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Reference: Recommended Books on Marine Electrical Systems



Electrical systems can be difficult to understand. Incorrect installations can lead to nuisance trips, malfunction, dangerous heating, and sometimes fire. In response to frequently asked questions about what to read to gain an understanding of electrical systems on boats, the staff at Blue Sea Systems compiled this list of books. These authors explain the basic principals and offer in-depth discussions on some topics.

Anyone designing a complete electrical system should read more than one of these books. In some situations, it is advisable to consult a marine electrical expert. No one book or stack of books will make someone an electrical engineer or an electrician. Furthermore, anyone wanting to perform electrical work on a boat should study the relevant standards from ABYC and the instructions that come with each piece of equipment.

Boatowner's Mechanical and Electrical Manual, third edition

Nigel Calder

Maintain, repair, and improve a boat's essential systems. A comprehensive guide to electrical, mechanical, and propulsion systems.

Sailboat Electrical Systems: Improvement, Wiring and Repair

Don Casey

A basic treatment for recreational sailboats and powerboats. A good book for maintenance and repair.

Sailboat Electrics Simplified

Don Casey

How to install wiring, make good, safe connections, match you battery bank and alternator to your needs, troubleshoot problems quickly, and avoid shore power problems.

The Fisherman's Electrical Manual

John C. Payne

A complete guide to electrical systems for Bass boats and other trailerable sport fishing boats.

Understanding Boat Batteries and Battery Charging

John. C. Payne

Provides information about batteries, battery types, battery ratings, installation, charging devices and systems.

Understanding Boat Wiring

John C. Payne

Compact explanation of basic boat wiring functions and practices.

The Marine Electrical and Electronics Bible, third edition

John C. Payne

A practical handbook for cruising sailors.

The Motorboat Electrical and Electronics Manual

John C. Payne

A guide for power boaters to both electrical and electronics systems.

Powerboater's Guide to Electrical Systems: Maintenance, Troubleshooting and Improvements, second edition

Ed Sherman

Focused on power cruisers, the author is a recognized authority on electrical practice and is well respected by boat builders and marine electricians.

Advanced Marine Electrics and Electronics Troubleshooting

Ed Sherman

Targeted at trade professionals. Boat builders, installers, electricians and boatyard owners will want this book for its insight into new tools and techniques for tracking down problems. The advanced boat owner will benefit as well.

Boatowner's Illustrated – Electrical Handbook, second edition

Charlie Wing

Great for learning about a boat's electrical system.