

- EXAMINES THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BATTERIES AND THEIR CAPABILITIES
- COVERS SCIENCE, APPLICATIONS, RELIABILITY, AND SAFETY
- EXPLORES NEW AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING LITHIUM ION AND NANOTECHNOLOGY



THE **TAB**TM



BATTERY

AN IN-DEPTH
GUIDE TO
CONSTRUCTION,
DESIGN, AND
USE



BOOK

MICHAEL ROOT

Foreword by Dr. Ralph J. Brodd

The TABTM Battery Book

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Michael Root, PhD, is a battery electrochemist with over 20 years of battery research and development experience. He contributed to the development of battery technology for diverse applications like implantable medical devices and consumer electronics. His work may be found in patents, technical papers in peer-reviewed journals, and a book chapter on battery technology. Additionally, he wrote a number of articles for various general science publications.

The TABTM Battery Book

An In-Depth Guide to Construction, Design, and Use

Michael Root



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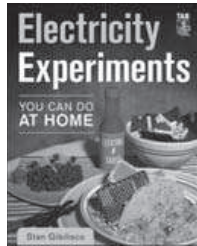
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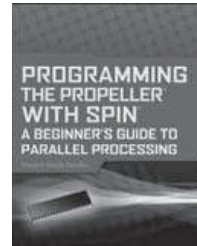
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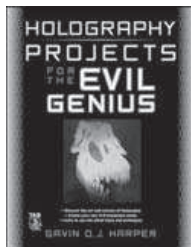
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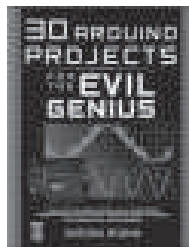
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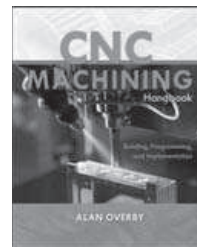
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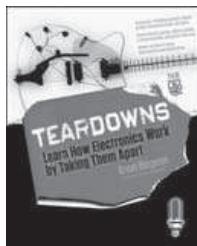
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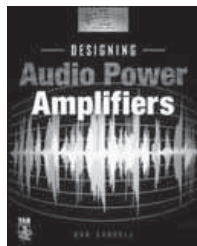
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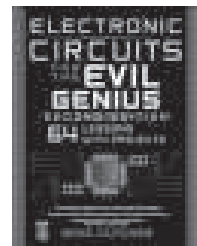
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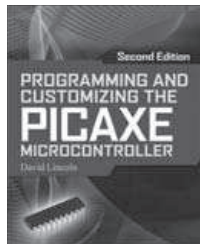
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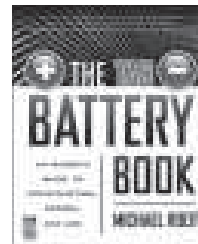
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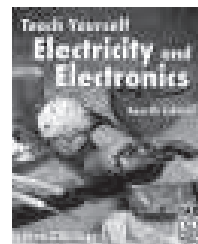
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Contents at a Glance

Part I	Battery Basics	
	1	Why We Need Batteries 3
	2	The Many Uses of Batteries 7
	3	The History of Batteries 13
	4	Basic Physics and Chemistry 35
	5	The Science of Batteries. 49
	6	Battery Engineering Designs 71
	7	Battery Performance 83
	8	Battery Reliability and Safety 105
Part II	Battery Technologies	
	9	Primary Batteries 123
	10	Rechargeable or Secondary Batteries 157
	11	Charging Rechargeable Batteries 183
	12	Selecting the Right Battery 195
	13	The Future of Battery Technology 207
	A	Battery Resources 219
		Glossary 227
		Index 235

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Contents

Foreword	xi
Introduction	xiii

Part I Battery Basics

CHAPTER 1 Why We Need Batteries	3
Getting Unplugged: Portable Energy and Long-Term Energy Storage	3
Chemical Energy Storage Compared	5
CHAPTER 2 The Many Uses of Batteries	7
Portable Consumer Devices	7
Medical Devices	8
Electric Vehicles	9
Large-Scale Electrical Energy Storage	9
Space	10
Military	10
CHAPTER 3 The History of Batteries	13
Electrostatic Energy	14
Electrochemical Energy	16
Improvements in Battery Technology	19
Engineering Improvements to Volta's Battery	19
Further Improvements to Volta's Battery	22
Oxidizing Cathode Materials	23
Continued Development of New Active Electrode Materials	26
Primary Batteries	26
Solid Cathode Materials	26
The Dry Cell	28
Alkaline Batteries	29
Lithium Batteries	31
Secondary Batteries	31
Battery Time Lines	34

