino robot), the instructions were actually complete and correct! (I didn't have to make the usual leaps or go through frustrating trials typical for most hardware/software/builder instructions.) As a bonus, the jokes and personal asides are pretty entertaining. You can tell the author has really lived with his subject. I highly recommend it.

My experience working through the book (sort of). A lot of good stuff for someone like me, who is new to robots, but not so new to programming. Here's my experience as far as I got, chapter by chapter. 1. I tried but failed with Ubuntu. The install went fine but the system just froze all the time. So I just stuck with the Debian install that was there, doing the appropriate upgrades. For the most part, I don't think it's worth it to switch. I did create a partitioned SD card, and mounted it on /home (after a mv /home /home1). This was probably unnecessary, since my BBB came with 4GB, which is certainly enough for the stuff in this book. 2. I just stuck to the Python part, which worked fine. 3. I never managed to get a microphone that worked properly (I tried 3 different ones and 2 different USB-to-audio adapters). I'm planning to solve this with Bluetooth. In the meanwhile, the speaker stuff worked fine with one of those cheap keychain models. 4. Worked as per book, with a Logitech HD

720p.5. I did get the Magician Chassis, just for the wheels and motors. It seemed too small to get all the stuff on there, so I went for a couple of 8x10 Lexan sheets. The hard part was making angle brackets with the right hole spacing to accommodate the holes in the motor gearboxes. I used 1.5x1.5 aluminum angle bars cut pretty small. I got the Pololu simple motor controllers. Their software didn't install, in fact some of the dependencies didn't install, but I was able to get the Python program working. The instability he refers to in the book was really due to bugs in the code. I'll post my version later. That's as far as I went in the book. I'm planning add an arm and do some more advanced image processing, so most of the rest of the book is not for me. I do appreciate that he wrote this - it helped me ramp up very quickly. After two weeks (including waiting time for parts!) I have something is untethered and will walk around the room based on my commands as typed from a Mac ssh session into that rrobot.py, slightly modified.

This is a great book! For anyone interested in robotics as a hobby or who just wants to learn more about it, this is the book to get. It has a lot of great projects and it explains all the basics from the different types of hardware, batteries, and configurations to electronics to programming to where to get parts. It really is a reference book though so do keep that in mind! It's very readable and understandable though and I think is a useful resource for anyone from a hobbyist to an experienced robot builder.

Just what I was looking for, a good overview reference book. This is not a how to, step by step, build projects book. It does however cover a lot of very basic information too. It gets technical enough though to be a good reference one you advance. Lot's of good information to trigger ideas with.

The definitive robot book gets better with every edition. Dr. McComb adds and expands his material to reflect current technology & trends. A must-have, must-read book for every robot enthusiast.

As a life-long electronics experimenter, I found this book to be packed with useful information for anyone involved in robotics. It has helped me to validate or adjust the things that I "already knew", and has provided guidance for the robotics-centric topics that I have just started getting into. It has a great deal of reference material for mechanical and electrical aspects of robotics development. There are also many links to good online sources of information and robotics parts suppliers that don't always show up in Google searches.

My five year old son was wants to build robots when he gets older for a career. So I have been studying on how to build the most basic ones, so we can both discover the art of robot making. This book is very easy to follow, he is even able to pick it up. We have read this together, and I helped him learn the information he doesn't know. I'd like to say he has learned how to read because of this book. I recommend this book for all ages who are getting into robots.

Very useful for the purpose intended.

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