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# The Way Things Work



## Synopsis

From levers to lasers, from cameras to computers, this 384-page volume is a remarkable overview of the machines and inventions that shape our lives, amusingly presented with a large dose of Macaulay's wit and personality.

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 and up

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## Customer Reviews

David Macaulay has made it his business to demystify science and technology for children (and certainly one or two surreptitious adults) with his worldwide bestseller, *The New Way Things Work*. Packed with information on the inner workings of everything from the World Wide Web to windmills, the remarkable and humorous book guides readers through the fundamental principles of machines. And now Macaulay and his trusty mammoth sidekick are back, ready to make science even more fun and comprehensible. The *Way Things Work* Kit is a hands-on, fully interactive kit, equipped with everything needed to perform over 50 activities, including the construction of 12 working models. A handy cardboard carrying case opens to reveal a guidebook, a CD-ROM with instructions on how to build your own pinball games, activity cards, and more than 100 basic components that fit together to make models from a balloon-powered car to a robot arm to a fairground ride. Children will be absorbed for hours as they learn about levers and hydraulics, winches and friction, inertia and pneumatics. Future engineers--not to mention just regular humans--couldn't have a better introduction to the way things work. (Ages 8 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4 Up Gorgeous line drawings in Macaulay's familiar style, enhanced with watercolors, combine with virtually encyclopedic coverage of how things work to create this absolutely captivating look at the world's technology. Subjects are arranged into four broad categories: units on mechanical devices (simple machines, friction); the use of the elements (wind, water, heat), waves (light and sound); and electronics include both the immense (space shuttles) and the miniscule (an automobile's thermostat). Information presented is up-to-date (compact discs, breath testers), and the introductions and descriptions are well-written and clear. Whimsical woolly mammoths appear to demonstrate principles, take credit for inventions, and speculate on the causes of their own extinction. The number of devices described here defies enumeration: the thorough index, which lists items under both their own terms and under larger, broad headings (e.g., the term synchromesh is also found under car), contains approximately 900 entries. The two-volume *The Way Things Work: Encyclopedia of Modern Technology* (S. & S.) offers a competitive number of items in a more straightforward fashion, but it is not as entertaining as Macaulay's work. *How Does It Work?* (Facts on File, 1976) by Chris Cooper and Jane Insley and *How Things Work* (National Geographic, 1983) by Donald J. Crump both present excellent photography and diagrams with utilitarian text, but neither covers anywhere near as many devices or competes with Macaulay's creativity. A book to be treasured as both a browsing item and as a gold mine of reference information. Jeffrey A. French, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

An in depth look and the inner workings of various objects that is broad enough for a 6 year old and detailed enough for an adult. It also is well written and humorous so it is engaging and not dry. I give them as gifts to other children

Great book of the what I think are interesting and important structures and concepts we should all understand. Good for spending quality time with children and establishing a dialogue with them, a great lifelong reward I promise you. Read, talk, get along, share an interest cross that generational chasm. Bought this one for a girl friend to read to and with her grandchildren. Hope they enjoy it the way my daughter did. Great price thanks to the booksavers and sellers out there.

This has been a favorite book of mine since I was a child. Explanations and illustrations are well done. I enjoy the silliness of the mammoths and the "theories of extinction". This book, among

others, helped reinforce my desire to become an engineer, a profession I now thoroughly enjoy. My only complaint: the art style is mostly browns and greys, which can make seeing some of the details a bit harder.

This is a great book for the inquisitive mind. My husband is the type of person that loves to know why and how things work, and he had this book growing up. He decided to buy it as a gift for a student of his, and he loved it! This book has great illustrations and dissections of things. Gotta love those mammoths! =)

The Way Things Work is a wonderful book to have on hand for your children or grandchildren students. David Macaulay's descriptions and illustrations takes a much more hands-on or visual approach to many of our technological wonders. I remember using this book with my children and now I hope to introduce it to my grandchildren. For instance, if I wanted to explain how a laser works, this is just the book I would turn to for a simple, easy-to-understand explanation with an accompanying example.

This is a fun book -- a great book on how things work!

I read this book growing up, I believe it taught me more than school ever did. Great pictures, great explanations, diagrams and just an overall fun way of learning. I recommend this for the kid who keeps taking apart the vacuum, or anything for that matter to learn how it works. Also for adults, Reading it again now, I keep learning! I have multiple copies of this book, I give a few out every year.

My grandson who loves to take things apart is fascinated by this book. He is only 4 years old. I bought this used one to see if he would be interested before I got the latest update. Even though this edition was produced before so many technical advances, there is still plenty of good stuff.

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