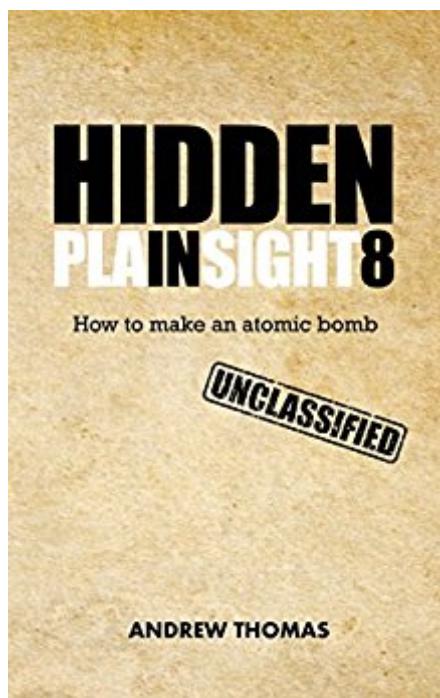


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Hidden In Plain Sight 8: How To Make An Atomic Bomb



Synopsis

This book tells the fascinating story of the development of the atomic bomb, and contains detailed (but legal) instructions on how to build an atomic bomb. It's a great way to learn about nuclear physics!

Book Information

File Size: 4120 KB

Print Length: 183 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: August 4, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B074L7CRH3

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,462 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Molecular Physics #2 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Nuclear Physics #2 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Molecular Physics

Customer Reviews

"Hidden in Plain Sight 8" is a somewhat strange departure from Dr. Thomas's other books in this series, which delve into the fundamental mysteries of reality. You can complete the book in a couple of sittings because it's short, easy to read and well-written. The appendix goes into the mathematics of differential equations used to determine the critical mass in some detail, which is fine for technical wonks like myself, but it may be a bit intimidating to a general audience. The Kindle version contains numerous links that immediately take you to interesting Internet video clips and web sites. I think that was a very nice touch. The book is technically accurate and is based on easy to obtain declassified material. It gives an fascinating historical account of the discovery of nuclear fission and the development of atomic energy, including a number of vintage photographs. I think the author

could have included a few other details, however. For example, Germany also attempted to make an atomic weapon during WWII. Did they give up because their scientists calculated the wrong value for the critical mass? Or were there other reasons for their failure like internal sabotage? Another detail that should have been included involves the operation of nuclear reactors like Fermi's famous "pile" on the squash court in Chicago discussed in the book. It turns out that about 1% of the neutrons in a reactor core are "delayed neutrons" meaning they are emitted by the decay of daughter products of fission. As the name implies, delayed neutrons are released seconds or minutes after the fission that produced the daughter products, thereby increasing the time constant for supercriticality. Without this time delay, a reactor would be uncontrollable, becoming what is termed "prompt critical" with a time constant on the order of milliseconds. There have been a number of prompt-critical accidents involving reactors, including the famous Chernobyl accident. This is a very interesting and well-researched book. I learned quite a few details from it, such as the fact that the projectile in the original gun-type uranium bomb was hollow. Dr. Thomas also revealed a very important design safety feature that prevents stolen nuclear weapons from being detonated unless exact hidden timing sequences are applied. That information certainly helps me sleep at night. This was a good read and well worth the price. I'd definitely recommend the Kindle version. Unlike some other Kindle books, this one clearly displays the formulas. Five stars.

Tight packet of known facts ... but nothing really new information you wouldn't find from wikipedia.

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