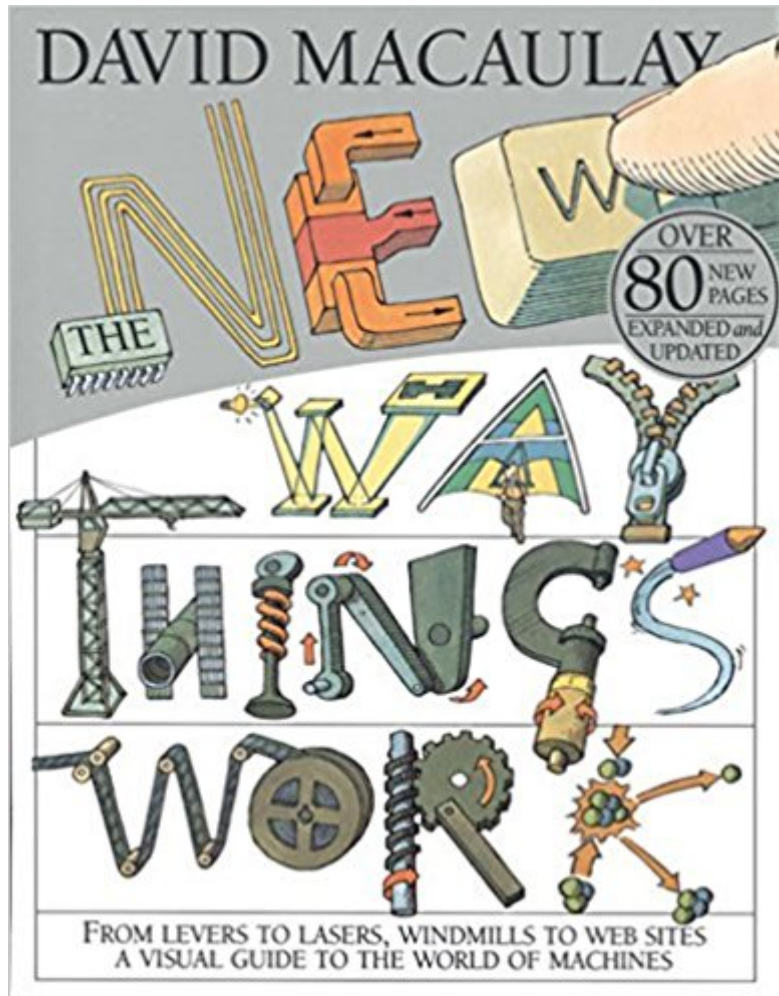




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# The New Way Things Work



## Synopsis

The information age is upon us, baffling us with thousands of complicated state-of-the-art technologies. To help make sense of the computer age, David Macaulay brings us *The New Way Things Work*. This completely updated and expanded edition describes twelve new machines and includes more than seventy new pages detailing the latest innovations. With an entirely new section that guides us through the complicated world of digital machinery, where masses of electronic information can be squeezed onto a single tiny microchip, this revised edition embraces all of the newest developments, from cars to watches. Each scientific principle is brilliantly explained--with the help of a charming, if rather slow-witted, woolly mammoth.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Rev Sub edition (October 26, 1998)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0395938478

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 249 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,093 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Physics](#) #2 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Technology > How Things Work](#) #2 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Technology > Machinery & Tools](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Is it a fact--or have I dreamt it--that, by means of electricity, the world of matter has become a great nerve, vibrating thousands of miles in a breathless point of time?" If you, like Nathaniel Hawthorne, are kept up at night wondering about how things work--from electricity to can openers--then you and your favorite kids shouldn't be a moment longer without David Macaulay's *The New Way Things Work*. The award-winning author-illustrator--a former architect and junior high school teacher--is perfectly poised to be the Great Explainer of the whirrings and whizzings of the world of machines, a

