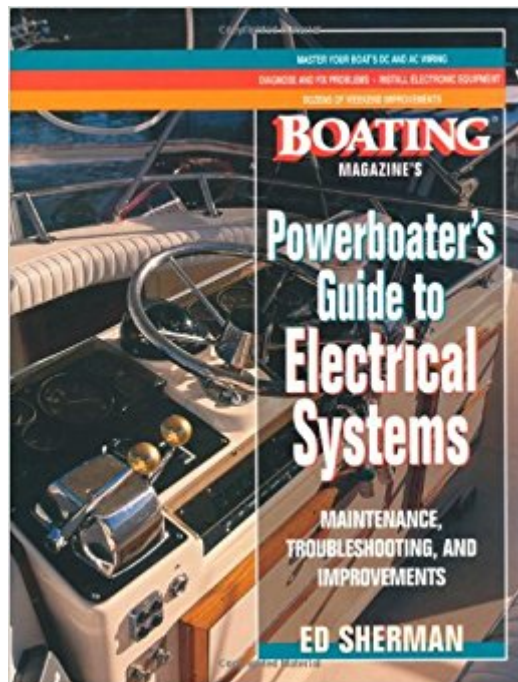




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Powerboater's Guide To Electrical Systems: Maintenance, Troubleshooting, And Improvements



Synopsis

Like having an electrician looking over your shoulder, but much cheaper! You can use this simple, step-by-step, illustrated guide to do your own electrical projects and repairs. Author Ed Sherman walks you through the basics, including wiring diagrams, diagnosing problems, ignition systems, battery systems, shorepower circuits, installing equipment, surveying your boat's wiring, and more.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Whether you're a new to electrical systems or a professional serviceman, there is valuable material here for you. The book starts with the basics of electrical circuits, wiring diagrams and test equipment. The liberal use of drawings and photographs clearly illustrates the theories set forth. The recommended test equipment is used and demonstrated consistently throughout the book. So, any user purchasing or owning similar devices will have a clear idea how to apply them when troubleshooting and maintaining an electrical system. The explanation of wiring diagrams, symbology and use in maintenance applications is very easy to follow. For the professional serviceman, the references to ABYC standards and practices is very informative. The chapter covering circuit protection and repair procedures gives significant insight as to what is or is not a good electrical connection! There are two chapters devoted to batteries and battery charging systems. This included the use of isolators, combiners, wiring schemes, hydrometer testing, load testing, alternator and shore power charging systems. Explanations are thorough enough to explain the workings of these systems for basic troubleshooting or selection of equipment for upgrades to

systems. AC and DC devices aboard the boat are each covered in their own chapters. Installation considerations as well as troubleshooting are explained. Safety with AC systems is discussed at length. Again there are frequent references to the ABYC standards throughout. Finally the book wraps up with the chapter on electronic installations. Issues such as RFI, magnetic field interference, power, and basic physical considerations are included.

This is a fantastic book. I read a lot of technical books; actually, that's pretty much all I read. But all the books I read are usually on the topics of software / computer science -- as that is my trade. I recently bought my first boat, a 30 ft. cruiser. I am the kind of person that feels uncomfortable knowing very little about such a complicated beast. I bought this book, among many others on various topics. The book exceeds on every level. First, the content is exactly what you expect. Sherman covers all the topics you need to know. Next, the editing is done well -- not too much detail, but just enough. Diagrams are great. Writing is fantastic. I really can appreciate Ed's style. He covers the underlying science without going too deep. I find this extremely important. I had all my physics/chemistry courses over 10 years ago. It is good to brush up on the basics. For example, he has a whole chapter dedicated to batteries. The first couple of pages describe the science of how a battery works, and the 3 main types of batteries you'll encounter. He then goes into the most pertinent issues with marine batteries: safety, diagnostics, maintenance, which type of battery to use, how batteries are wired together, etc. It is exactly what I was looking for. The first thing he recommends in the book is trying to make an electrical diagram of your boat. He explains the standards and how to attack the problem, and shows example diagrams. I started this today, and in the couple hours I spent poking around behind distro panels and examining the batteries, I learned a lot, and it was precisely like he laid out in the book.

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