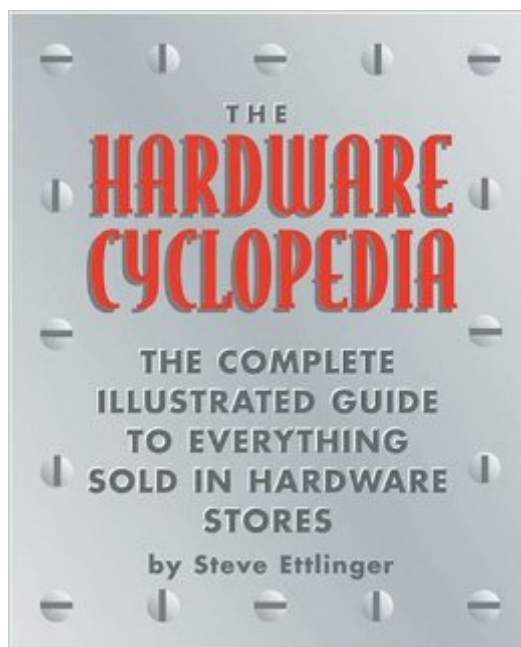


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# Hardware Cyclopedia



## Synopsis

This classic bestseller is now available in a new, compact edition. Ever wonder about those bent-looking washers, or how to replace a pipe fitting correctly the first time? And why are there so many types of screwdrivers anyway? This comprehensive, portable guide (small enough to take along in a pocket while shopping) to absolutely everything sold in a hardware store empowers even the clueless to pick and choose knowledgeably among the unfamiliar-looking tools and devices. It's an essential manual and guidebook for anyone undertaking a home repair project. Featured throughout are practical tips on use, price, and technique, along with black-and-white line drawings to help identify products clearly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

By Bill Marsano. Putting in a new faucet means taking out your old one, so you head off to the hardware store. So far, so good, but because you are an unrepentant sinner it is not Ace, the place with the helpful hardware man; neither is it, say, Home Depot, which has a pretty aggressive program of training its employees (they call 'em 'associates') so they will understand what you want even when you don't. Which is the case just now. You need that weird little tool with the spring-loaded half-claw gripper that works at right angles to the handle, and the clerk you're talking to breathes through his mouth, can't focus more than one eye at a time and can't think of anything

to say except "If you don't see it on the shelf, we're out of it." (That, brothers, is the Official Lie of American retailing.) Only then does the manager arrive. You start over and within 10 seconds he stops you and says, "Right--a basin wrench. Why didn't you say so?" And now you're the one who feels like a dope. As you would if you needed trammel points (or heads), a spud wrench, some castellated nuts or a box of pinch dogs. Your house and workshop are full of such things or should be, but they aren't, so you have to go get them at the least convenient times from clerks singularly ill-equipped to assist you. If you have this little book your life will be a lot easier, because you will be able to ask for things like angle stops, hawks, ballcocks and four-in-hand rasps with the ease of a pro. These items have their strange and particular little names because they are particular things. A pinch dog, for example, is not exactly the same as a pinch puppy. We started with a sink, remember? With this book you'll flip to Part VIII (plumbing stuff), flip past fixtures and fittings and pipes and valves until you come to implements of destruction, where sure enough between Plumbing Wrenches (p. 555) and Special Plumbing Tools (p. 571) you will find the basin wrench of your dreams, probably with a nice picture to help you out. Same goes for all other areas of do-it-yourself house-damaging--walls and floors, electrics, windows and more. All in all, you would think this is a very handy little book, but it's not. It is very useful and very helpful but not at all handy. In fact it's damned clumsy: It measures 4-1/4 by 5-1/2 inches and is about as thick as a brick. You can see that it isn't especially easy to flip through. Worse, the type and illustrations are commensurate with the page size, which means they're too small unless you're used to reading insurance contracts. OK, it's a good book--but if re-sized to the proportions of a standard paperback it would be terrific. Still, that's its only flaw.--Bill Marsano can drive a nail without hitting his thumb, but that's about it. What he's really good at is going to hardware stores on sale days.

I own the full blown hardcover version of this book that also contains the garden center items and find it to be one of the most useful items I own. So when my nephew started an electrician's training course at his high school I thought this would be a great item for him. It is great from a reference point of view, but from a user-friendly point it really isn't. The book is small and the print tends to start to go a lot toward the inner crease/binding, making the book something you have to almost flex back in order to read comfortably. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that in time doing that repeatedly will cause pages to fall out. It might be good for a quick reference once in a very great while, but if you think you might reference this pretty regularly I'd recommend the larger book so it will last. I wish my larger book didn't have the garden center part since I really don't need that, but that seems to be the only way to get a durable copy of this book and is worth having the extra

pages and size for that reason alone. I've purchased 2 "very good" rated copies of the full version here on for literally less than a footlong sub each at Subway.

I love this book. For someone that likes 'DIY' or even creative arts & crafts this book can come in very handy. Lists tons of parts and tools with detailed descriptions.

This is an index of what is found in a hardware store not information about hardware such as screws bolts nuts.

This was a gift. No feedback from recipient.

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