

(Get free) The Magic Machine: A Handbook of Computer Sorcery

The Magic Machine: A Handbook of Computer Sorcery

A. K. Dewdney

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#717901 in Books W H Freeman n Co (Sd) 1990-10Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x 7.75 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0716721252357 pages | File size: 54.Mb

A. K. Dewdney : The Magic Machine: A Handbook of Computer Sorcery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magic Machine: A Handbook of Computer Sorcery:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Back when visual effects meant understanding algorithmsBy calvinmePublished back in 1990, these were the days when programmers of visual effects had to understand the mathematics and algorithms behind what they were doing - or at least copy them and type them in - because you couldn't buy the latest software that would do it for you. These were the fun days of programming such effects. The chapters are taken from the author's column in Scientific American, and have a variety of algorithms and their explanations and implementations. The following is the table of contents:1. Mandelbrot Magic2. Visions of Julia - on generating the Julia set3. The Strange Attractions of Chaos - Contains a program on the simplest known chaotic system and also a program on the Henon attractor.4. Catching Biomorphs - One program that generates algebraic lifeforms and another that produces fractal forms laid out on a grid.5. Fractal mountains and graftal plants - A program that draws a profile of a mountain and another program that produces an L-system for generating a plant.6. Hodgepodge reactions - Contains a program that creates a cellular automaton that produces a self-sustaining reaction.7. The Demons of Cyclic Space - Contains a program that create a cellular automaton that evolves.8. Slow Growths - Simulates natural clustering processes.9. Programmed parties - A program shows how to produce people who party on a computer screen.10. Palmiter's Protozoa - Simulates protozoa hunting bacteria.11. Panning for Primes - Shows how to write various types of prime number generators.12. Special FX - Worms crawl on a computer screen,

raindrops fall on a pond surface, and we get a view from a spaceship.13. Balls in a box - Balls bounce, diffuse, and create nuclear chain reactions.14. The Invisible Professor - Learn to draw a circle, a Tschirnhausen's cubic curve, a Hippoped curve, and finally the Bowditch curves.15. Computers in the Crypt - Learn about the Data Encryption Standard (DES) code.16. Core Wars - all about the Core War operating system.Maybe not useful in and of themselves, but they get you thinking about larger programs that use their principles. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Blast from the pastBy W. ParkerI remember reading these when they first came out in Scientific American. I cut some of them out of the magazine, but the clippings are now filed somewhere in a filing cabinet. I look forward to rereading them in book form.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still GreatBy E. WilliamsI got this book in the early 90's and the material was old then, still after all these years this is one of my favorite books. Every time I go back through this book is a breath of fresh air and it reminds me why I got into the technology industry. I highly recommend it to just about anyone.

This is the second collection of A. K. Dewdney's popular "Computer Recreations" columns, drawn from "Scientific American". The author discusses some of today's hottest topics including chaos, computer viruses, and artificial landscapes. The computer recreations described here range from purely entertaining brain teasers to more practical computer applications of scientific thought. 26 programs are included that require only moderate programming skills. There are Mathemagical movies, a miniature universe, puzzles, wordplay, and simple programs that produce striking effects. Dewdney's clear directions allow homecomputer owners to sit at the computer and try each one of them.