viii Contents

CHAPTER 4 Basic Physics and Chemistry	35
Writing Large and Small Numbers	36
Units	37
Electrons	38
Atoms	39
Matter, Substances, and Their Properties	42
Molecules and Bonding	44
Ions	44
Chemical Reactions	45
Energy	47
CHAPTER 5 The Science of Batteries	49
Battery or Cell	50
The Basic Cell	50
Battery Electrochemistry: Thermodynamics	52
The Electrochemical Cell	53
Energy from Electrochemistry	56
Potentials of Electrochemical Reactions: Standard Conditions	58
Potentials of Electrochemical Reactions: Nonstandard Conditions	64
Battery Electrochemistry: Kinetics	66
Capacity	68
CHAPTER 6 Battery Engineering Designs	71
Battery Shapes and Sizes	72
Battery Components	74
Electrode Design	76
Seal Design	79
Vent Design	79
Other Safety Features	79
Batteries	80
CHAPTER 7 Battery Performance	83
Terms and Units	83
Potential or Voltage	83
Current	85
Resistance	85
Capacity	87
Power	91
Energy	91
Practical Battery Performance	92
Other Battery Performance Behaviors	99
Discharge Voltage	99
Self-Discharge	101
Measuring Battery Performance	102

CHAPTER 8 Battery Reliability and Safety 105

Reliability 105

 Measuring Variability 106

 Assessing Reliability 110

 Accelerated Testing 116

Safety 118

Part II Battery Technologies

CHAPTER 9 Primary Batteries 123

Batteries with Aqueous Electrolytes 124

 Leclanché Zinc-Carbon and Zinc-Chloride 126

 Alkaline Zinc–Manganese Dioxide 129

 Zinc-Air 131

 Zinc–Silver Oxide 135

 Zinc–Mercuric Oxide 138

 Reserve Batteries 140

Batteries with Nonaqueous Electrolytes 141

 Lithium–Thionyl Chloride, Lithium–Sulfuryl Chloride and Lithium–Sulfur Dioxide 143

 Lithium–Manganese Dioxide 146

 Lithium–Carbon Monofluoride 146

 Lithium–Iron Disulfide 150

 Lithium-Iodine 150

 Lithium–Silver Vanadium Oxide 152

 Lithium–Copper Oxide 155

CHAPTER 10 Rechargeable or Secondary Batteries 157

Batteries with Aqueous Electrolytes 159

 Lead Acid 161

 Nickel-Cadmium 166

 Nickel–Metal Hydride 170

 Alkaline Zinc–Manganese Dioxide 173

Batteries with Nonaqueous Electrolytes 174

 Lithium Ion 175

 Lithium Metal 179

Comparing Rechargeable Batteries 182

CHAPTER 11 Charging Rechargeable Batteries 183

Safe Charging 184

The Charging Process 185

Charging Considerations 186

Charge Rate 187

Charging Methods 188

x Contents

Constant Potential or Constant Voltage Charging	188
Constant Current Charging	190
Constant Current–Constant Potential Or Voltage Charging	191
Other Charging Modes	191
Battery Monitoring and Charge Termination	193
CHAPTER 12 Selecting the Right Battery	195
Battery Standards	195
Battery Identification Codes	197
Battery Chemistry Codes	197
Battery Shape Codes	197
Battery Size Codes	197
Manufacturer Data Sheets	203
Putting It All Together	205
CHAPTER 13 The Future of Battery Technology	207
Small Batteries	207
Thin-Film Batteries	209
Nanotechnology	209
Large Energy Storage Batteries	213
Flow Batteries	213
High-Temperature Batteries	215
High-Energy Density Batteries	216
Going Forward	217
APPENDIX Battery Resources	219
Standards Organizations	219
Governmental Agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations	220
Industry Organizations	222
Scientific and Technical Societies	225
GLOSSARY	227
Index	235

Foreword

The TAB Battery Book enables the reader to understand in simple layperson terms the complex operations that occur inside a battery in order to generate electrical power on demand. The author offers simple, easily understandable explanations of the complex chemical processes that occur inside a battery. The book is written to provide the typical reader with a working relationship with the batteries he or she uses in everyday life.

