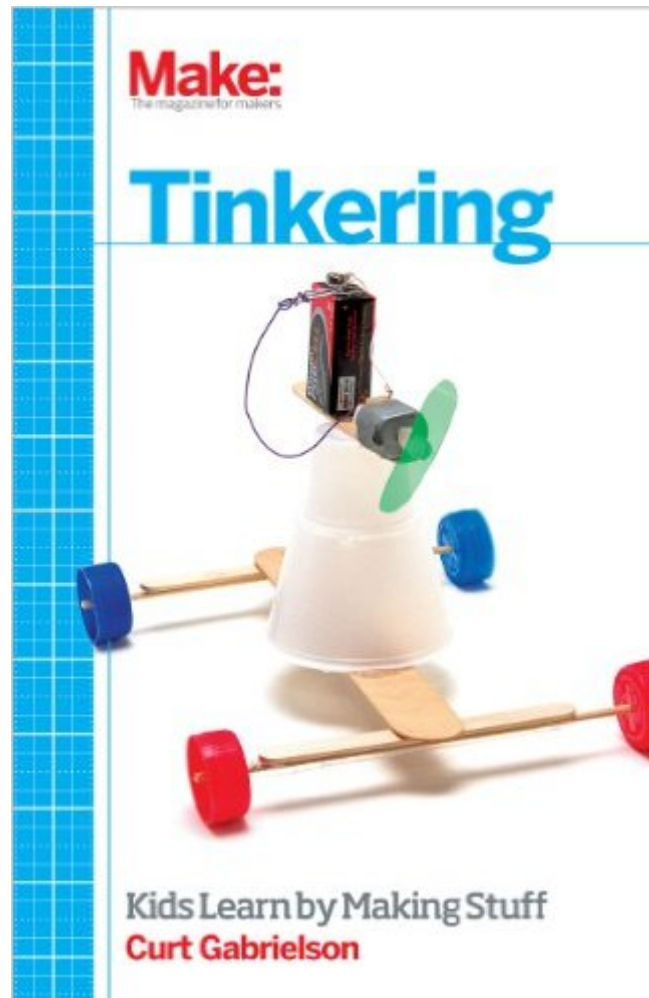


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# Tinkering: Kids Learn By Making Stuff



## Synopsis

After-school and out-of-school programsâas well as home schoolingâhave been growing steadily for nearly a decade, but instructors are still searching for high-interest content that ties into science standards without the rigidity of current classroom canon. The author draws on more than 20 years of experience doing hands-on science to facilitate tinkering: learning science while fooling around with real things. In this book, you'll learn:

- Tinkering techniques in key science areas
- How to let kids learn science with hands-on tinkering
- Engaging techniques for science learning at home, in school, or at a makerspace or library
- Step-by-step instructions for activities that don't end with a single project, but that provide many paths for "tinkering forward".

## Book Information

Age Range: 11 - 17 years

Paperback: 268 pages

Publisher: Maker Media, Inc; 1 edition (September 27, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1449361013

ISBN-13: 978-1449361013

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book appealed to me right from the get go. Curt's mix of examples, experiences and humor made this an enjoyably informative read. His writing style captured the playful spirit that nearly always accompanies a quality tinkering session. The book is written with alternating chapter themes. The first chapter, and every other chapter that follows, describes a topic in which tinkering can occur. Examples include sound, magnetism, mechanics, circuits, chemistry, biology, and engineering with motors. If you are looking for ideas that could immediately find their way into your classroom, then look no further. Curt provides material lists, tools to have, and pictures for nearly every step of the builds that are shown. Sometimes the text indicates a specific colored part to

reference in the pictures, but the images are all black and white. Still, it isn't too difficult to determine what part he's talking about. (And the lack of color images may not be a concern in the digital versions of this book.) Most importantly, Curt shares the types of conversation and questions that should be asked to help drive students deeper into the experience. Prompting the kids to discover concepts, to explain how they came to their conclusions, or to ask and answer their own personal questions with the materials in front of them are his goals. Curt promotes dialogues between student and teacher that go way beyond superficial discussions of fact and recollection. The even chapters are dedicated to more of the "art and science" of using tinkering in a classroom setting.

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