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Instant LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3



Synopsis

In Detail LEGO Mindstorm is more than just a toy. With a multitude of gears, pins, and beams, you can build fantastic, complex designs. The programming brick is Linux-based, and with dozens of available sensors, it allows you to make incredibly sophisticated robots. Instant LEGO Mindstorm EV3 goes beyond the example projects that come with the box and helps you to produce a more advanced and functional robot. "Instant LEGO Mindstorm EV3" is a practical guide that shows you how to advance from the basic lessons included in your EV3 kit, combine core programming commands, and implement tested design principles when building your robot. You will build a basic robot and download a program to make the robot move. You will also write several increasingly complex programs to add functionality to the robot and use a proportional algorithm to track a line with an optical sensor. "Instant LEGO Mindstorm EV3" will teach you how to make a LEGO Mindstorm EV3 robot that can navigate and interact with its environment using sensors. You will first be guided through how to make your robot interact with its environment using touch sensors. You will then program the robot to navigate and change direction using a gyro sensor. Next, using a proportional algorithm, your robot will maintain a given distance to a stationary or moving object. You will then be shown how to change parameters using on-board buttons and finally how to use an optical sensor to track a line. "Instant LEGO Mindstorm EV3" is full of step-by-step instructions and illustrations designed to help you build a robot with ease. Approach Filled with practical, step-by-step instructions and clear explanations for the most important and useful tasks. A concise guide full of step-by-step recipes to teach you how to build and program an advanced robot. Who this book is for "Instant LEGO Mindstorm EV3" is for both the adult tinkerer who has never touched LEGO before and the experienced LEGO engineer who has evolved from Mindstorm NXT to EV3. If you are interested in entering or advising students in robot competitions such as the FIRST LEGO League, the World Robot Olympiad, or RoboGames, then this book is a must for you. Even if you haven't purchased your Mindstorm EV3 kit yet, this book will give you a good introduction to the platform.

Book Information

File Size: 13199 KB

Print Length: 82 pages

Publisher: Packt Publishing (November 5, 2013)

Publication Date: November 5, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1849519757

ISBN-13: 978-1849519755

ASIN: B00FFA0ADM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #775,031 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #181

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Customer Reviews

First of all, as many of us know, and as it already was pointed out by other reviewers, Lego offers two versions of EV3: "Retail" and "Education" sets. Both are accessible to general public, but through different distribution channels. I have opted to order the Education version for my son because it comes with MUCH more professionally looking software, the robots in Education version look like robots and not like scary monsters, and there is an option of extension set which enables on to build even more sophisticated robots. Retail and Education sets contain the same core EV3 brick but different plastic bricks, so robots are not quite interchangeable. The books also work only with either one or other set. This specific book requires the Education set (45544), sold only directly through Lego Education web site. The owners of the Education version should be happy that this book came out. My son and I found that this book offers a lot of good information on increasingly different programming concepts. It contains a healthy mix of instructions how to build an educational robot (a little more ugly than the standard one, but this is OK for the purpose of training) and guidance and examples how to program it to achieve different tasks. Since there are so many versions of programs in the book, I found that this stimulated my son's desire to experiment and to create his own versions of the program to make robot do different things. He made a lot of progress while working with this book. If you wonder why this book can't be used with Retail kit: the key difference is that it utilizes ultrasonic and gyro sensors which are available for purchase separately but not included in the Retail kit.

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