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# Make: Tech DIY: Easy Electronics Projects For Parents And Kids



## Synopsis

Make: Tech DIY introduces younger children to the magic of electronics through the softer side of circuits! Young explorers will learn about electronics through sewing and craft projects aimed at maker parents and their children, elementary school teachers, and kids' activity leaders. Each project introduces new skills and new components in a progressive series of projects that take learners from the very basics to understanding how to use components such as sensors, transistors, and timers. The book is breezy, highly illustrated, and fun for everyone!

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Ji Sun Lee and Jaymes Dec: Girl Power We hope that by introducing children to circuits through familiar crafts and materials like sewing and thread, we will allow them to feel more comfortable and confident when they approach and learn about electronics. While at Maker Faire Bay Area in 2007, Ji Sun noticed that many of the projects on display were not as appealing to girls as they were to boys. In response, she came up with the idea for Tech DIY, a series of sewing circuit projects that are meant to attract and teach technology to girls and their mothers. This book is the culmination of nine years of research and workshops with Tech DIY projects.

Ji Sun Lee is a professor in the department of Visual Media Design at Sookmyung Women's University in Korea. She has presented her works at Bay Area Maker Faire 2015 in California and staged a solo show at MediaNoche gallery in New York. This book grew out of her desire to share her love of technology with her young daughter. Jaymes Dec is a middle school technology teacher at The Marymount School of New York, an all-girls independent school. He was also the Program Manager of a National Science Foundation program for students and was named a "Teacher of the Future" by the National Association of Independent Schools. He co-Â founded The NYC Makery, a public makerspace for children and communities.

This is a fantastic book! Ji Sun Lee and Jaymes Dec thoughtfully designed to book so children and adults who might be new to electronics can follow the directions and also learn the basics of the circuitry involved. With vivid photos and detailed sketches, the book supports learners who need to have visuals to understand directions. Even if you are an expert with electronic projects, you will most likely learn something new with this book. Have fun!

If you want to understand conductive sewing and it's potential this book is for you! While it would have been nice to have YouTube videos in addition to the handwritten explanations and illustrations about seeing details, the projects start simple and end with coding. It is a wonderful learning arch and I recommend going through every project - you will also be having a ton of fun!

If you're intimidated by the title, don't be! Ji Sun Lee and Jaymes Dec take the technical and make it understandable for all ages. In the preface, it is noted that Ji Sun realized the majority of Maker Faire projects were geared toward boys. This book brings the 'softer' side to electronics, with projects that are more appealing to girls, too. I LOVE that the educational world is bringing art back into the picture, especially in connection with science and electronics! Creative play is the foundation of invention. When it comes to supplies, you can get them from the local craft store, and here on . Search for "Sewable battery holder" and you'll get a few options, and search "Coin Cell Batteries" and make sure you match up the same numbers on each - CR2032 CR2025 CR2016 as examples. The conductive thread and LED lights are also available on , or a local electronics store. The book contains 10 different projects, each teaching about circuitry, and each appealing to either boys or girls. The supply lists are thorough, which really helps in getting ready for a project. The lessons covered in each project are: Circuits, switches, parallel circuits, LEDs, Motors, light sensors, timers, solar power, programming with Scratch and Makey Makey, and using snaps as a

switch. When my kids were younger, I home schooled, and this would have been perfect for our science classes. My husband and I both intend to use some of the information to help us in our hobbies, after we do the projects with our niece and nephew. He is working on lighting up his LEGO city, and I make greeting cards and want to make some light up. If you're a parent or grandparent, don't wait for the kids to get their education at school. Teach them all you can at home, too!

This book may seem like an odd mix at first. It is written for "children, parents, and educators who want to learn about electronics and enjoy working with crafts and soft materials, like sewing and embroidery." But its clear writing and interesting projects also help fill another role: making it easier for kids to learn electronics. "There was a time," the authors emphasize, "when kids could take apart the technological world around them. In garages, basements, and other makeshift makerspaces, children would disassemble, poke around, and occasionally reassemble radios, telephones, and VCRs. Many influential scientists and engineers attribute their desire to enter their professions to tinkering around and playing with the parts of these devices to discover how they work." Today, of course, electronic devices are becoming so small that a microscope is needed to see individual parts, and virtually nothing useful can be accomplished by attempting to disassemble a smartphone or other compact device. Still, the basics of electronics need to be taught, using components large enough to handle. The "Tech DIY" book contains basic projects for making circuits and switches, working with parallel circuits and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), motors, light sensors, a simple timer circuit, solar cells, and creating a game using electronic parts, the Scratch programming language, and a Makey-Makey microcontroller. This can be a useful and helpful book for teachers and parents of young children under age 10. The authors also note that children older than 10 likely can create most of the book's projects without adult supervision. (My thanks to O'Reilly Media for providing a review copy.)

Make: Tech DIY is a book primarily based on sewing and simple circuit projects. As per the book description, "she came up with the idea for Tech DIY, a series of sewing circuit projects that are meant to attract and teach technology to girls and their mothers". This book can be applied all audiences, and the projects can be modified to fit to many projects outside of sewing projects. When it comes down to it, this book is a suitable book to utilize as a beginner's electronics book for kids. All of the projects in the book utilizes batteries (and solar power for one project) and conductive thread. There is no soldering involved, so the projects are easy and safe for kids to make themselves. All of the materials are fairly easy to find, and the projects get successively more

difficult as you go through the book. For my kids, they enjoyed learning more about sensors, transistors, timers, voltage, resistance - there's a lot of information packed in this book, and all of the projects are instructed very well with plenty of pictures to follow along with. The final project in the book does require a "specialty item" - the *Makey Makey - An Invention Kit for Everyone* - which is a bit more expensive than the other materials needed for projects in this book. Overall, the kids were really interested in this book, and the projects are within reach for parents like me who are crafty, but lack the tech background. This book would be a great gift to get for families who would like to learn more about tech and build stuff together.

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