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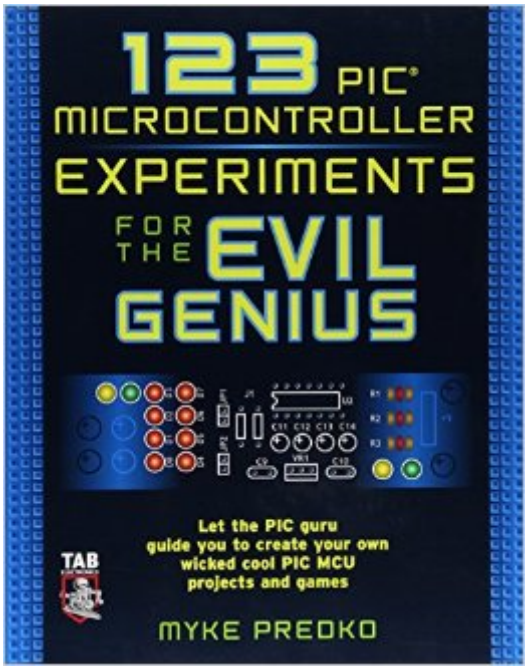
123 PIC Microcontroller Experiments For The Evil Genius



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Synopsis

Microchip continually updates its product line with more capable and lower cost products. They also provide excellent development tools. Few books take advantage of all the work done by Microchip. 123 PIC Microcontroller Experiments for the Evil Genius uses the best parts, and does not become dependent on one tool type or version, to accommodate the widest audience possible. Building on the success of 123 Robotics Experiments for the Evil Genius, as well as the unbelievable sales history of Programming and Customizing the PIC Microcontroller, this book will combine the format of the evil genius title with the following of the microcontroller audience for a sure-fire hit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a Tale of Two Books.One Book misrepresents itself as a compilation of "123 PIC Projects for the Evil Genius." Wannabe Evil Geniuses everywhere will be mightily annoyed when they find out - after purchase - that this is not at all a listing of evil projects. It gets worse: The book is full of typos and coding errors.The "Second" book - while physically the same book - is actually/potentially a very good hands-on guide/course to learning PIC Microprocessor programing and system development. The name of the book should be changed to something honest, such as "A Two-Semester PIC Programming Course." Predko is obviously a very good PIC programmer, and his language prose skills (or his re-writer’s skills...) are impressive; one of the few authors who uses semicolons

consistantly and correctly. Nevertheless, there are many gramatical and wrong-word errors in the text - which can’t easily be found with a spell checker. I think after completing all 123 experiments, a reader would be a pretty fair PIC programmer. I imagine two months of every-day effort would be enough to get up to speed. However, as other reviewers have pointed out, even the source code and schematics have errors, so a student or teacher should hesitate to use this books as a one or two semester class unless someone -a summer test student maybe - had taken a run through the entire book and noted all discrepancies. It’s not a good start that the author’s instructions for initial laoding and setup of PICC LITE and MPLAB IDE don’t work as detailed, and that suddenly an unexplained HI-TIDE IDE is offered for download without explanation.Mostly it bothers that the author seems to have abandoned this book. No forum, no errata list. No forum discussion of HI-TIDE. Did the author just take the money and run ?

I love and hate this book. It is packed with information, and the as I’m new to microcontroller programming, I’m learning a lot from it. Myke’s knowledge of the PICMicro controllers really shines through. It covers a wide range of topics from toys, sensors, C & ASM coding. Note: You’ll want to turn off compiler optimizations when stepping through code to understand it or you may become confused. The optimizer is aggresive (which is good) but it can do strange things.My only real complaint is that it is full of typos and errors both in the text and schematics. One example, the schematic for experiment #96 says 6.0V but it actually needs 4.5V.Also, I’ve learned that it’s hard to find discrete components locally now (everything is surface-mount) so you’ll probably have to order parts online through Digikey, Jameco or Mouser. Order extra PICs as you’ll inevitably fry a couple.If you want to learn what microcontrollers can do, than this is the book for you.

I’ve enjoyed the publications by Myke Predko, however, this book was a dissapointment. It claims 123 "Experiments" ,but this is not the case. Each "experiment" is acutally a page or half page "topic" on ideas, or suggestions regarding PIC interfacing and VERY basic electronics. The title is misleading.I would only recommend this book as an introduction to the PIC Microcontroller and those who are interested in basic electronics.Myke Predko is an exceptional professional and is considered the Oracle of the PIC Micro-Controller. I have 10 of his books but could not enjoy this one.

As a PIC beginner I was hoping for more than this book provides in the first few chapters.As already pointed out the title is very misleading; there certainly aren’t 123 "experiments". Many of the 123

articles are to do with the ins and outs of programming in C.The typos and other mistakes don't help either and don't fill you with confidence when what you do doesn't reflect what the book says will happen, e.g. experiment 7, p31 where the LEDs I get aren't the same as indicated, and looking at the circuit, you'd never get the LEDs lit as indicated in the book.Sloppy.

Although I have to agree with some of the other reviewers, the book is an excellent "hardware centric" exposure to microcontrollers. The circuit and parts explainations are fragmented, and need major editing. I look at this book as a low cost way (with the $36 PICKIT1) to have hands on exposure to both C and assembly language without having to buy additional compilers or hardware. In this book, the low end microcontroller that is used in most of the "experiments", gives the reader the exposure to almost every conceivable peripheral that microcontrollers can be used with. The designs are extremely clever and show how much can be done with minimal circuits and code, something that is lacking in most texts. This is not a book for novices, but more of a mid-level experimenter, or evil genius wanna-be.

This book is very difficult to follow. It isn't intended for beginners, I guess, but even novices will have trouble following the information here. The circuits and ideas are good if all you want to do is build someone else's circuits, but if your goal is learning about microcontrollers, this one is somewhat poorly written and tough to follow. Also, as other reviews have stated, expect MANY typographical errors!

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