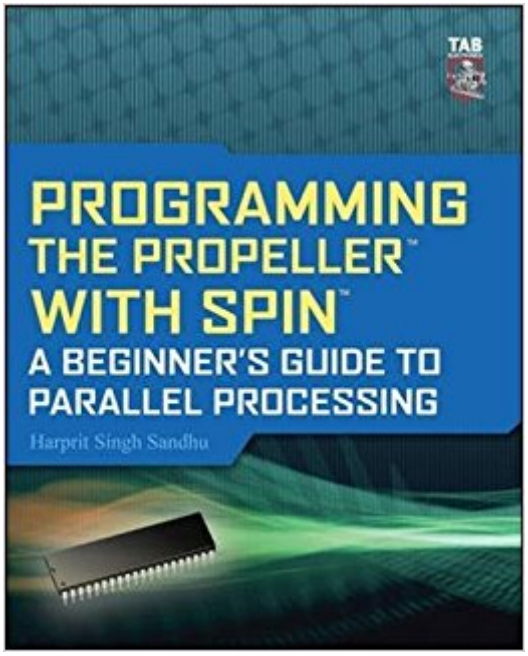
Programming The Propeller With Spin: A Beginner's Guide To Parallel Processing (Tab Electronics)



Synopsis

Parallel Processing With the Propeller--Made Easy! "This book should find a place on any Propellerhead’s bookshelf, between Parallax’s Propeller Manual and its Programming and Customizing the Multicore Propeller volumes." Make: 24 Programming the Propeller with Spin: A Beginner’s Guide to Parallel Processing walks you through the essential skills you need to build and control devices using the Propeller chip and its parallel processing environment. Find out how to use each of the identical 32-bit processors, known as cogs, and make the eight cogs effectively interact with each other. The book covers Propeller hardware and software setup, memory, and the Spin language. Step-by-step projects give you hands-on experience as you learn how to: Use Propeller I/O techniques with extensive Spin code examples Display numbers with seven segment displays Create accurate, controlled pulse sequences Add a 16 character by two line LCO display Control R/C hobby servos Use motor amplifiers to control small motors Run a bipolar stepper motor Build a gravity sensor-based auto-leveling table Run DC motors with incremental encoders Run small AC motors You’ll also find hundreds of lines of ready-to-run documented Spin code as well as PDFs of all the schematics on McGraw-Hill’s website: Downloads available at www.mhprofessional.com/computingdownload "This book should find a place on any Propellerhead’s bookshelf, between Parallax’s Propeller Manual and its Programming and Customizing the Multicore Propeller volumes." Make: 24

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Customer Reviews

Harprit Singh Sandhu, BSME, MSCerE, is the founder of Rhino Robots, Inc., a major manufacturer of both robots and computer numeric-controlled machines. He is the author of Making PIC Microcontroller Instruments and Controllers and Running Small Motors with PIC Microcontrollers.

I've have experience with other microcontrollers, but wanted a quick way to get started with the Propeller. There aren't many books on the topic, so I decided to buy this one. I'm sad to say that I was disappointed in the quality of the content and the quality of the book printing/binding.First we will talk about the quality of the content:-The programs included are a bit long-winded for clarity, which is fine. What isn't okay is comments on lines that were copied and pasted and never updated (i.e. not changing high to low in a comment).-The terminology used is sometimes wrong and the schematics often show LEDs backwards. Pinouts for LCD experiments change between codes forcing code alteration or re-wiring.- One entire chapter had figure captions with the wrong figures! A once over of a pre-print should have solved this.- The code is "available online", which generally means a download of a zip file containing folders of neatly organized code. The code for this book is all crushed together as text on a single webpage forcing you to hunt for the portion you are looking for.- Photos of the experiments show a setup on a messy workbench with towels, cell phones, and other misc. debris crowding the view. A clear photo should be taken in a clean, well contrasted area.- The content is FAR too repetitive, sometimes on purpose, sometimes as a result of what looks like quickly and poorly edited paragraphs.- The given parts list is incomplete and quoted prices are sometimes far off the mark. Some parts say "Available from XXXX", but contain no part number.Comments on the quality of the binding/printing:- I read this book cover to cover ONCE, moving it between my home and office a hand full of times. A couple of the center pages are already about to come out!- Printing resolution is acceptable, formatting is okay... some layout tweaks are to be desired.Overall:I expect far more from technical books in terms of content and I expect FAR more from a publisher like McGraw Hill. The only reason this is two stars is that I was able to get some basic syntax from the examples and get my own projects running with help of someone familiar with SPIN. The book needs to be re-printed with major revisions to be considered a valid manuscript. In the epilog the author blatantly states: "I am a beginner as far as the Propeller system goes, and I found it rather difficult to understand what was going on in many of the programs I studied." WHY is a beginner writing such a text? While I appreciate Mr. Sandhu's idea of putting out this much needed book, I can't say that it was executed well.

This work frankly isn’t. However, if you are a beginner and want "Programming the Propeller with Spin" as an adjunct, that would make sense. But by all means start with "Programming and Customizing the Multicore Propeller Microcontroller: The Official Guide" and then go from there, if needed. (The Propeller Tool itself also comes with excellent documentation.)If you have previous experience programming microcontrollers, you won’t take long to get up to speed on the Propeller. It’s amazing how simple the thing is to use considering that it has 8 32-bit cores; one can get a project running on Propeller in the same or less time that one can on the most basic 8-bit micro! Still, Propeller takes some getting used to, and books like this one can help in the very beginning.

I am a complete novice working with microprocessors for the first time. Dr. Sandhu put me on to the Propeller chip as a possible good fit to satisfy my needs. I purchased his book and have been working my way through it. I am old, stubborn, and I find, to my frustration, not as mentally supple as I once was. Dr. Sandhu has done as thorough a job as I think is possible to introduce a complicated subject to those less experienced in electronics. There are some areas where the editors did not faithfully reflect Dr. Sandhu’s work. This does not alter the fact that this book is full of practical, useful information, laid out in a logical manner. The writing style pulls you forward through the capabilities of the Propeller chip towards an interesting list of demonstration projects. It is obvious Dr. Sandhu put a great amount of effort into writing this book. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the Parallax Propeller.

I have been into programming for a short time, and therefore, I am looking for as much material that I can find. Just starting with Spin on the Prop, I had looked at another book, or two and found that this one is exactly the book I need to get a good foothold on my study of Spin. There are a couple of mistakes with schematics, but nothing that cannot be easily overcome, if you have some understanding of electronics. All in all, I recommend Mr. Sandhu’s book to anyone that needs more info for the Propeller, from a "newbie" to Professional programmers--Excellent. Mr. Sandhu has an ERRATA link on the Encodergeek homepage that clears up the FEW mistakes in schematics, and verbage. VERY well done!!

I am reading the book at this time but I would like to go ahead and leave my personal impressions. I am a Propeller user (I have twelve different boards with a Propeller). I program in assembler and SPIN. I am very pleased with the layout and coverage of the book. It is for beginners but it overlaps into a few advanced areas which is good for extending your boundaries. It is well worth the price. I

have one concern and that is about the illustrations, particularly line drawings, program listings and others that are printed too small and in a tiny, spidery font that is difficult to make out without a magnifying glass. It would help if Mr. Harprit would make an eBook version available. I know that I would be willing to pay an extra fee on top of the book cost to get such a version. I would not mind if it was a no-copying secured type ebook.That said, I wish Mr Harprit well with his book and I do recommend it. Propeller books are always appreciated.

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