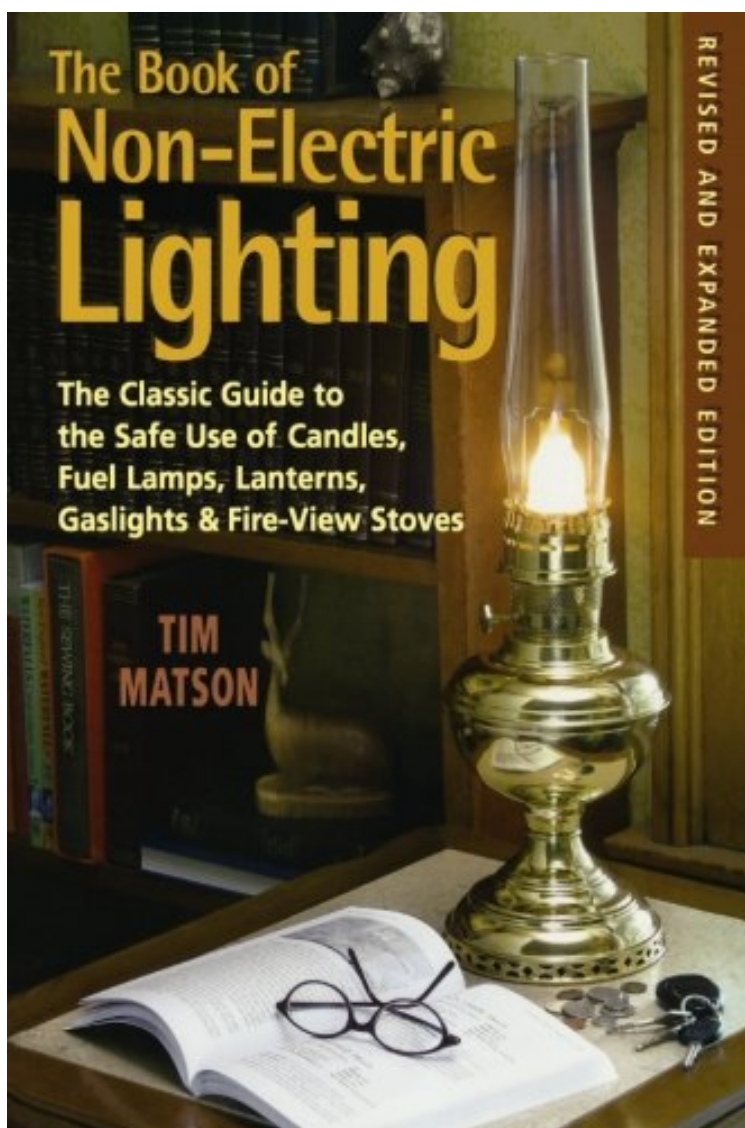


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The Book of Non-electric Lighting: The Classic Guide to the Safe Use of Candles, Fuel Lamps, Lanterns, Gaslights Fire-View Stoves

Tim Matson

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#889230 in Books Countryman Press 2008-06-17 2008-06-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .30 x 6.10l, .45 #File Name: 0881507946104 pages | File size: 44.Mb

Tim Matson : The Book of Non-electric Lighting: The Classic Guide to the Safe Use of Candles, Fuel Lamps, Lanterns, Gaslights Fire-View Stoves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Non-electric Lighting: The Classic Guide to the Safe Use of Candles, Fuel Lamps, Lanterns, Gaslights Fire-View Stoves:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Just an overviewBy PolybunNot nearly enough information. The book is a brief overview at best. The section on candle light talks only briefly about beeswax candles, and mentions tallow candles only in passing. Nothing is said of scounces or other candle accessories which makes a candle a useable source of light. What about parafin? What about soy? Useless. Kerosene lanterns are mentioned, but again, it seems only in passing. What about cold blast vs. hot blast? What about candle lanterns? No mention is made of them at all. The section on kerosene lamps only covers flat wick lamps and the Aladdin. No mention of kosmos or other round burner lamps is made at all. The book just isn't that good, and you could learn more on wikipedia in a day than you could reading this book, which, somehow manages to take more time. It doesn't even have any instructions on wick trimming. The book spends more time talking about dragging a heavy fireproof stove home than it does talking about what features to look for. Catalytics, what are those? You won't know if this book is your only source of information.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like an owner's manual for non-electric lighting. By Mr. YikesIf you are the type with a basic interest in old-fashioned lighting, then this is a good book. It's not for collectors of whatever style of lighting, and it's not a scholarly rundown of different makes, models and their histories. It talks more about the basic history, theories of operation, advantages and disadvantages and basic operating techniques with various types of non-electric lighting. It's a good basic primer for somebody who is looking for a non-electric light source for a cabin, living off the grid, historical re-creating, disaster preparation, or somebody who just happens to have an antique light. The person would have to be fairly new to non-electric lighting to benefit much. For me, I see that the author really seems to love Aladdin-style wick and mantle lights. They are quite cool, but there is not enough information in the pressure lantern section to be of much use. Regarding pressure lanterns, besides about a page of basic Coleman history, it covers the safety and lighting information. Most of this information is printed on newer lanterns themselves, or else came in the little folded manual. This section also curiously covers Hurricane-style wick lanterns, which is essentially redundant from the wick lamp section. It ignores kerosene pressure lanterns, both Coleman and Petromax-style, as well as antique match generating lanterns like the Coleman Quicklite, which are still around (I have four working examples in my garage). I understand skipping torch-lighting lanterns from a century ago, but there are enough kerosene pressure lanterns and Coleman Quicklites around to merit a few paragraphs at least. Not covering kerosene pressure lanterns is, I believe, a serious flaw for many people who would be interested in this book, since these lights are useful companions to kerosene heaters in off-the-grid situations. Personally, the book was a very short and easy read and a mild disappointment, but only because I already knew 90% of what is in it, and wanted to know more about what was notably absent. I actually loved the Aladdin lamp section, since I know little about these little wonders. If you come at it as a real novice, who has no idea how to light your cabin, it will provide a lot of good information. It's like an owner's manual for the non-electric light you found at the antique store or inherited from your grandpa. Just don't expect it to help you get your Petromax or Coleman Air-O-Lantern started.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great introductoryBy tarotqueenI have been looking for electricity alternatives. This book covers most things a beginner like me would want to know. I didn't know that oil lamps threw more light than candles. It also helped me change my mind as to what lamp I would like. I wanted an aladin lamp but after reading this I have decided they were too top heavy. One thing I wish is that it covered olive oil lamps from the holy land. Olive oil is easy to find but other than that the book covered a lot of stuff.

Tim Matson surveys an often overlooked aspect of independent living: firelight. In this completely revised and updated classic, Matson describes in lively detail all the elements of firelight: beginning with an explanation of the lighting system he developed from his Vermont home. The romantic history and modern molding of candlepower Traditional kerosene lamps The versatile Aladdin Liquid propane (LP) gas lights Kerosene and gas pressure lanterns (the Coleman) Incandescent mantle safety The "Return of Firelight" from glass-fronted hearths and stoves In addition, Matson shows how to select, assemble, install, and safely maintain these non-electric sources of light. This guide will be indispensable for vacation homes, camps, boats, RVs, independent homesteads and anywhere in a blackout.

About the Author Tim Matson, a writer and aquaculture consultant, has been advising people how to build and maintain ponds and wetlands for more than 25 years through Earth Ponds, his pond design and restoration consulting firm. His writing has appeared in Yankee, Harrowsmith Country Life, Country Journal, and Vermont Life. He lives in Thetford Center, Vermont.