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The Hardware Hacker: Adventures In Making And Breaking Hardware



Synopsis

For over a decade, Andrew "bunnie" Huang, one of the world's most esteemed hackers, has shaped the fields of hacking and hardware, from his cult-classic book *Hacking the Xbox* to the open-source laptop Novena and his mentorship of various hardware startups and developers. In *The Hardware Hacker*, Huang shares his experiences in manufacturing and open hardware, creating an illuminating and compelling career retrospective. Huang's journey starts with his first visit to the staggering electronics markets in Shenzhen, with booths overflowing with capacitors, memory chips, voltmeters, and possibility. He shares how he navigated the overwhelming world of Chinese factories to bring chumby, Novena, and Chibitronics to life, covering everything from creating a Bill of Materials to choosing the factory to best fit his needs. Through this collection of personal essays and interviews on topics ranging from the legality of reverse engineering to a comparison of intellectual property practices between China and the United States, bunnie weaves engineering, law, and society into the tapestry of open hardware. With highly detailed passages on the ins and outs of manufacturing and a comprehensive take on the issues associated with open source hardware, *The Hardware Hacker* is an invaluable resource for aspiring hackers and makers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew "bunnie" Huang is a hacker, maker, and open hardware activist. He holds a Ph.D in Electrical Engineering from MIT, is the author of *Hacking the Xbox* (No Starch Press) and *The*

Essential Guide to Electronics in Shenzhen, and has served as a technical advisor for various hardware startups and MAKE Magazine.

Andrew "bunnie" Huang's new book "The Hardware Hacker" is full of surprises. The most notable is that the final chapter is all about biohacking from a reverse engineering hardware developer perspective. While you might know Bunnie as a guru of reverse engineering he admits at the end of the book that he flipped a coin when he went to MIT about his major. The EE side of the coin toss won, but biology was the road not taken. As an open hardware developer I loved the first nine chapters. Bunnie shares all of his trials and experiences offering many valuable lessons about designing hardware which he learned the hard way. He goes further than most and gets into laptop, phone and FPGA adventures where as many of us have not ventured passed simple microcontroller projects. The book is easy to follow as it is loaded with stories, people and factories from around the world. "The Hardware Hacker's" final chapter blew my mind. Bunnie dives into H1N1 virus compared to computer viruses, analyzing DNA sequences with UNIX CLI tools, decompiling protein sequences and patching our genome. These topics are often explained by biologists, but it was much easier to absorb when the biology was explained with hardware analogies.

Very interesting. The insights are priceless for any person who at least dreamed to manufacture own gadgets.

A good insight on hardware development for manufacturing with detailed description of Chinese factories and their advantages. Some hacking for the curious as well...

I've been interested in the maker community and micro controllers. recommended this book to me and I'm sorry to say I didn't know who bunnie was before then. After reading up on him I preordered the book. I don't regret it. Bunnie's desire to make technology accessible to everyone is great. Reading about his experiences and thoughts on where technology could be headed was very enlightening. This book provides a great starting point to conversations we need to have about how we interact with technology and what we need to do with IP law.

For anyone who DOESN'T know who Bunnie Huang is, but who either aspires to BE an electrical engineer, or who just loves hardware hacking, arduino hacking, or watches EEVblog.. I highly recommend it! Once I found out bunnie was the guy behind the Novena open-source laptop, I

skipped right to that chapter and couldn't put the book down. I loved hearing all the prototyping stories, the wisdom of going to a fab-lab to see the build process first hand, the logic behind the various design decisions and gotchas to watch out for.. Lots of good wisdom for prototype design and working with Chinese sources and fab shops. It gives you a real feel of what's needed if you're going to get into crowd sourcing open hardware designs.. or even how university researchers need to look beyond the old way of doing funded research (demo or die), and look into the new crowd source research funding model and doing "deliver it or die". Now I need to start following this guy.

Excellent read. I'd label this as a cross between technical hardware/business. Folks in both camps can learn about the other and it really sheds light on the whole manufacturing and do it yourself process of design.

Really enjoyed the read and the perspective. Great book.

i liked the book

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