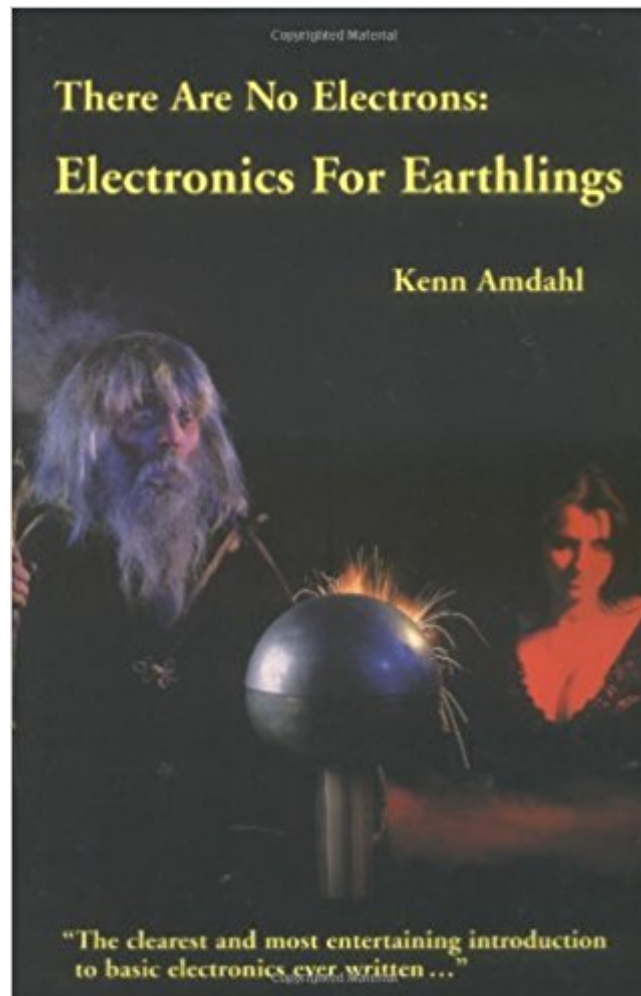




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# **There Are No Electrons: Electronics For Earthlings**