The author starts at the very beginning with fundamental descriptions of the Volta pile and continues with the Leclanché 1.5-volt primary battery for flashlights and early portable radios. He goes on to describe the rechargeable lead acid 2.0-volt battery that is now common to most automobile operations. Today, new high-energy systems find wide application, especially the lithium-ion battery with the very high energy density needed to power mobile phones and portable computers, and readers will find that these systems are well covered.

Batteries are capable of very efficient direct energy conversion and can deliver about 95 percent of the contained energy to useful work, compared to an internal combustion car engine, which converts in the range of 25 percent of the energy stored in gasoline to useful energy in propelling the car. An electrical generation plant that converts coal to electricity operates at about 40 percent efficiency.

Batteries are an integral component of our daily lives, whether in mobile phones, portable computers, starting your car engine, or powering the satellite that brings radio communication signals down to earth. The various battery systems are discussed and explained in language that everyone can easily understand.

The reader should find this book to be a valuable resource.

Ralph J. Brodd
President of Broddarp of Nevada, Inc.

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Introduction

The invention of the battery by Alessandro Volta over 200 years ago was one of those innovative leaps in technology that occur from time to time. Almost immediately after a letter from Volta describing his work was delivered to the Royal Society of London in 1800, the battery had a significant impact on science and technology.

Before the battery, electrical phenomena had to be studied using electrostatic sources. Electricity could be generated by friction (called triboelectric charging), such as rubbing together amber and wool, or harvested from natural sources, like lightning. The Leyden jar, a type of capacitor, was developed as a way to store electrical energy for later use.

The electrostatic energy produced from such sources could only be delivered in short bursts. This was not a practical way to deliver electrical energy. A more sustained source of electricity was needed.

The conversion of chemical energy to electrical energy accomplished what electrostatics could not. Assemble the right chemical substances in the right way and a controlled, sustained way of producing electricity can be available to almost anyone.

At first, batteries were used as a tool to study electricity and electrochemistry. The great English scientist Michael Faraday advanced our knowledge of electrochemical reactions. Faraday's mentor Humphry Davy discovered several new elements by electrochemical means using batteries as a power source.

It wasn't long before batteries were developed and commercialized to provide electricity for a number of different applications, like railway signals and telegraphs. As early as 1804, Charles Henry Wilkinson offered "different Galvanic Apparatus and Instruments" for sale on "moderate terms." A battery with fifty three-inch plates sold for five guineas. In the years before the invention of the electrical generator and construction of the electrical power distribution grid, battery installations provided electrical power. Some of the batteries developed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries we still use today—particularly lead acid, nickel-cadmium, and zinc-carbon batteries.

Many of the technologies we rely on today are enabled by batteries, including cellular phones, laptop computers, cars, and implantable pacemakers. The variety of battery types, sizes, shapes, and performance characteristics is vast. A complete description of any one of the batteries available today could fill a book on its own.

However, the intent here is to provide an overview of batteries from a number of different perspectives—how we use batteries, the historical foundations of today's battery technology, the scientific and engineering building blocks of batteries, different types of batteries (at least the more common ones), and some future directions of battery technologies. There should be something here for engineers, scientists, hobbyists, and students wanting to learn the basics of how batteries function and how to select the right battery for an application.

The idea for this book derives from a university professor I know who asked me to recommend a book to be used as supplemental course material for her course on electrochemical power sources. I had also been trying to think of ways to help provide information regarding battery technology to engineers who design batteries into their devices and those who procure batteries for the device design engineers. There are plenty of excellent reference books and specialized books aimed more at battery researchers and developers, but most of the more general battery books available are now out of print. So, *fiat liber*.

The book is divided into two sections: “Battery Basics” and “Battery Technologies.” The former discusses some of the general battery chemistry and engineering. The latter is a rundown of the more common battery technologies. A glossary and selected battery resources are provided at the end. The structure of those chapters devoted to the more technical aspects of battery science and engineering start with some basic information and go into more detail as the chapter progresses.

There are many books regarding battery science and technology that have been written since the early 1800s. A few of the more recent books providing information you may find useful include the outstanding reference book *Handbook of Batteries* edited by David Linden and Thomas B. Reddy, *Modern Batteries* by Colin A. Vincent and Bruno Scrosati, *Understanding Batteries* by R.M. Dell and D.A.J. Rand, and *Industrial Applications of Batteries* edited by M. Broussley and G. Pistoia. Also, Henry Schlesinger's *The Battery*, published during the writing of this book, gives an engaging account of the development of battery technology and the applications that use them.

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