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The Art of the Helicopter

By John Watkinson



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The modern helicopter is a sophisticated device which merges a surprising number of technologies together. This wide range of disciplines is one of the fascinations of the helicopter, but it also makes a complete understanding difficult. Those searching for an understanding of the helicopter will find *The Art of the Helicopter* invaluable. John Watkinson approaches every subject associated with the helicopter from first principles and builds up in a clearly explained logical sequence using plain English and clear diagrams, avoiding unnecessary mathematics. Technical terms and buzzwords are defined and acronyms are spelled out. Misnomers, myths and old wives tales (for there are plenty surrounding helicopters) are disposed of. Whilst the contents of the book are expressed in straightforward language there is no oversimplification and the content is based on established physics and accepted theory. The student of helicopter technology or aerodynamics will find here a concise introduction leading naturally to more advanced textbooks on the subject.



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Editorial Review

Review

"The theory and dynamics of helicopter flight are complex and for the uninitiated, difficult. But in this book, British helicopter pilot and technical author John Watkinson sets out to simplify the concepts, and explain in lay-man's terms how a helicopter operates. Using photographs and over 400 diagrams, all aspects of rotary flight are covered including the history of rotor-craft, helicopter dynamics, rotors, tails, power plants and control. This is an excellent book for any helicopter enthusiast." Airforce, Fall 2004

"...clear and simple diagrams that aid verbal explanations of how helicopters are made." -AOPA, 2004

"The Art of the Helicopter is designed to de-mystify the complexity as it examines helicopter aerodynamic theory, design and performance. The book aims to discuss its subjects readably, begin each subject from first principles and build on those in a "clearly explained logical sequence using plain English and clear diagrams, avoiding unnecessary mathematics"...

- Flight Safety Digest, May 2004

About the Author

John Watkinson is an independent international consultant in advanced applications of electronics to audiovisual and avionics systems. He is a Fellow of the AES, a member of the Society of Expert Witnesses, and the British Computer Society and is a chartered information systems practitioner. He presents lectures, seminars and training courses worldwide. He is the author of many other Elsevier books, including The Art of DigitalVideo, An Introduction to Digital Video, Convergence in Broadcast and Communications Media, Television Fundamentals and The Art of the Helicopter.

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The only single volume book to cover all the aspects of helicopter design, manufacture and performance, written for pilots and students

Users Review

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