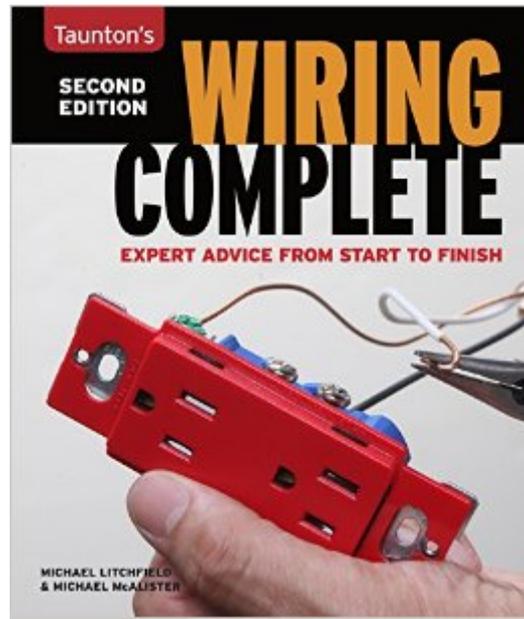


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# Wiring Complete: Second Edition (Taunton's Complete)



## Synopsis

This volume is a comprehensive, authoritative, and easy to use reference for homeowners covering all home wiring situations from the most basic to advanced. The only projects not covered are those that should be left to professionals. This highly visual book focused on real world situations faced by homeowners and real world advice, including how to deal with the inevitable things that can go wrong. What is unique about this wiring guide is that it is easy to find the project and the information on how to tackle it. Intuitive finding devices and visual tables of contents make it easy to identify the material in the book relevant to the reader's situation. The authoritative advice is provided by a professional electrician and presented in text and photos by veteran home-improvement writer, Mike Litchfield.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Three weeks ago, I had no idea how to add the two circuits, multiple receptacles, and two light fixtures I needed to convert my carport into a garage/shop, let alone add new wiring to an existing circuit. With this book as my guide, especially the diagrams in the "Working Drawings" section, I did all the wiring myself and passed my electrical inspection with flying colors yesterday. As a 68-year old woman on a limited budget, I am grateful for the hundreds of dollars in electrician's costs that this book saved me.

In the last fifteen years we have remodeled our rental property in LA and are now finishing up a gut remodel of our house in Berkeley. Except for a new service panel installed by an electrician, we have done all the electrical work ourselves. The most ambitious job was running an underground wire to a studio in the back yard, installing a subpanel and wiring the whole place. *Wiring Complete 1* was with us every step of the way, so we are happy to see a fatter 2nd edition. The book is strong on new tools and materials, improvements in connectors, and dramatic developments in super-efficient, energy saving lighting. Bravo Taunton and five-star writer Litchfield!

Perfectly detailed to make homeowner-scale electrical jobs straightforward and comprehensible. The Story: I'm handy but haven't done house wiring more extensive than change out crusty old outlets & switches for new ones. I wanted an outlet in my new medicine cabinet to charge my toothbrush. Since I was installing said cabinet, I could easily get at wires and locate the new box. Then... I found my GFCI circuit was 20A and already linked to some other (still unknown) place. Didn't know how to go on without creating a fire hazard. Yay for *Wiring Complete*! I prefer pages I can prop open to trying to follow an online guide that keeps turning off. Since I wanted answers right now, I went to the library. At the library, given a quick skim, this seemed the best suited to my novice level, having good pictures, clean layout. It covered GFCI install, ganging, and replacement. While using it I bothered to read the first couple chapters of *Basics*, recommend them highly. It presents basic & advanced beginner terminology & safety habits so the Hardware Store Guy doesn't tell me not to worry my pretty head about wiring and takes me seriously when I ask for the correct gage of bundled wires-by-the-foot for my project. And I know what to look for to (almost certainly) meet code and KEEP MYSELF SAFE. I bought the recommended non-contact tester, which saved me oodles of time and stress over futzing aimlessly with a multimeter. Thanks to this book, the new (very cheap tamper resistant) standard outlet got connected, trips the GFCI, and has worked flawlessly for a month now. Even after I got cocky and replaced the old GFCI with a newer, cleaner version with better attachment options. Because *Wiring Complete* was easy to understand without treating me like an imbecile, the hardest part of the project was trying to stuff the work hardened old fat wires on the GFCI outlet back into the box in the wall. (1 hour to wire, 2 hours to stuff.) I just bought a new fixer upper and will trust this as my primary reference for homeowner scale jobs. You can too.

The best photos of any wiring book in my collection. All of them onsite. Up close. Very good section on panels and subpanels and the only book that explains A&B phases in a breaker panel. Not something that everybody needs to know, but I am a detail freak and love to know why I'm doing

something a certain way.

This book has some shortcomings, but there are some things that were helpful. There are not many clear wiring diagrams that show complicated circuits such as 3 or 4-way switched lighting circuits. I like Taunton's how-to books but this one was lacking. There are some other good sections, illustrations, and photos in it and it is a good reference for some things, but you will need another book for other tasks that a homeowner will come across. For example I found the wiring book from Black & Decker much more helpful with better wiring diagrams. In any case it is a good reference because it shows how to do things in different ways that may work better for your application.

This is one of those rare and wonderful technical books where the pictures chosen are so clear you don't even realize a topic could be confusing. Definitely the best book I've looked at on the topic of home wiring, and since getting it I've already completed a half-dozen high voltage wiring changes and additions I would have never dared to try without it.

This is a great reference book with plenty of photos. I can't comment on how useful it would be to a professional electrician but as an amateur, it gave me the methods and confidence to complete a couple semi-complex tasks around the apartment. Well worth it, IMHO.

I've had great experiences with Taunton 'how to' publications, and this one meets their high standard. A useful resource around the house to save calling in a costly electrician for minor repairs or even for troubleshooting. When I do need professional assist I can speak more intelligently about the problem. A keeper on the bookcase.

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