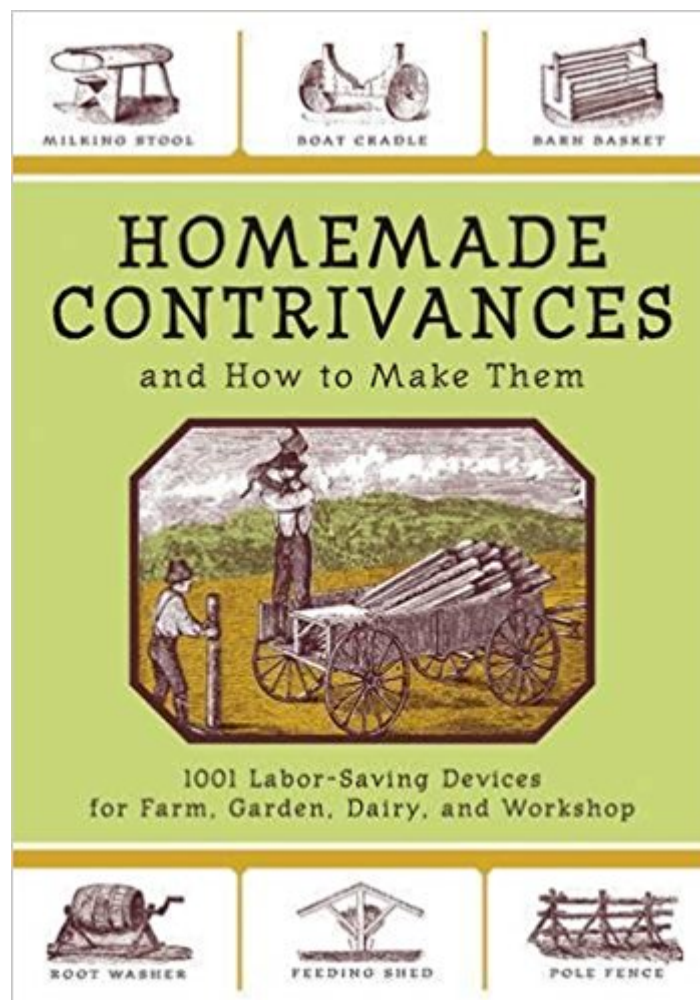




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Homemade Contrivances And How To Make Them: 1001 Labor-Saving Devices For Farm, Garden, Dairy, And Workshop



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Synopsis

The traditional American devices contained in this intriguing compilation date from an era long before milking machines, pesticide sprayers, and industrial hay bailers. Yet the simple inventions described for doing everything from managing young bulls to protecting drain outlets can be just as useful for today's farmer as they were for the homesteaders of over a century ago. Discover how to make such items as a movable nest for hens, a ribless boat, a contraption to extricate a mired animal, a farm cart with adjustable racks for larger loads, a wire fence tightener, a fruit picker, a grindstone set and frame, and much more. This book is a boon for the rancher, farmer, or anyone who loves the rural life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. is an independent publisher of both nonfiction and fiction based in New York City.

This is a great book if you're interested in how folks did things when they couldn't run down to Home Depot and pick up whatever they need to take care of things around the house or garden. One note for people who enjoy this type of book: this book includes all the content of a similar but more specialized volume "Fences, Gates and Bridges and How to Make Them", by the same publisher. Of course, this book contains much more. So you might want to buy "Homemade Contrivances" and not "Fences, etc" EXCEPT that, at least in my copies, the illustrations in "Fences, etc" were MUCH better than the same illustrations in "Homemade Contrivances. There does not seem to be much if any overlap between "Homemade Contrivances" and another similar book by the same publisher,

"Handy Farm Devices and How to Make Them", so to me it is worthwhile to own both. Of course, I buy used when I can get very good quality at a substantial discount. By the way, if you enjoy this type of thing, be sure to check out Eric Sloane's books, including "A Reverence for Wood" and "A Museum of Early American Tools", both of which I own and enjoyed.

From the description it had when I bought it, I thought this book would have instructions on how to build things for our little homestead. It doesn't really. There are some illustrations from which you can figure out how to do a few items, and someone more mechanically-inclined than myself would definitely have an easier time figuring out how to build each one, but overall it wasn't what I was expecting based on the description. As another reviewer stated, this is more of a historical book than a "how-to" one. I will keep it, because I find it interesting.

I bought this book because I am interested in researching daily life of the period (for historical fiction writing purposes) and can say this book exceeded my expectations. The print is clear and so are the illustrations, which can sometimes be a problem in reprints of old books. I am not mechanically-minded, but I could certainly follow the principles of the engineering required in most of these no-nonsense entries here. The illustrations were also very helpful in this regard. It was an eye-opener to realise how complex the task of farming, gardening and husbandry was back in the late 1800s. If you want to learn about old farming techniques and what it took to be a farmer back then, then you can't do better than this book. If you want to 'return to the land' with your own farm in the modern day, then it's probably better to consult a newer book on the subject.

If you ever needed a guide book to construct useful items from the past - this is it. Aside from actual items there are bits of advice scattered throughout. For problem solving on a budget, gaining insight from past applications or needing to make what you cannot quickly or easily buy - this book is the one you should have.

All kinds of old fashioned tools

I purchased the Skyhorse 2007 reprint to replace an original copy from 1899 and couldn't be more pleased with the quality of the reprint.¹ The text and images are both very cleanly reproduced to the extent that this reprint is actually easier to read than my original copy (which has become very dark with age).² This is of course alk. paper, and of a decent thickness, whereas the 1899 copy is

printed on acidic, thin, and very low-quality paper (even by 1899 standards). For anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this book, the Skyhorse reprint is the clear choice over and original printing.

This was suggested on a website I frequent....it was not useful for me, but a little interesting none the less.

Glad to add it to the library. Was hoping it would contain more knowledge I didn't already possess, then again I've been acquiring this type of knowledge for a long time. I would recommend this book to anyone who is beginning or has recently begun a homestead

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