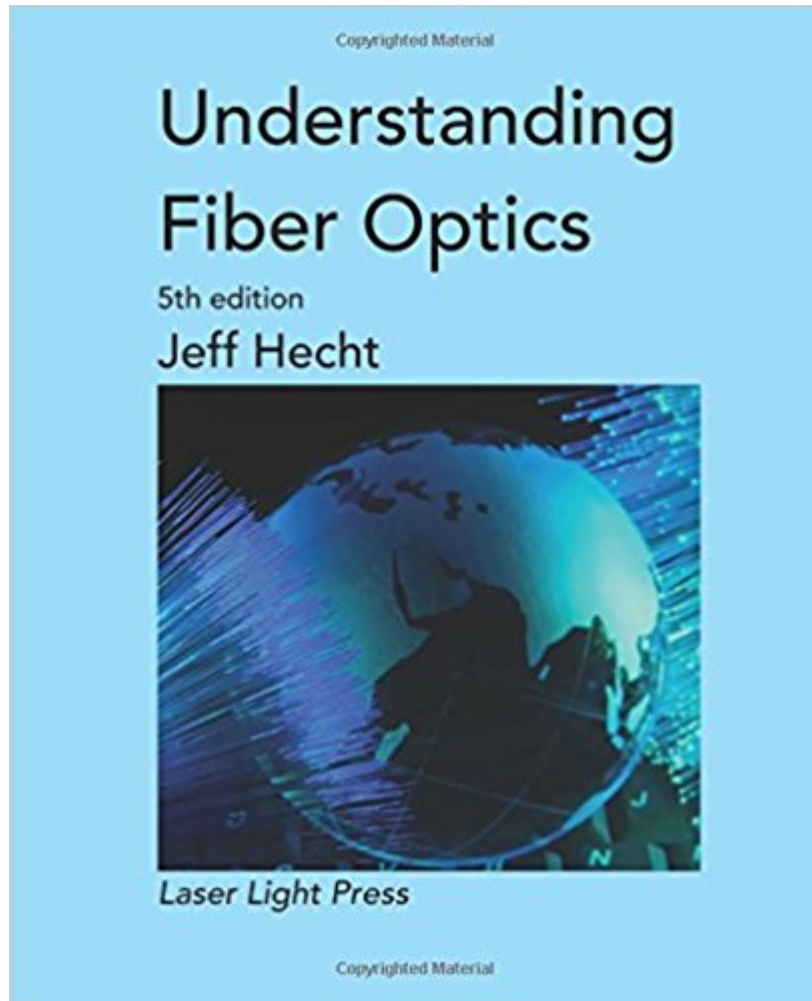




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Understanding Fiber Optics



Synopsis

Understanding Fiber Optics is the fifth edition of an intuitive introduction to fiber optics widely used as a textbook, for self study, or in corporate training. Packed with diagrams and descriptions, it explains the how fiber optic components and systems work with minimal math. The goal is to help you understand fiber optics, fiber and related optical components, optical measurements, and how fiber optics are used, particularly in communications. More than 100,000 copies have been sold since the first edition was published in 1987.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This Laser Light Press edition is an inexpensive print-on-demand reprint made by scanning the original 2006 hardcover printing of the fifth edition and reproducing the scan by a photocopying process. The print quality of the copies cannot match that of the original hardcover printed on a conventional printing press, but the type and illustrations are legible, like a quality photocopy. I chose this approach to make the book available to students and other readers at the lowest possible price, only a fraction of the cost of a new copy of the out-of-print hardcover. All paperback copies of the fifth edition have been printed by this process. All new copies of the Laser Light Press edition bought directly from are printed by .

Jeff Hecht has written extensively about lasers, fiber optics, and optical technology for over 30 years. He is a contributing editor to Laser Focus World magazine and a correspondent for New Scientist magazine. His books include Understanding Fiber Optics, now in its fifth edition; Understanding Lasers; The Laser Guidebook; City of Light - The Story of Fiber Optics; Beam - The

Race to Make the Laser; Laser Pioneer Interviews; Optics - Light for a New Age; and (with Dick Teresi) Laser- Light of a Million Uses. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and is a senior member of the Optical Society of America and a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

The poor rating I am providing here is related to the print quality of the paperback version (and not the book contents). The book is well organized and covers most of the important topics related to fiber optics; however, it's almost impossible to read more than a couple of pages without eye fatigue and headache. There are many technical books on the market that are offered in both paperback and hardcover versions, where you don't really notice a big difference in print quality. A basic quality control would have convinced the author to not offer this version in its current form. Another important note: be aware that the author has offered this 2015 edition as a reprint of the 2005 version. In other words, the book content has not been updated based on the latest advances in fiber optics. This can be misleading to the reader, especially if someone is looking for a more recent publication.

Fast delivery, and affordable price. But the print quality is very poor. Recommend buying hard-cover version.

Quite helpful

I have used the various editions with my students - physics and engineering majors in a medium-size non-Ph. D. university - for many years. There isn't really enough mathematical analysis for this purpose, and even the current (5th) edition is falling behind some of the technology and could use an update chapter. That's the downside from my specific perspective. I'm sure that many of the book's readers will prefer the lack of equations and their detailed derivations. What I like is the excellent organization and writing, and abundant diagrams that are very well done. The comprehensive coverage is also very helpful, especially for future reference, and the low price means students don't have to sell it used. My experience is that students who learn about this field often get jobs in it, so having a quick reference on almost anything they might encounter is valuable, and the content is more reliable and complete than anything I've found on the web, or in any other non-mathematical book. Also, the options are VERY few. Most of the true undergraduate textbooks (there were lots from around 1998 to 2005 or) on fiber optics are even older (there were lots from

around 1998 to 2005 or so), and some are out of print or have exorbitant prices. None of them were ever ideal. A few had numerous content or typesetting errors. In some, the text was good, but there were too few, or poor graphics. There are some strong texts appropriate for graduate students, but if they lack a knowledge of partial differential equations and in particular Bessel functions, students will probably get lost.

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