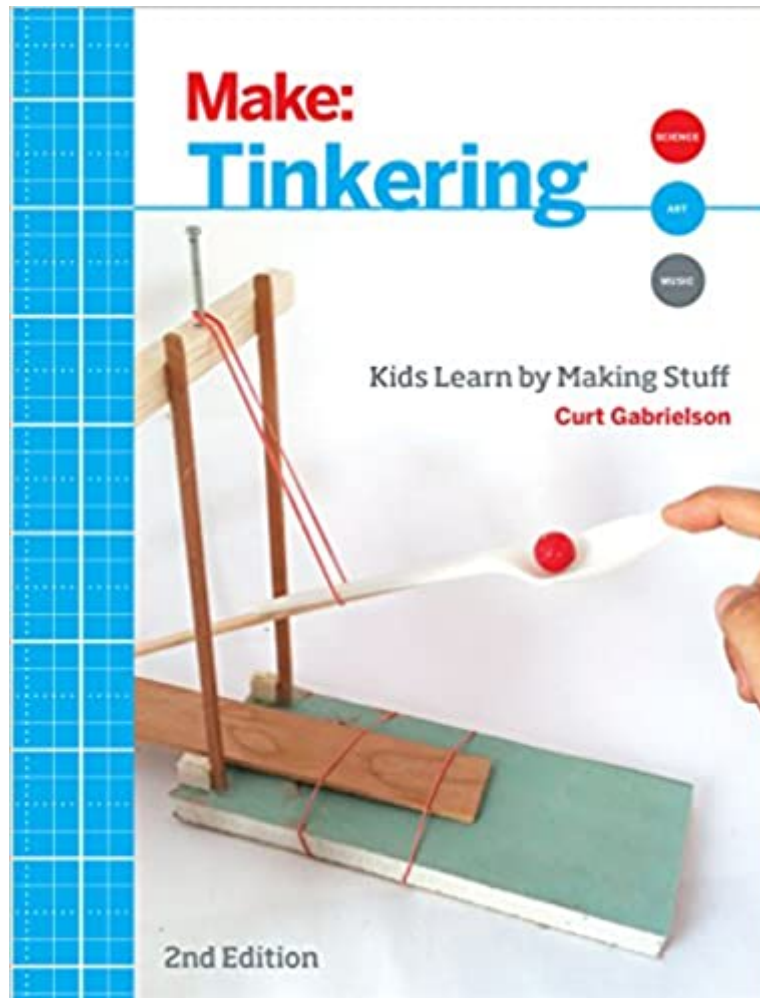




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# Tinkering: Kids Learn By Making Stuff (Make)



## Synopsis

How can you consistently pull off hands-on tinkering with kids? How do you deal with questions that you can't answer? How do you know if tinkering kids are learning anything or not? Is there a line between fooling around with real stuff and learning? The idea of learning through tinkering is not so radical. From the dawn of time, whenever humanity has wanted to know more, we have achieved it most effectively by getting our hands dirty and making careful observations of real stuff. Make: Tinkering (Kids Learn by Making Stuff) lets you discover how, why--and even what it is--to tinker and tinker well. Author Curt Gabrielson draws on more than 20 years of experience doing hands-on science to facilitate tinkering: learning science while fooling around with real things. This book shows you how to make: A drum set from plastic bottles, tape, and shrink-wrap Magnetic toys that dance, sway, and amaze Catapults, ball launchers, and table-top basketball A battery-powered magic wand and a steadiness game (don't touch the sides!) Chemical reactions with household items Models of bones and tendons that work like real arms and ankles Spin art machine and a hovercraft from a paper plate! Lifelong learners hungry for their next genuine experience

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**How To Use This Book** From author Curt Gabrielson: I wrote this book for adults to read, but if you're a kid, welcome! Nothing here will cause you irreparable damage, and you may even get some insight into your own education. If you're an adult, you should know that in the project sections I'll be addressing you as the original student. This means I trust that you'll go have an authentic tinkering experience for yourself before you try to set one up for your students. Even if you do read the activities here, run out of time, and end up tinkering together with students without first trying it out solo, know that you'll be learning, just like them, and the more conscious you can be of this learning, the better you'll be able to facilitate theirs.

This book is filled with low cost ideas for exposing kids to science. Although the primary audience is adults (teachers or group leaders of kids), there is no reason why younger people can't enjoy the projects. Curt has worked for years with "at-risk" and rough kids--kids falling through the cracks. The techniques and materials described are useful for after school or home school students. The hands on activities are a useful exposure to science and, more importantly, the tinkering provides successful experiences that build confidence. When I was a little kid, an aunt used to provide me with broken mechanical alarm clocks to "fix." I was quite good at tearing them apart (not so good at putting them back together). Years later, I went to college and became an electrical engineer. I honestly believe that exposure to this type of "tinkering" helps a child learn about herself and her world. If you want to help kids, pick up a copy of this book--you won't be disappointed.

This is an awesome book for jump-starting your kid's imagination from stuff that is easily at hand. My only complaint is that the print edition DOES NOT HAVE COLOR PHOTOS in it which makes for a disappointing reading experience, since the photos are so crucial in the context of this particular book:(

I liked the ideas in the book, but for a 10 year old, some pictures inside would have been nice.

Wonderful resource for anyone interested in getting familiar with tinkering as an educational tool. The book is written for beginners and, although it caters for educators, it was very useful and

interesting for me as a parent.

The photos in this book are horrible to see. It is so draining to try to figure out what is going on that I have no interest in this book whatsoever. What a waste of money.

Quality of the print is horrible, interior book design very cheapo, and tons of typos. I expected more from Make magazine. But the ideas are good.

Even from a young age my grandson showed an interest in making things that worked, so that it carried him beyond Legos. This was the perfect book for him to refer to in order to get involved with a hobby that teaches him about how the universe is organized and what is possible to make in order to pursue his passion.

I like looking through these kind of books. Some interesting ideas in this one. Worth getting.

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