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The Practical Pyromaniac: Build Fire Tornadoes, One-Candlepower Engines, Great Balls of Fire, and More Incendiary Devices

By William Gurstelle



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The Practical Pyromaniac: Build Fire Tornadoes, One-Candlepower Engines, Great Balls of Fire, and More Incendiary Devices By William Gurstelle

The Practical Pyromaniac combines science, history, and DIY pyrotechnics to explain humankind's most useful and paradoxical tool: fire. William Gurstelle, author of the bestselling *Backyard Ballistics* and frequent contributor to *Popular Mechanics* and *Make* magazine, presents 25 projects with instructions, diagrams, photos, and links to video demonstrations that enable people of all ages (including young enthusiasts with proper supervision) to explore and safely play with fire.

From Franklin's stove to Diesel's engine, Gurstelle tells the explosive and fascinating tales of the great American and European pyromaniacs who scientifically revealed the mysteries of fire. Among them are hot-headed "Gunpowder" Joseph Priestley, who discovered oxygen, and Antoine Lavoisier, the father of chemistry who lost his head on the guillotine, as well as scientist and spy Count Rumford and dapper Humphrey Davy whose chemical discoveries and fiery inventions saved thousands of lives.

With *The Practical Pyromaniac* in hand readers can replicate these breakthrough scientists' experiments and inventions, from the simply fascinating one-candlepower engine to the nearly magical fire piston and from a practical backpacker stove to an incredible tornado of fire.



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Editorial Review

Review

"What a fun, totally engrossing book! Gurstelle's projects—everything from a tiny single-candle engine to a flamethrower—are both easy to build and hard to resist. But along the way Gurstelle also weaves in a fascinating account of how the mysteries of fire were deciphered by some of history's greatest scientists. Think of *The Practical Pyromaniac* as a cookbook for the budding scientist in each of us." —**James Meigs**, editor in chief of *Popular Mechanics*

"If only I had had a reference like William Gurstelle's terrific [book] ... provides no-nonsense walkthroughs of a host of excellent, intriguing and magical experiments (with plenty of very sage safety talk and advice)." —*Mythbusters'* Adam Savage in his review for *The Wall Street Journal*

"William Gurstelle is the bomb—as well as the blowtorch, the catapult, the guided missile, and now the fire tornado. His enthusiasm for just-shy-of-catastrophic chemistry is infectious and inspiring, and once again he's proven that science can be bold, captivating, and fun for all." —**Thomas Goetz**, executive editor of *Wired* and author of *The Decision Tree*

"A recipe book packed with fun (and safe) fire projects, fit for science geeks, garage experimenters and casual weekend flame-throwers." —MSNBC.com

"When the zombie apocalypse comes, I want William Gurstelle's books in my survival bunker. *The Practical Pyromaniac* delivers the history, science, and practical know-how needed to play safely with, and truly understand, Prometheus's gift. To quote Beavis: 'Fire. Heh. Heh. Fire!'" —**Ken Denmead**, publisher of GeekDad.com and author of *Geek Dad: Awesomely Geeky Projects and Activities for Dads and Kids to Share*

"This book isn't just playtime for pyros ... [it is] full of cool things to build, sure enough, but it's also an educational and entertaining trip back through the history of science. This one deserves maximum exposure to both the build-it-yourself crowd and those fascinated by the cul-de-sacs of scientific history." —*Booklist*

"Simply stated directions and easy-to-follow illustrations usher readers through more than 15 incendiary projects ... The author renders otherwise dense and complicated scientific explanations imminently understandable." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This book packs enough punch to fill a dozen weekends with high-powered hijinks that will amaze and delight the members of your secret garage science club." —**Mark Frauenfelder**, editor in chief of *MAKE*

About the Author

William Gurstelle is a professional engineer who has been researching and building model catapults and ballistic devices for more than 30 years. He is the author of *Absinthe & Flamethrowers*, *The Art of the Catapult*; the bestselling *Backyard Ballistics*; *Building Bots*, *Whoosh, Boom, Splat*; and *Notes from the Technology Underground*. He is a contributing editor at *Make* magazine and writes frequently for *The Rake*, *Wired*, and several other national magazines.

Users Review

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Cary Barrett:

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Clarence Frey:

The Practical Pyromaniac: Build Fire Tornadoes, One-Candlepower Engines, Great Balls of Fire, and More Incendiary Devices can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing *The Practical Pyromaniac: Build Fire Tornadoes, One-Candlepower Engines, Great Balls of Fire, and More Incendiary Devices* although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

Nancy Sherman:

The book untitled The Practical Pyromaniac: Build Fire Tornadoes, One-Candlepower Engines, Great Balls of Fire, and More Incendiary Devices contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice learn.

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