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NASA Apollo 11: Owners' Workshop Manual



Synopsis

On July 20, 1969, US astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. The Apollo 11 mission that carried him and his two fellow astronauts on their epic journey marked the successful culmination of a quest that, ironically, had begun in Nazi Germany thirty years before. This is the story of the Apollo 11 mission and the space hardware that made it all possible. Author Chris Riley looks at the evolution and design of the mighty Saturn V rocket, the Command and Service Modules, and the Lunar Module. He also describes the space suits worn by the crew, with their special life support systems. Launch procedures are described, flying the Saturn V, navigation, course correction, burns, orbital rendezvous techniques, flying the LEM, moon landing, moon walk, take-off from the moon, and earth re-entry procedure. Includes performance data, fuels, biographies of Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins, Gene Kranz and Werner von Braun. Detailed appendices cover all of the Apollo missions, with full details of crews, spacecraft names and logos, mission priorities, moon landing sites, and the Lunar Rover.

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Customer Reviews

Dr Christopher Riley is a broadcaster and film-maker specializing in history and science documentaries. In 2004 he won the Sir Arthur Clarke award for the BBC1 blockbuster series Space Odyssey: Voyage to the Planets. His latest film In the Shadow of the Moon: The Story of the Apollo Astronauts, won the World Cinema Audience Award in 2007. Dr Christopher Riley, a former

planetary scientist, is a historian of human space flight and director of over 100 TV programmes on his subject. David Woods has studied the engineering behind the Apollo programme for nearly 20 years, and edits and curates NASA's Apollo Flight Journal (AFJ). Phillip Dolling is a multi-award winning Executive Producer at the BBC, responsible for many of the corporation's flagship factual strands.

After the seemingly endless delays, I finally got this book. And was immediately disappointed. As an 'Apollo Junkie(tm)' I expected what the title promised - an owners' workshop manual. No, I didn't expect a set of blueprints and plans, but I DID expect a more detailed look at the hardware. Everything in this book is a rehash of hundreds of previous Apollo books. I found no serious discussions about engineering, dimensions, etc. I'm STILL searching for a book with a good, solid set of dimensions on the LM. Maybe tomorrow. However, as a standalone book about Apollo, this was a good one. I'll give it three stars for that.

I got my manual and found it very impressive. The pictures are great and it looks at the whole mission, the hardware, and spacecraft. The detailed drawings are detailed but a little blurry at times. They could have used a little digital enhancement, not a turn off for me. Since the original drawings were done by hand they are true depictions of what was available at the time. I have looked at the book casually the last few days and like it a lot. I went to Johnson space center and saw the Saturn V and now know a lot more about what it was that I saw. Neat book, I recommend it. Not overly engineered but not dumbed down either. It's Technician level. It is not a personal narrative but a look at the engineering and design needed to achieve the goal. I recommend this, I liked it, and will put it into my personal collection on "The Shelf". If you would like to see historical technical drawings go to [...]

I liked it, for the average joe an above average book. Of course its not as you would expect from a Haynes manual, How could it be at 196 pages? But what you do get is a well produced and illustrated overview of the LV and Apollo stack. Its true we've seen a lot of the material here, but some is a little more obscure and entertaining for browsing (space suits etc). Its a good companion as stated in other reviews here to watching the videos (In the Apollo 13 movie they got the S1C paint scheme wrong. see page 34 and compare) or looking at the real thing in the USA. It Brings a lot of different elements together and presents them to you in an attractive way. If you want more details get Stages to Saturn or the flight Manuals, failing that there are still the microfilm blueprints

with NASA. Still it may help with the right answers to entertaining pub quiz questions (i actually heard these answers given): first man on the moon , Lance Armstrong, capt of 13 , Tom Hanks !

Of the 7-10 books on the space program I've read over the years think this is one of the best overall text + illustration overviews of the Apollo program. No other text I've found better describes the breadth of the engineering challenges and solutions across the program, with reasonable technical depth and plenty of supporting photographs, illustrations, drawings and descriptions. Is it a "Workshop Manual" containing intricate technical specifications and comprehensive engineering drawings of all aspects of Apollo (e.g. its millions of parts)? No and it's unreasonable to expect such a thing would actually make it to publication, such a text would appeal to a sliver of this already niche audience. So the book may not be appropriately titled and is not really one you would expect a Hayes Workshop Manual for the Apollo hardware to be. Take a star off for that but hard to imagine anyone giving this book less than 4 stars. Anyone purchasing this book could/should look at the provided example text images & can even find a crummy PDF of it floating around to know what they are getting. Think they should not be surprised or disappointed by the book but instead pleased that such a well-illustrated new book on Apollo made it to press. If you're looking for less story and more specific hardware illustrations reach for "Virtual Apollo", if for more detailed text and more of the human side there are a other good texts to choose from (e.g. works involving specific people involved w/Apollo). The authors deserve praise for the huge effort it must have been to gather the info, photographs and illustrations and present them in a logical, largely comprehensive and consumable/interesting way. This is one of my few real keepers on the space program and particularly the Apollo program. It's an excellent, illustrative, interesting, deep enough overview/recap of the engineering challenges encountered and solutions devised across the program.

They discuss that it would be impossible to cover all the possibilities of the details needed for this project given that the Saturn C5 rocket alone has over 5 million parts much less the lunar or command modules which made up the entire project. This would have been much better broken down into three different workbooks; one for the Saturn C5 rocket; the Apollo command module; and the lunar lander module. Still an interesting read but nothing is gone into with as much depth as it could have been if the scope had been broken down into its three main parts. The Saturn rocket alone is worthy of an extensive manual given the scale and enormity of the problems which were solved to make this almost perfect rocket given the times.

As an avid backyard mechanic and lifelong space buff, the thought of an Apollo owners manual was something I couldn't pass up. It's great for the coffee table novelty value. Glossy hardcover with lots of nice pictures, many of which are relatively unseen. The down side is that for a "shop manual" you'd expect lots of equipment diagrams and dissections of the actual hardware. There are diagrams and descriptions of the various machines, but that takes up maybe half a dozen pages at most throughout the book. Not enough to even begin to satisfy the space tech geek. If you buy this, do so for the novelty value. If you want to go in depth on the technology, go online because you won't find much to satisfy you here.

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