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Getting Started With Drones: Build And Customize Your Own Quadcopter



Synopsis

Want to make something that can fly? How about a flying robot? In this book, you'll learn how drones work, how to solve some of the engineering challenges a drone presents, and how to build your own--an autonomous quadcopter that you can build, customize, and fly. Your drone will be your eyes in the sky and in places where a human could never get to--much less fit!

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Customer Reviews

Fly Safely! Safe and responsible flight should always be your No. 1 concern when preparing to take your drone to the air, say authors Terry and Belinda Kilby. Here are some of their key rules to keep in mind:

- Always fly below 400 feet. Full-scale aircraft fly above 500 feet. This creates a 100-foot buffer zone in the airspace between manned and unmanned aircraft.
- Fly your aircraft within your line of sight, constantly able to see your aircraft while operating it. Colored landing gear or LED lights help identify the front and back of the multirotor, which assists in maintaining your orientation.
- Never fly within five miles of any airport, within three miles of large stadiums an hour before and after events, and never in national parks or military bases.
- Take a flight lesson. This will help to reinforce the principles of flight and will let you experience navigating the airspace from a full-scale pilot's point of view.
- Always inspect your equipment to make sure every component is in proper working order prior to every flight.
- Do it for fun!

Don't fly for commercial purposes without authorization from the FAA.

- Never fly recklessly. Not only is it dangerous and disrespectful to the people and property in the area, but you

may be issued a citation and a hefty fine. Fly safely.

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Terry Kilby has been a maker and creative technology enthusiast his entire life. He has been an audio engineer, electronic music producer, web developer and now, a mobile software engineer. However, the technology that has become his true passion is unmanned aerial systems. He designs, builds and flies his small drones for aerial photography as well as photogrammetry for mapping and 3D modeling. After earning degrees in art and education from Salisbury University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Belinda Kilby taught art for ten years in the Baltimore City Public School System. After creating art through a variety of media throughout her career, it was a natural progression to contribute to her husband Terry's efforts in designing and building small, unmanned aerial vehicles for capturing unique photographic images. Her instructional writing informs and inspires, allowing Belinda to become a voice and advocate for responsible aerial UAV photography and its many beneficial applications for users.

This is a great book; I am new to drones, have purchased a couple of Ready to Fly budget models and intend to move up to a kit model with auto pilot, GPS, etc.. This book takes the mystery out of all of the major components and accessories for a drone with autopilot, GPS, and radio telemetry. It also has some introductory information on video and cameras with references to additional information. It is arranged around putting together a specific quadcopter drone kit with each chapter detailing the installation of a specific component (frame, power board, electronic speed control, motors, receiver, flight controller, etc..) Each assembly step is preceded by detailed background information on purpose and selection of the component. Just chock full of information presented clearly and understandably. What this book is not is a tutorial on how to fly your drone, of which there are many. It is an excellent tutorial and reference book.

The book's stated goal on page vii is to provide the reader with basic working knowledge of aerial robotics. The authors do an excellent job of this describing the history of drones and RC aircraft, as well as providing a clear description of the systems and avionics of these devices. Woven throughout this is an articulate description, and well as clear photo documentation of the build of a basic quadcopter. This is a good book and one that I may be using as a reference if I decide to build a drone. While I do rate this book as 5-star and quite good, I did find myself wanting to read more in

"Chapter 4.) Flight Controllers" about computer vision and onboard processing of visual data in real time. There are some prepackaged devices on the market, (eg the Parrot AR.Drone) that have shown a high level of sophistication. NASA as well as universities have used these specific units in their exploration of autonomous aerial robots. Builders of homemade devices may want to incorporate some of these abilities in their drones, as well as possibly expand on these capabilities.

I like the info, though it is really geared to readers who are building specific quads.. which is fine, but just be aware. If you are making a custom quad, you might, like me, use this for reference, and adopt many principles to your build. I am happy that I have it to use as a reference.

I have been considering building a quadcopter and so far this book has answered every question.

Great Book. Really gives you a fair backbone on building your first drone. Recommend to any Drone builder or Tinkerer.

Great book for a first time drone build. Easy to understand. Can be used to build any drone, not necessarily the model described in the book

good reading

Fabulous book about building your own racing drone for about 200 bucks. it covers everything

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