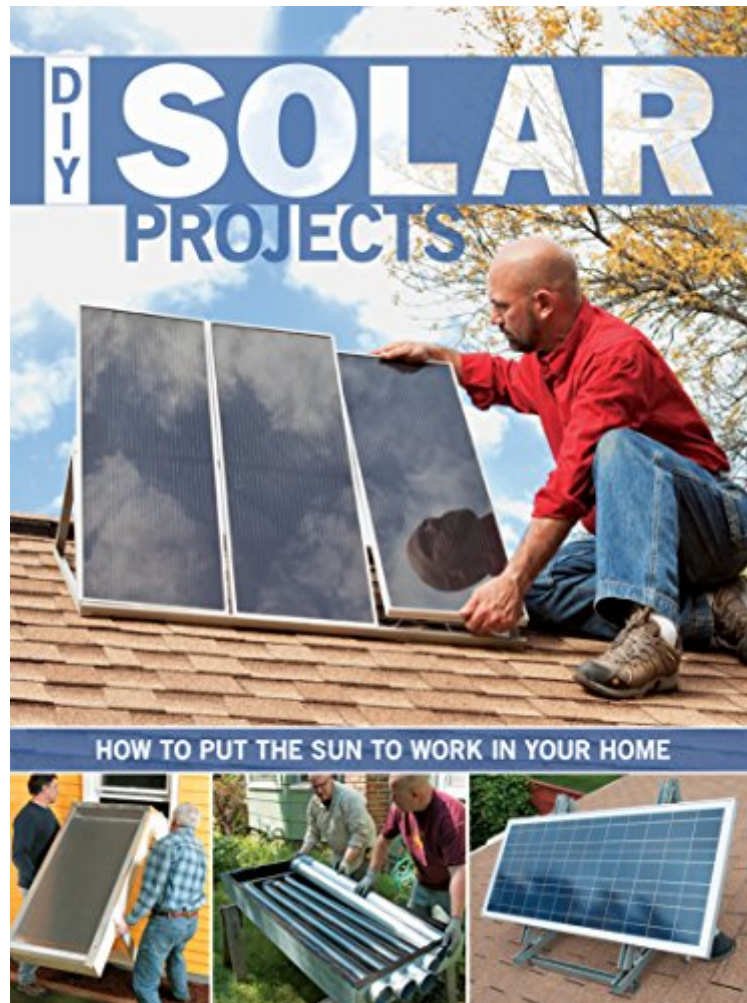




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DIY Solar Projects: How To Put The Sun To Work In Your Home



Synopsis

Advances in solar technology have made many DIY-friendly products available to consumers, several of which will be hitting the market for the first time in 2011. These include solar water heaters, solar battery charging stations, solar powered lights, photovoltaic shingles that provide supplementary electricity, solar heat pumps, and solar panel kits that generate primary home electrical service. Among the step-by-step projects is a solar water heating system you can build and install yourself for under \$1000; simple thermosyphon solar heat collectors for barns and outbuildings; or "heat grabbers" that you can fabricate for \$50 in materials and position below a south-facing window to provide auxiliary winter heat.

Book Information

File Size: 17550 KB

Print Length: 160 pages

Publisher: Creative Publishing International (October 1, 2011)

Publication Date: October 1, 2011

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0088OTYHU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #110,307 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17

inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction >

Alternative & Renewable > Solar #43 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home

> How-to & Home Improvements > Do-It-Yourself #177 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home >

Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Do-It-Yourself

Customer Reviews

This has got to be one of the finest books I have encountered on making solar energy a real part of your daily life. I should explain that. The projects in this book are NOT just about using solar electric panels, though that is part of the book. No, half of the book describes "how-to" projects to built solar collectors to add heat to your house.If you are looking for instructions on how to build a complete

solar panel system for disconnecting from the grid, this ain't it. There is some practical knowledge of hooking up batteries, mounting panels, etc. But you need another book with more depth for that. I'm not sure why the one reviewer felt that this book only provided pictures of completed solar projects. That isn't the case at all. There are, in fact, some very detailed instructions on cutting the wooden pieces for some of the projects, materials lists, etc. Pictures demonstrating how to mount the devices, etc. are also included. If you are not comfortable around a table saw, or have never built anything out of wood, then this is likely not for you. These projects are important because these are not devices you can simply purchase on the internet: they are unique solar collection devices you must build yourself. But they are worth the trouble.

This book is well done, featuring quality images for do it yourself projects, as well as specific materials used, measurements, etc. Most of this book is the basic projects you learn in a high school science class - however it gives it a fresh look and feel to coordinate with most home owners that are interested in saving money. I would like to point out that the author does a VERY good job of building these projects on a tight budget. Most of the things he builds are constructed from plywood, basic plexi glass, paints, caulking, etc. that you find at almost any home improvement warehouse. Personally, I would not spend the time, effort or money building these projects that will be going on my house (to hopefully remain there for the next twenty + years..) out of such cheap materials. With that being said - any basic carpenter/welder with tools can convert these projects (built from plywood) into aluminum, steel or composite cabinets. A few more dollars invested in the beginning is money well spent over the course of many years. Trust me, if you build a solar collector out of basic CDX plywood, paint it black and attach to your roof, you will be regretting it in 3-5 years when the wood is splitting, peeling and the unit doesn't even work anymore because it produces more cold air than warm. With any solar collector, warm air in a small enclosed cabinet on cold morning makes condensation. These cabinets are all made of wood.. you see where I am going with this. Overall, this book is a great read, and fun to get a layout of projects in your mind. The author definitely knows what he is talking about. It is just aimed for a little bit more of a budget oriented builder.

I am impressed with this book. The photos work as visual instructions, material lists, projects and straight DIY Solar Project book. I would highly recommend that you purchase "Solar Electricity Handbook 2012 Edition" by: Michael Boxwell to go along with this book. If you have these two books, you will be unstoppable in your Solar Power Projects and Knowledge. This book tells you specifically what you need for the projects included in it, but knowing the actual How does it do that

is not too important for those specific projects, but if you need to make adjustments, what is safe, why you need to do it a certain way, how much solar power is needed and making changes to those projects will leave you scratching your head and with fear unless you have the other book. Safety is extremely important, producing enough energy for your project to work correctly and knowing why too much energy can damage your project will keep you from altering these projects unless you have the other book. These are both worthy of your money and both worth every dime.

I was rather disappointed in this book. I expected more DIY projects that would help more people and instead I got "See this website for hiring someone to do this". The projects are not geared for the average person just wanting to power an off-grid location. However, if you are looking to build a solar kiln for drying wood or a solar oven built with aluminum foil, it's great.

no information on how to anywhere in this book

If you like to tinker and want to make some cool gadgets to help save some energy, this is the book for you. The big color pictures are fantastic, along with the material lists and multiple examples of what to make. Ultimately I didn't make something from the book (yet) but used the info, along with ideas from builditsolar.com, to design and implement my own components. So far so good! If I have one criticism it's the staging of the DIY pictures. The studio where the projects are built is very antiseptic, and the tools used are brand new. Most of my tools are at least 30 years old and my shop is pretty cluttered, so it was hard to relate.

good svc

very use full

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