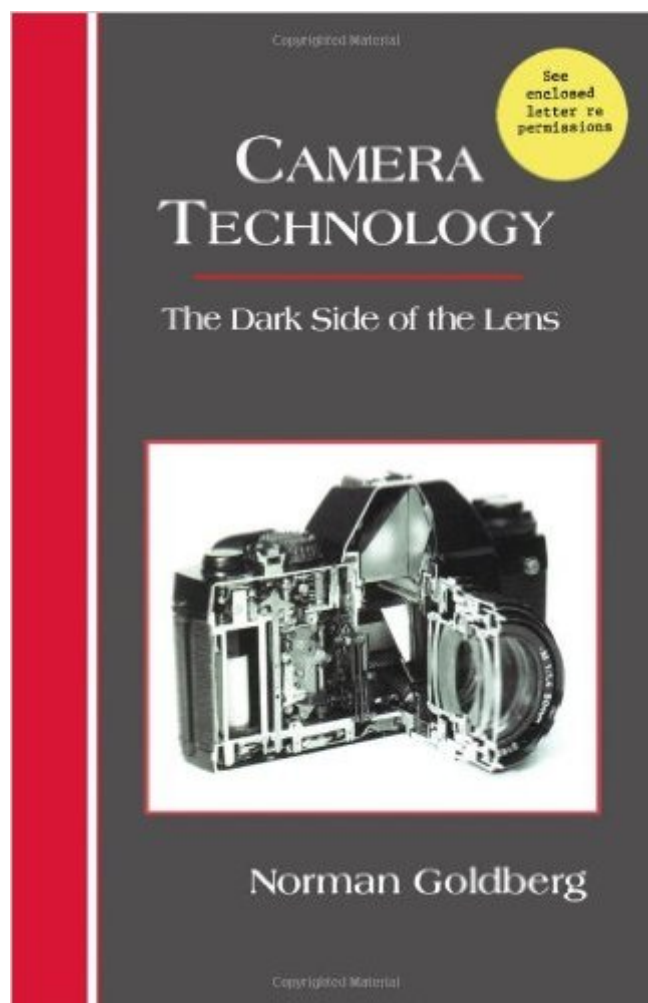


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Camera Technology: The Dark Side Of The Lens



Synopsis

For anyone who has ever wondered how cameras work, this book is a pleasant way to learn. It is generously endowed with enough fundamentals to satisfy the technical specialist, without intimidating the casual but curious amateur photographer. The author has repaired, modified, and designed and analyzed cameras for the past forty five years. With this background, he goes beyond describing camera functions based on advertised data--instead the book explains how various cameras really work. The book peels off the cover panels and lets you look into the dark side of the lens. The dozen or so formulas use simple math and the drawings alone are worth the price of admission. Key Features* Describes how cameras work and how well they overcome the difficulties in making a technically perfect photo* Covers causes of image faults* Presents unique methods for testing cameras* Covers integration of optics, electronics, and mechanics in contemporary cameras

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read this book twice, once back in 1992 when it was published and again recently to bone up for this review. It is a rare and remarkable work in which Mr. Goldberg summarizes a lifetime of studying the insides of cameras, or as he puts it, "the dark side of the lens." Clearly the author has a singular talent for describing and illustrating the complex mechanisms and control systems that have transformed consumer cameras into marvels of clever, intricate engineering. The main body of the book comprises seven chapters covering focusing, exposure, time lags, viewfinders, film support, hardware, and testing. Each section abounds with mechanical and optical detail conveyed

via lucid descriptions keyed to superb illustrations. This is not a book for the casual prospective camera buyer, but rather a valuable reference work for people who enjoy understanding in detail the way things work. Goldberg also provides fascinating historical perspective on how difficult technical problems have been solved in stages by ingenious designers. "Camera Technology" was written too early to cover the recent digital revolution, but a surprising amount of its content is still relevant today. After all, cameras still have bodies, lenses, diaphragms, shutters and viewfinders supported by extensive autofocus and autoexposing subsystems. And the single-lens reflex (SLR) is still the premier configuration for professional as well as serious amateur photographers. I think the strongest distinguishing feature of this book is the skill with which the author personally produced nearly all of its many illustrations and diagrams. From the look of the graphics, I would guess that he used a bit-mapped application similar to Apple's classic MacPaint program.

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