talent that landed the 1988 version of *The Way Things Work* on the New York Times bestsellers list for 50 weeks. Grouping machines together by the principles that govern their actions rather than by their uses, Macaulay helps us understand in a heavily visual, humorous, unerringly precise way what gadgets such as a toilet, a carburetor, and a fire extinguisher have in common. The New Way Things Work boasts a richly illustrated 80-page section that wrenches us all (including the curious, bumbling woolly mammoth who ambles along with the reader) into the digital age of modems, digital cameras, compact disks, bits, and bytes. Readers can glory in gears in "The Mechanics of Movement," investigate flying in "Harnessing the Elements," demystify the sound of music in "Working with Waves," marvel at magnetism in "Electricity & Automation," and examine e-mail in "The Digital Domain." An illustrated survey of significant inventions closes the book, along with a glossary of technical terms, and an index. What possible link could there be between zippers and plows, dentist drills and windmills? Parking meters and meat grinders, jumbo jets and jackhammers, remote control and rockets, electric guitars and egg beaters? Macaulay demystifies them all. (All ages) --Karin Snelson

Grade 4 Up-The popular "guide to the workings of machines" (Houghton, 1988) has been updated to include the digital world. Of the 80 new pages advertised on the cover, 60 are found in the added section on computer technology. Very few items (parking meters and bicycle brakes) have disappeared into obsolescence, a few new ones have appeared (camcorders and airbags), and cosmetic changes are evident throughout in the enhanced color printing. The features that made the first edition a publishing phenomenon remain. Macaulay's clear and comprehensible drawings are accompanied by Neil Ardley's explanations, and in this edition the technical writer gets credit for his expertise on the title page. The bemused woolly mammoth of the original edition continues to demonstrate his prehistorically simple ideas on such concepts as heat, pressure, fire fighting, sending messages, etc., adding whimsical entries to entertain browsers. While much of the material remains unaltered, the significance of computer technology in our world makes this new edition a vital update or new purchase. Shirley Wilton, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Love it! We were turned on to Macaulay's books by a family friend, and started out with "Building Big" and "Underground" for our curious 5 year old. Those books have similarly good, hand-illustrated explanations of the subject material, although they're more in the style of a progressive narrative that favors an uninterrupted block of time to sit and digest. Contrast that to this

book's style, which is great for a young reader to flip through on their own and have a quick summary of any given topic. Alternately, we can sit down and randomly turn pages to find an item that interests us, without going through the book in any particular order. Whereas Macaulay's other books are more of the "read once and put back on the shelf for a while," I'm seeing this book in the regular rotation, almost in the same way you or I might regularly refer to Google or Wikipedia searches.

My 10 y.o. still goes back and reads it. It's a great \*GREAT\* book. I love the explanations, and as an engineer, I can find no mistakes in it.

I bought this book after my little boy discovered and fell in love with a copy at preschool. He poured over the illustrations and I was amazed at how involved he got in it. He's not normally very bookish, he'd rather be out climbing trees and jumping on the trampoline but this book captures his imagination like nothing else. He will finish dinner and then go to the living room, grab this book and sit looking at the illustrations for the longest time, even though we've had the book about six months he's still totally into it. He's five now and can't read but I think he'll love it even more when he's able to read the information. My daughter for some reason isn't very interested in it but it's here if she wants it. My son will bring the book over to his dad and they will discuss the pictures and daddy will fill in the information. Such a neat book for little kids who are fascinated with how things work, and a great reference for every home!

David Macaulay is an unbelievably talented artist who is gifted at illustrating difficult concepts or machinery in interesting exploded view so children can look at all the parts and learn about how things work. I got this book to teach the kids about simple mechanics and physics. The explanations were also very good and I am already looking for more books from David Macaulay

Awesome book. I loved this as a kid, so when I got married and started setting up my own household, I wanted it on my shelf. Yes, I'm a nerd. And proud of it.

We originally got this book at the library for our 5 year old. He loved it so much that we ordered it. It has sparked an interest in taking machines apart, so we have found some garage sale items for him to disassemble and look at compared to the book. He also has developed a good hands on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree levers, in the last week that we have had the book. I look forward to this being

a book he will enjoy for years to come. If you have a child interested in mechanics, engineering, or how things work this will be a great fit.

A must for kid's libraries!

Paid very little for this book. Amazing quality for the price I paid! Book was like new. Outside hard cover just a little wear on the corners but I expected a USED book. This one is great in close-to-new condition. Very happy with the purchase and my kids will all love this book as I did the original when I was a kid.

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