



Understanding Lasers: An Entry-Level Guide

By Jeff Hecht

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Updated to reflect advancements since the publication of the previous edition, *Understanding Lasers: An Entry-Level Guide, 3rd Edition* is an introduction to lasers and associated equipment. You need only a minimal background in algebra to understand the nontechnical language in this book, which is a practical, easy-to-follow guide for beginners. By studying the conceptual drawings, tables, and multiple-choice quizzes with answers provided at the back of the book you can understand applications of semiconductor lasers, solid-state lasers, and gas lasers for information processing, medicine, communications, industry, and military systems.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book is an easy-to-follow guide that requires a minimal background in algebra. The use of simple language, drawings, tables and multiple-choice quizzes make this book an ideal text for advanced high school students, undergraduates studying physics and engineering, and professionals who work with lasers but lack a formal knowledge of the subject." (*Optics & Photonic News*, April 2009)

"College-level libraries strong in science and technology titles will appreciate this easy introduction guide to laser technology, which moves from the foundations of how lasers work and how they are used to discussions of specific advanced laser types, applications, and the science involved." (*The Midwest Book Review*, September 2008)

From the Back Cover

An up-to-date and easy-to-follow introduction to laser technology

Laser technology has become important in a wide range of practical applications, ranging from medicine and consumer electronics to telecommunications and military technology. Lasers are also vital tools on the cutting edge of research—eighteen recipients of the Nobel Prize received the award for laser-related research, including the laser itself, holography, laser cooling, and Bose-Einstein condensates.

Updated to reflect advancements since publication of the previous edition, *Understanding Lasers*, Third Edition offers an introduction to lasers and associated equipment at a level that nontechnicians can fundamentally understand. The author focuses on real-world lasers and assumes only a minimal background in algebra, making the book a practical, easy-to-follow guide for a broad audience.

Beginning with an overview of how lasers work, what they do, and how they're used, the book goes on to explore:

- Optics and laser accessories
- Semiconductor diode lasers
- Gas lasers
- Low-power laser applications
- Solid-state and fiber lasers
- High-power laser applications
- Lasers in research

Complete with conceptual drawings, tables, and multiple-choice quizzes with answers provided at the back of the book, *Understanding Lasers*, Third Edition serves as an ideal introduction to the subject for advanced high school students, undergraduate physics and engineering students, and professionals who work with lasers but lack formal training.

About the Author

Jeff Hecht is a science and technology writer who has covered the laser industry for more than thirty years. He cofounded *Lasers & Optronics* magazine and has been a contributing editor to *Laser Focus World* since 1991, where he was also managing editor for seven years. He has been a Boston correspondent for *New*

Scientist magazine since 1984 and is the author of eleven books. He has taught short courses on optics at SPIE, OSA, and IEEE LEOS conferences. He is a member of the IEEE, APS, OSA, and the National Association of Science Writers.

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