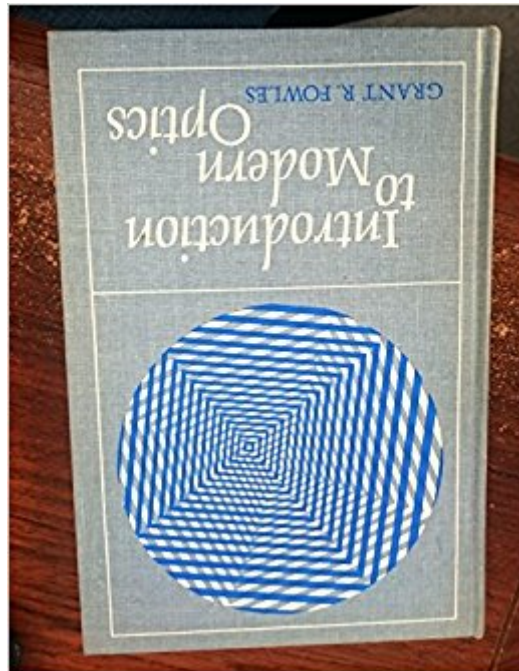




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Introduction To Modern Optics



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Customer Reviews

If you're studying optics in a college class using Hecht's classic text, or if you are an engineer who needs an overview of the subject, this is a good practical and economical introduction to the subject. However, be aware that this book is short on two components - details of derivations of mathematical formulas and illustrations. That is not to say they do not exist, it is just to say that at several points during the book I could have been aided in my comprehension by either an illustration or derivation that simply wasn't there. There are end of chapter exercises included, and there are solutions to selected odd problems in the back of the book. However, there are no details as to how those solutions were arrived at. If you are an engineer, the only way to really be sure that you understand a subject is to solve problems. Thus I suggest Schaum's Outline of Optics by Hecht for that task. Often the solutions to problems in that outline are the mathematical details that are missing in this book! The table of contents are not included in the product description, so I add that here:

Chapter 1 The Propagation of Light

- 1.1 Elementary Optical Phenomena and the Nature of Light
- 1.2 Electrical Constants and the Speed of Light
- 1.3 Plane Harmonic Waves. Phase Velocity
- 1.4 Alternative Ways of Representing Harmonic Waves
- 1.5 Group Velocity
- 1.6 The Doppler Effect

Chapter 2 The Vectorial Nature of Light

- 2.1 General Remarks
- 2.2 Energy Flow. The Poynting Vector
- 2.3 Linear Polarization
- 2.4 Circular and Elliptic Polarization
- 2.5 Matrix Representation of Polarization. The Jones Calculus
- 2.6 Reflection and Refraction at a Plane Boundary
- 2.7 Amplitudes of Reflected and Refracted Waves. Fresnel's Equations
- 2.8 The Brewster Angle
- 2.9 The Evanescent Wave in Total Reflection
- 2.10 Phase Changes in Total Internal Reflection
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Very good overview of the theory of optics. It does require some prior knowledge and understanding of Maxwell's eqns, and he does a good job moving you from there into the overview of each topic. He also does a good job avoiding getting overly bogged down in anything beyond the intro level. I highly recommend this book for either a review or a primer for full-on study down the road. If I had a critique, it would be that I would have liked to have seen more design examples in the ABCD matrix section.

An applied mathematician by trade (with additional training in electrical engineering), I purchased this book to fill in background information on general optics in order to prepare me to read background material and scientific papers in nonlinear optics, a subject in which I am just beginning to undertake research. My familiarity with basic optics is limited to what I learned in 100-level physics many years ago--in other words, I know essentially nothing. The book really does deliver on the promise on the backcover that all that is needed is some "advanced mathematics (beyond calculus)" and "an intermediate course in electricity and magnetism." I found this book incredibly nice to read, with concise explanations that contain the proper amount of detail for both veteran readers and complete newbies (such as myself). The author doesn't bog the reader down with equations and long derivations, but he explains clearly how one step leads to another, allowing the reader to quickly fill in the details of the derivations, a perfect compromise for all audiences: those new to the field can learn by doing, yet with the proper guidance to prevent the process from being too frustrating, and experienced readers needing a refresher can merely read the results. Figures are well-placed and especially helpful, and notation is clear and not needlessly complicating. I highly recommend this book. Its value can't be denied; however, I'm certain that the book would compare favorably with other books costing several times more.

This is an easy 5 star. For those who gave it less, please think again: 1) Title says: introduction. So don't imagine it covers every equation there is. Get Wolf's book if you like equations that much. 2) Short but concise on key subjects. To do that, you have to skip a lot of intro/background or equations, that's why there are references and citations (and better bricks/bug killers). 3) This is an intro book but also serves well as a refresher. This is intermediate level to advanced level for non-physicists, as it assumes good understanding of calculus. To be fair, the book is not without flaws. One obvious is the name implied recent advances (although different people use modern

optics differently), while the book was last revised in 1975. Nonetheless, the key component of modern optics are mostly there, unless you are into cutting edge advances. It might be more appropriate to name it as "intro to physical optics", then again the author added a section of ray optics at the end of the book...

Excellent book for a cursory glance into the field of optics. It is a good resource if you want to gain a fundamental understanding into photonics and electromagnetism.

Struggling to find the right lens formulas or trying to design your own optics system? This book was perfect for helping me get on the right track in the lab.

It is a tiny book that has what it need to kick start any introductory course on modern optics and waves. The questions are suitable for average students. Topics and information are typical enough and into the point but it might need an instructor to explain few topics in the book for the students.

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