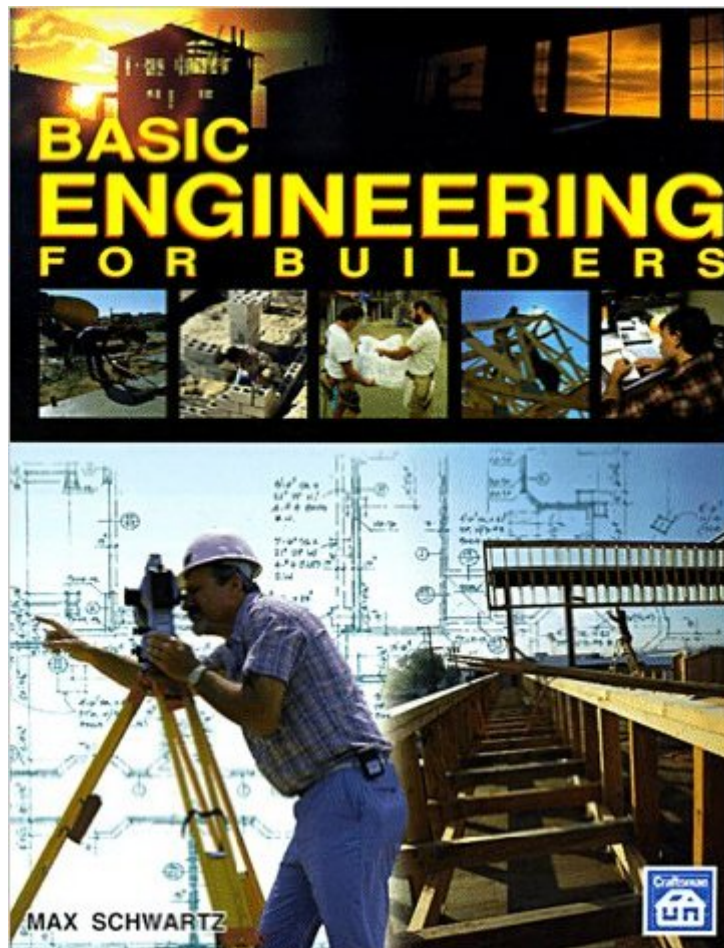


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# Basic Engineering For Builders



## Synopsis

Engineering is as much a part of building today as steel girders or wood rafters. This book explains, in non-technical language, the principles of construction engineering. It's a readable, easy-to-follow reference for all the non-engineers in construction. Whether you're a home builder, remodeler, commercial construction specialist, a sub, an estimator or an apprentice builder, you need to understand basic engineering. This book offers an easy, non-technical way to learn basic construction engineering principles. You'll find engineering principles you can put to work on your next job. This handy manual follows the building process from the ground up, examining the engineering problems at each step of construction. The examples and tables in this manual are based on design standards widely accepted in the building industry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an electrical engineer, I got a peek into the civil and mechanical engineers world. As a home owner/remodeler, I got the basis for structural design. I will be looking at more books by Schwartz.

I was hoping that this book would have more tabular data and formulas for calculating required structural members; instead it outlined basic components of materials of construction (i should hope we don't need an engineer to tell us things are made of wood & steel!) but did not get down how to solve problems. When I saw the author makes his living testifying against people, my heart sank.

This is one of the very few books that actually illustrates how to perform calculations to custom

design what you want or need or double-check the mechanical properties of what someone else has already built. They give practical examples of every formula so you can easily get a feel for how the calculation is performed. Other "basic" books will give short tables or simply list generic values commonly used (this book also does that) but tables or generic values are only useful for blindly slapping something together and limit you to only what is in the list/table. If you want something unique to be done professionally, with high-quality, and built-to-last, this is the only book to use. It is easy-to-read and follow and doesn't limit you to elementary projects.

With this book I was able to understand and show my remodeling contractor what size footings our addition required for the soil we were building on. We had a difference of opinion. But after reading this book he agreed with me.

This book is worth what I paid as an \$8 addition to my engineering library (with shipping). It is barely worthy of having "engineering" in its title, but no other term is more appropriate. This book will not make you an engineer, but it might help you understand why you would hire an engineer. As the saying goes, "Engineers solve problems you didn't know you had with solutions you don't understand." This book helps you understand those problems and solutions. Sections are: 1. Permits & Engineering 2. Surveying & Construction 3. Concrete 4. Wood Basics 5. Steel 6. Masonry 7. Plumbing 8. HVAC All written in 12 pt font with illustrations, figures, and charts in less than 400 pages. This book doesn't get into much depth on any topic.

I purchased this manual for two reasons: 1-The author had a credible level of experience and, 2-I was Project Engineer on a wood frame structure where I had no or limited experience. Mr. Schwartz presents the often technical material in a very non-threatening manner. It is relatively easy to follow and someone with some construction industry background could find the references useful. I would caution individuals that changing a design without the engineer's stamp invites significant liability. Claims could abound if some structural members were resized for static loads and not checked dynamically, for instance. Also, experience teaches economical design but if one might get the impression that bigger is better or smaller is more economical-disaster looms! This should not be used in lieu of qualified, registered engineers working within their field of expertise. It seems jaded, but a few hundred spent on a redesign check and stamp could save thousands later. I would not hesitate recommending this manual to Engineer Trainee's or fellow PE's as a quick reference-I would never suggest this to a contractor. In my state, design or analysis (the independent practice

of engineering) without proper education and state examination is a felony! With all due respect to Mr. Schwartz, please be honest with your educational level and experience before over extending yourself or your business.

I found the information helpful, easy to use and direct to the point.

A great addition to my library. It has helped me teach the younger people of my team, and understand the bigger picture.

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