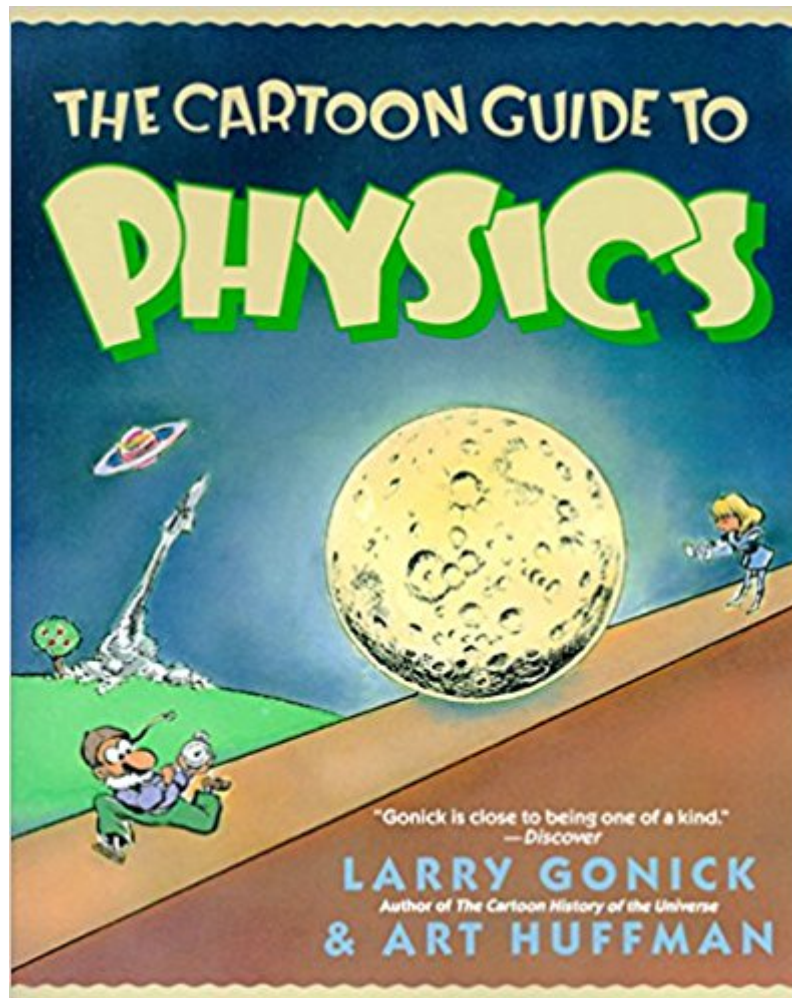




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The Cartoon Guide To Physics (Cartoon Guide Series)



Synopsis

If you think a negative charge is something that shows up on your credit card bill -- if you imagine that Ohm's Law dictates how long to meditate -- if you believe that Newtonian mechanics will fix your car -- you need *The Cartoon Guide to Physics* to set you straight. You don't have to be a scientist to grasp these and many other complex ideas, because *The Cartoon Guide to Physics* explains them all: velocity, acceleration, explosions, electricity and magnetism, circuits -- even a taste of relativity theory -- and much more, in simple, clear, and, yes, funny illustrations. Physics will never be the same!

Book Information

Series: Cartoon Guide Series

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HarperPerennial; Reprint edition (December 18, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062731009

ISBN-13: 978-0062731005

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 113 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,806 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Science & Math > Science for Kids](#) #84 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Physics](#) #235 in [Books > Science & Math > Physics](#)

Customer Reviews

It's been said that before physics students can fly with Feynman they need to walk with Halliday and Resnick. Those of us who are still toddling along, however, need Larry Gonick. Gonick's characteristically quirky drawings are teamed with physicist Art Huffman's prose to produce lessons like this: picture Sir Isaac Newton driving a Mack truck labeled "Big Inertia." Ike is talking into a CB radio, saying: "Breaker one nine: force overcomes inertia and produces acceleration. Do you read?" As the jacket copy says, "If you think a negative charge is something that shows up on your credit-card bill--if you imagine that Ohm's law dictates how long to meditate--if you believe that Newtonian mechanics will fix your car," here's the book for you. --Mary Ellen Curtin

"Gonick is close to being one of a kind."-- Discover"

Hilarious for a Physics major

This book is an entertaining approach to learning physics, it is an easy to read book and hard to put down and yet you learn so much

The book is excellent and on par with other Larry Gonick Cartoon Guides. The part on electromagnetism, however, is boring (to the author's standard), as if the author had gotten tired before finishing the book. I also wish there was more on quantum and relativistic theories.

I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Huffman as a lecturer in college physics. He made the subject come alive in the lecture hall. In this book, I can almost relive the experience. This is a well constructed, enjoyable presentation of basic physics; and for me a great refresher. I can now carry on conversations with my physics teacher friend and throw out terms like slug and parallel series with ease. Thanks again Art.

I guess it's okay to not be very funny, because they're cartoons, not comic strips. But leading the reader into wrong thinking is REALLY BAD for a "guide" to do. For example, p.9,10,11 he repeatedly says that things feel a Force _opposite_ their acceleration ... but on p.24 he says Forces cause acceleration in the same direction. He does revisit these on p.59&60, but it is not very explicit there, so can be easily missed ... and it still leaves 50 pages of confused thinking! For tides (p.29), he switches first quarter with last quarter. Around p.30, he's not consistent with what he calls "weight" ... mg or external force by some scales. page 31 he has reversed cause and effect for gravity and mass. P.36 a "guide" would accentuate that $\vec{a} = g$ is the bullet's _vertical_ distance from straight-line (not the perpendicular distance that geometry class would construct). page 43 he draws an impossible orbit, and not in a humorous way, so the reader might internalize it. p.44 he draws incorrect orbits for Moon around the Sun - it never travels "backward" like his "corkscrew", and his drawing makes it look like Earth is repelling the moon. His rotation chapter is hindered by not mentioning the right-hand rule, and his explanation of precession in terms of $F=ma$ is completely botched. Besides mistakes like these, he seems to accent the wrong aspects - possible to create charge pairs from gamma rays. He also doesn't "foreshadow" the subtle important foundational ideas - "field" is not mentioned until page 117, AFTER most of the situations that would illuminate its usefulness. In this sense it is NOT WORSE than most textbooks,

but does not act as a "guide" should. For example, he DOES show the right-hand rule for magnetic force, but without ever drawing a right hand ... unbelievable! His chapter on "Relativity" (except for ascribing Maxwell's displacement current to Einstein) is a well done quick introduction (translation: that's how I usually do it) - worth reading. So it's not funny enough to be much motivation, not complete enough to stand alone, and too many mistakes to be much of a guide - but I HAVE seen textbooks worse than this, and it's only about \$15. go for it.

This book cuts through all of the complex concepts in basic physics and condenses these big ideas into usable and learnable content. A good read at an excellent price! Now if he'll just release a "cartoon guide to engineering" I'll be golden.

Very basic but give you a great starting point learning physics.

I am a physics major and I saw this book and wanted to see how the author would present the complicated concepts in a graphic book. I am impressed.

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