## Synopsis

An off-beat introduction to the workings of electricity for people who wish Richard Brautigan and Kurt Vonnegut had teamed up to explain inductance and capacitance to them. Despite its title, it's not wild ranting pseudo-science to be dismissed by those with brains. Rather, Amdahl maintains that one need not understand quantum physics to grasp how electricity works in practical applications. To understand your toaster or your fax machine, it doesn't really matter whether there are electrons or not, and it's a lot easier and more fun to start with the toaster than with quarks and calculus. The book is mildly weird, often funny, always clear and easy to understand. It assumes the reader doesn't know a volt from a hole in the ground and gently leads him or her through integrated circuits, radio, oscillators and the basics of the digital revolution using examples that include green buffalo, microscopic beer parties, break-dancing chickens and naked Norwegian girls in rowboats. OK, it's more than mildly weird. The book has been reprinted numerous times since 1991 and has achieved minor cult status. Reviewed and praised in dozens of electronics and educational magazines, it is used as a text by major corporations, colleges, high schools, military schools and trade schools. It has been studied by education programs at colleges across the United States. This book was making wise cracks in the corner before anyone thought of designing books for dummies and idiots; some say it helped to inspire that industry. It may be the only "introduction to electronics books" with back cover comments by Dave Barry, Ray Bradbury, Clive Cussler, and George Garrett, as well as recommendations from Robert Hazen, Bob Mostafapour, Dr. Roger Young, Dr. Wayne Green, Scott Rundle, Brian Battles, Michelle Guido, Herb Reichert and Emil Venere. As Monitoring Times said, "Perhaps the best electronics book ever. If you'd like to learn about basic electronics but haven't been able to pull it off, get *There Are No Electrons*. Just trust us. Get the book."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Amdahl's book has a serious purpose behind the flippancy and silliness: to teach electricity and electronics to mathematics and physics anxiety sufferers." -- Choice  
"Don't let non-ham friends or family find this book in your library, though; if they read it, they'll find out that there's no big mystery to electronics and spoil their image of you as a master of a stupefying technical art." Brian Battles -- QST Magazine  
"Every millennium or so, a radical non-conformist type appears on the scene to challenge the status quo of science. In this case, the heretic postures that electronics doesn't have to be so difficult. Kenn Amdahl is to electronics manuals what Dr. Seuss is to children's books" Scott Rundle -- B & W's Coda  
"Here at last is a book that explains electricity in terms simple enough even for the scientifically impaired. Though uncredentialed and unconventional professing disbelief in the existence of electrons even as he describes their behavior Amdahl is nevertheless wise, witty, and very effective, aiding comprehension of abstruse jargon and arcane concepts with gimmicks like dancing chickens, wizards, and green buffalo" -- A Common Reader  
"Like a lighthearted melding of Mr. Wizard and the folks of National Lampoon, There Are No Electrons takes a radically different approach to electronics. Electrons are little green men on their way to a killer party; capacitors are parking lot sized traffic jams; Greenies, it seems, like to surf on magnetic flux. And why not? Even the experts must speculate the details of electron theory. Amdahl just sees things a little differently. You will too." -- Videomaker Magazine  
"Most of all, the book is a thought provoker and teacher, leading the reader with no background in science or math gently down the road to electrical enlightenment. It would be a useful supplement to any beginning course in electronics." -- Old Colony Sound Lab  
"The Mysteries of Electricity are Revealed in this bizarre and often amusing text-book-in-a-clown suit. It'll seem needlessly frivolous and even flippant to the annoying minority that have no trouble copping an A in physics. For the other four billion or so earth citizens, it's about the easiest and clearest course in basic electronics imaginable. It serves well as a refresher course or a solid introduction to the complicated stuff. The presentation is accessible to a sixth-grader, yet I'd guess that most adults would not be gagged by the author's antics. If you can hack this style of teaching, you'll get what you need." -- The Whole Earth Review  
This is a totally painless way to learn about something that affects our lives every day. If only we could get Amdahl to write books on

history, geography, grammar, math and brain surgery, we'd have no need for schools. --Big Books From Small Presses

"There Are No Electrons changed my life. I lost 17 pounds in five minutes without dieting, and I feel great!" Dave Barry "Fascinating and fun! We all feel somewhat dumb when it comes to electronics. There Are No Electrons would be a proper tonic for this ignorance" Ray Bradbury "I think There Are No Electrons is a major breakthrough in teaching the elementary physics of electricity. It should be required basic reading for high school science students. "After 58 years of wandering in an electronic void, even a blockhead like me, who could never visualize the abstract, was able to penetrate the nebulous mists of amps, volts, current, induction, and conductors, and actually understand what the hell they're all about. "Who knows? Perhaps it will lead to a whole new concept of teaching." Clive Cussler "I am sure that Kenn Amdahl's lively and entertaining book will be a whole lot of help to people who are seriously engaged in learning about electronics. And that is an important achievement. But, above and beyond the practical, Amdahl, with a magical energy all his own, has created a wonderful book about 'a beautiful and powerful mystery.' This book is about electricity and everything else, too. I can't wait to recommend it to all my friends." George Garrett

"There are no electrons, It's greenies - little green guys(not the ones from X-Files) who like to party.On the positive side of the battery you got a bunch of Greenie chicks. And, I mean some of those chicks are very positive ;)On the negative side, you got some Greenie dudes. Those chicks, they buy a couple of kegs and turn up their little boom boxes. Us guys, we hear the music, and right away we feel that need to party. The more chicks there are, the more little boom boxes they got which makes the music loud. That means more dudes hear it and feel that need to party.So we find a road and cruise down to the positive side to party. Voltage is that need to party, its the reason we go. It's our thirst for brew, the big itch that must be scratched. You call it voltage we call it need to party."I could not understand what voltage is till I read this. I have read several books watched several videos over the ears to understand these simple concepts of electricity but all those efforts went in vain. I have found all those books and materials to be very boring and unhelpful, they start with some simple concept but very quickly dive into formulas and more formulas. Then I found this book, It blew my mind away. I could not believe someone could teach electricity with a fairy tale like story. Kenn should be given a noble price in scientific education.If you are like me who want to learn the concepts of electricity but cannot understand the usual text books then you should definitely give this a try. But let me warn you, don't get lost in the fairy tale story. Now I don't think that this

