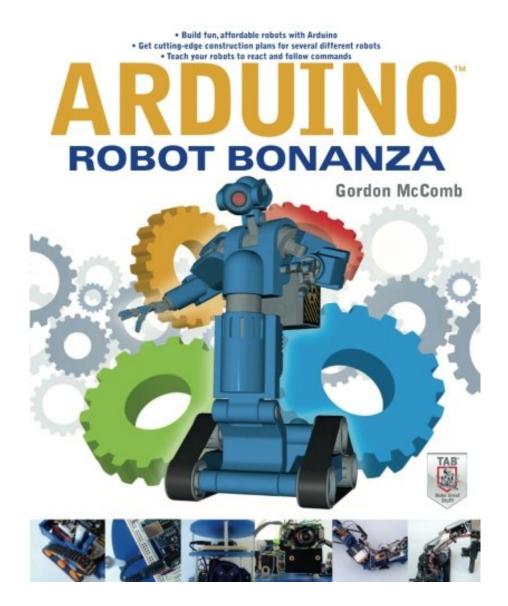


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About the Author

Gordon McComb is one of the world's leading authors on amateur and educational robotics. His bestselling book, Robot Builder's Bonanza, first published in 1987 and now in its fourth edition, is a renowned, widely read guide for the robot builder. McComb is also the author of 65 other books, plus thousands of magazine articles for such publications as Popular Science and Modern Electronics. For 13 years, he wrote a weekly syndicated newspaper column on computers and technology, which reached several million readers nationwide.

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Create high-tech walking, talking, and thinking robots "McComb hasn't missed a beat. It's an absolute winner!" -GeekDad, Wired.com

Breathe life into the robots of your dreams?without advanced electronics or programming skills. Arduino Robot Bonanza shows you how to build autonomous robots using ordinary tools and common parts. Learn how to wire things up, program your robot's brain, and add your own unique flair. This easy-to-follow, fully illustrated guide starts with the Teachbot and moves to more complex projects, including the musical TuneBot, the remote-controlled TeleBot, a slithering snakelike 'bot, and a robotic arm with 16 inches of reach!

- Get started on the Arduino board and software
- Build a microcontroller-based brain
- Hook up high-tech sensors and controllers
- Write and debug powerful Arduino apps
- Navigate by walking, rolling, or slithering
- Program your 'bot to react and explore on its own
- · Add remote control and wireless video
- Generate sound effects and synthesized speech
- Develop functional robot arms and grippers
- Extend plans and add exciting features
- Sales Rank: #241009 in Books
- Published on: 2013-04-03
- Released on: 2013-04-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.13" h x .94" w x 7.38" l, 1.60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 416 pages

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30 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful Intro to Robotics but Beware the "No Code" Idea!

By Let's Compare Options Preptorial

It's a little bit too bad that all the hype about this fine book clouds its real value-- as a great bridge between "toy" and "real" robotics. In order to attract (young scientists?) the promos promise that, without programming, you can create walking, talking, thinking robots from commonly found parts. I probably don't have to tell you to take that with a grain of salt. But I also don't want you to be turned off by it either!

The Arduino IS programmable, and this book DOES take you through some of the most up to date and recent applications from (now) several years of applications. You can see the Arduino here: Arduino UNO R3 board with DIP ATmega328P. Even more interestingly, check out the much newer Raspberry Pi here: Raspberry Pi Model B Revision 2.0 (512MB). The Pi is a fully featured "PC" that you can sync with Arduino to do many more advanced robotics projects, including home automation. This book doesn't detail that level of programming but does give many tips about the Arduino interface.

The third step up are "Robot Basic" type progams, and those are beyond the scope of this book. Toy robotics, like the very expensive LEGO Mindstorms NXT 2.0 (8547) are a great introduction to robotics for kids. Far beyond that are "real" robotics including reverse kinematics, robot vision, etc. that apply to everything from drones to bomb disposal bots, moon rovers, etc. as well as industrial robots. This book gives a great transition between the two by detailing many "next level" aspects like motors and interfaces with the CPU, but not to the extent of losing non-math oriented types.

Advanced hobbyists will read this and initially think it is too basic, but remember, new capabilities like Arduino and Raspberry can take your robotics to a much higher level, DEPENDING on your willingness to get into the coding. A step beyond both Raspberry and Arduino is the Parallax Propeller (8 core multi board), which can interface with both Arduino and Raspberry. Details here: Propeller P8X32A Breakout.

Would the details here work as a father/mother-son/daughter project guide? Absolutely yes. Can you really get by with NO programming? Well, what's the point of Arduino if you don't program, but to be fair, yes-realizing you won't get much intelligence out of your project with that limitation. Even the most basic line following (not to mention finding power when you run low!) requires programming.

The book DOES cover these details and many more, so there is a bit of a disconnect between the publisher's dumbing down description and the author's - book's actual value and advanced content. There is the "teachbot" the "tunebot" and the "telebot," at progressively deeper levels, and to give you an example of why this isn't a "toy" text, it does cover making your own circuit boards, robot vision, servos, remote control, and much more, tilting content well beyond the toy category.

In the end, the greatest value is the currency, in web reference resources, sources for parts, lists, and many more aspects that show this author has not only a ton of "real world" Arduino/Robotics pairings, but also very recent experience at a very advanced level in Arduino (not surprising given his Bonanza background!). The ideal audience would be an Arduino buff just moving into robotics or vice versa. If you're already working with both, you might find the "intro to the Arduino platform" (etc.) too elementary, but making your own boards quite challenging, and would still appreciate the references and tips. For the price, the currency of the info is well worth your investment even if you're an old Arduino pro.

Note on other gems: McGraw is excellent, but most of you know O'Reilly is quite tasty. If you want to augment this fine new text with some really amazing 2011 connections, including LOTS of real code (not pseudocode) and MANY screen shots, check out: Make: Arduino Bots and Gadgets: Six Embedded Projects with Open Source Hardware and Software (Learning by Discovery). Kimmo-Tero also is the author that

describes the famous "mind controlled robot" in: Make a Mind-Controlled Arduino Robot: Use Your Brain as a Remote (Creating With Microcontrollers Eeg, Sensors, and Motors).

Library Picks reviews only for the benefit of Amazon shoppers and has nothing to do with Amazon, the authors, manufacturers or publishers of the items we review. We always buy the items we review for the sake of objectivity, and although we search for gems, are not shy about trashing an item if it's a waste of time or money for Amazon shoppers. If the reviewer identifies herself, her job or her field, it is only as a point of reference to help you gauge the background and any biases.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent book for someone that knows almost nothing of electronics, arduino and robots

By G. Dombiak

I'm still reading this book and it is super fun, easy and useful to read it. The writing style is so easy to read that it feels like a friend is telling you all these things in a very easy way. I'm a software engineer with very little knowledge of electronics and arduino. This book is perfect for me.

I even contacted the author to get the parts for building the robot in the book and he responded very quickly and with a very nice answer.

You cannot go wrong with this book.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great guide to building Arduino robots with simple materials By Amazon Customer

I wanted to be able to build great robots for under \$200. This book enables me to use rigid/foamed pvc as my primary structural material, and then build great Arduino robots around that. I have all of Gordon's other books too - but this one is focused on the Arduino and that's exactly what I wanted.

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