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Forrest Mims' Science Experiments: DIY Projects From The Pages Of Make:



Synopsis

Forrest M. Mims is a revered contributor to *Make:* magazine, where his popular columns about science-related topics and projects for Makers are evergreen treasures. Collected together here for the first time, these columns range from such simple projects as building an LED tracker for hand-launched night rockets to such challenging builds as transforming strings of data into unique musical compositions. A variety of photography and imaging projects are featured, including an ultra-sensitive twilight photometer that measures the elevation of layers of dust, smoke, and smog from around 3,000 feet to the top of the stratosphere at 31 miles! Most of the projects can be done with a collection of simple electronic components, such as LEDs, transistors, resistors, and batteries. To inspire and motivate readers, the book also includes profiles of such famous Makers as President Thomas Jefferson and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

Book Information

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[View larger](#) An ideal source for science fair projects in many fields, this book will, I hope, demonstrate that a formal science education is not necessary to do real science and even make significant discoveries. Amateur scientists use the Internet to learn more about their particular interests and to post their projects and findings online. But when it comes time to make new discoveries, it's time to make and employ the kinds of things described in this book. **Four Ways: Be Like a Scientist** By Forrest Mims The camera in your smart phone is just waiting to

do science! Use it to record clouds, plant growth, flowers, traffic and so forth. For serious science, record an image of a particular scene every day at about the same time, rain or shine. Compile a collage of your images and post them online along with your comments. Your smart phone is like having a satellite in your pocket. Select a parameter that interests you, like the daily amount of ozone, haze, or water vapor over your town. Then go online and find a relevant satellite image. Do this for a year, and you will know more about the presence of what you have selected than the scientists who designed and deployed the satellite. A century-old treaty prevents us from collecting the nests or feathers from migratory birds. So why not photograph them? Do this for a year or two, and you will have collected a resource of significance to ornithologists. Water quality is an increasingly important topic. Test kits designed for fish aquariums can also be used to test both tap and bottled water. When my daughter did this back in middle school, she learned that the bottled water we were buying for her infant sister contained ammonia.

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