book can replace all other text books but I do think that this style of teaching is very important. It keeps the audience engaged especially when they are kids. Kids hate formulas and complicated jargon, trust me, we all have been there. I think what this book did was to bring back my interest in electronics like no other book did. This is the first book on electronics that I have read multiple times in my life and yet I find it as interesting every time I read as I found it the first time. I have always been interested in building electronic circuits but could never do so as I could never understand the basic concepts of electricity. I don't think I understand it even now, but this book has diverted my interest from building circuits to actually understanding electronics and more importantly not by reading a book but by reasoning. I do not know why I cannot understand electronics like some other people do using regular text books. I guess because Kenn is right, no one really understands electricity. But they don't want to admit. Below is one of my favourite part in the book, it posed a question I never got in my mind. "If the negative terminals of the battery have too few electrons and positive end has too many of them and opposites attract then why can't I hook up a wire between negative end of one battery and positive end of another battery and get any current?" Apart from explaining some of the simple concepts of electricity what this book also does is bring back the scientist in us which had died in our childhood because of the style of education we received in our school. So rather than just reading books and believing what ever book says we start wondering like a child to try to find the answers. People say arts and science don't mix. Well this book proves them wrong. This is a book on science which is written very creatively and artistically and very simple to understand. It's not just science, it's very humane. I think this book should be taken as an inspiration and an example of creating our next generation of education system.

There Are No Electrons is a book about electronics written by a 70's hippie who uses silly stories and bizarre analogies to describe concepts that are typically presented in a very dry and serious manner. His description of voltage and current in terms of little green men and their desire to party with little green women, and resistance is described in terms of the road conditions, were helpful to my understanding of the concepts. I only understood series vs. parallel circuits due to his analog of green buffaloes trying to cross footbridges over canyons. His descriptions of capacitors, inductors and transistors were very helpful, but I would recommend just watching YouTube videos instead in order to spare yourself from reading his unnecessary conversations with a doopey wizard. I'm glad I read the book because it made electronics a more approachable subject and helped me grasp certain concepts, but by the end I was tired of his silly stories and glad to be done with it.

The book presented the material in an easy to understand, but more importantly in an easy to remember way using analogies that are hard to forget. The problem I'm finding as a newbie is that the concepts make sense when you are reading about them but you forget them soon after you finish to book. It's a lot easier to retain how a transistor works it's when is visualized as bunch of wacked out chickens running across bare floor and a carpet rather than electrons moving from an n type to p type material. It sounds silly but it makes this stuff stick. But this book presents the concepts using conventional theory as well, so you'll be well prepared to build on what you learned. The story was fun too, and I got some genuine laughs out of it. You will not be an electronics expert after reading this, but you'll have the basics that seem to be skipped over in other books. A lot of times why you 'll find in beginner book is that the author will start off all nice and easy, and then forget their target audience and get all esoteric. Won't happen here. I was disappointed that the use of transistors in some basic circuits was not covered. I would like to see a book by Kenn Amdahl author describing how electronic amplifiers work in greater detail.. maybe as a book II to this one. Also I still don't get why electrons/greenies don't flow when the negative terminal of one battery is wired to the positive terminal of another. I thought that would become clear by the end of the book maybe I missed that along where the wizard hid the 10,000

All HuMans Should Read ThisMoDern, Laid-Back AnalogyOf ElecTriCityBy Kenn AmDahl...This Is NOTWhat You Were TaughtIn High School...If You Want Dry And Crusty CACATo Struggle Keeping Your Eyes OpenWhile You Learn AbOut ElecTriCity,Get An ElectriCal TextBook...Kenn GroovesWith The CurRentAnd FlowsALIVE...You Don't Find BoRingIn Kenn AmDahl's Stories...You Just MightLearn The TRUTHAbOut The InVisible WorldInSide Your EyeBallsThat Has PractiCal ValueWhen It ComesTo ImPresSing The ChicksWith Your Hot, New ElecTriCal KnowLedge...

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