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DIY Satellite Platforms: Building A Space-Ready General Base Picosatellite For Any Mission



Synopsis

Want to build your own satellite and launch it into space? It's easier than you may think. The first in a series of four books, this do-it-yourself guide shows you the essential steps needed to design a base picosatellite platform—complete with a solar-powered computer-controlled assembly—tough enough to withstand a rocket launch and survive in orbit for three months. Whether you want to conduct scientific experiments, run engineering tests, or present an orbital art project, you'll select basic components such as an antenna, radio transmitter, solar cells, battery, power bus, processor, sensors, and an extremely small picosatellite chassis. This entertaining series takes you through the entire process—from planning to launch. Prototype and fabricate printed circuit boards to handle your payload. Choose a prefabricated satellite kit, complete with solar cells, power system, and on-board computer. Calculate your power budget—how much you need vs. what the solar cells collect. Select between the Arduino or BasicX-24 onboard processors, and determine how to use the radio transmitter and sensors. Learn your launch options, including the providers and cost required. Use milestones to keep your project schedule in motion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is more of a diary of Antunes' experience working on his own project, as opposed to a technical manual that would be more familiar to a professional engineer. That said, if you are an engineer and you are interested in this subject, you are likely in a position to be able to fill in the gaps easily from the myriad pointers provided. What I found most enjoyable was the narrative of someone's spirit of adventure and creativity; Antunes has a goal, and he does what is necessary to make it happen. A lot of exploration, trial and error, good-enough-now-let's-move-on-to-the-next-problem, beg/borrow/steal other useful ideas, and all the ups and downs that are part of a real labor of love.

This short book is radiating with the joy of creating something that can actually go into space. It's obviously written with the maker approach, don't expect the MIT course on satellite engineering for \$3.57. But to feel what it takes to build a working satellite in your basement, and start to think that space exploration may really be a home project - complete with costs, suppliers and schedules - this is a good starting point.

Practical, straightforward system level approach. It does not include every formula you could ever need, but omitting that detail limits the book to a reasonable length.

An excellent book on how the big guys are built is available. But this says it all. How someone could go ahead and build the simplest variety of satellite.

It's not a well-organized guide book which shows you every essential steps. It just likes someone who sharing his/her experience on a hobby forum. However, I do get some keywords to start my own researching on the web.

Does a good job and helps you get your feet wet with the small satellites that are being built today. Good, fast read.

Informative.

Very good introduction to a popular project. Grass-roots satellite project that even highschool students can pursue. Space still attracts students, and here is a hands-on project they can contribute to and learn from.

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