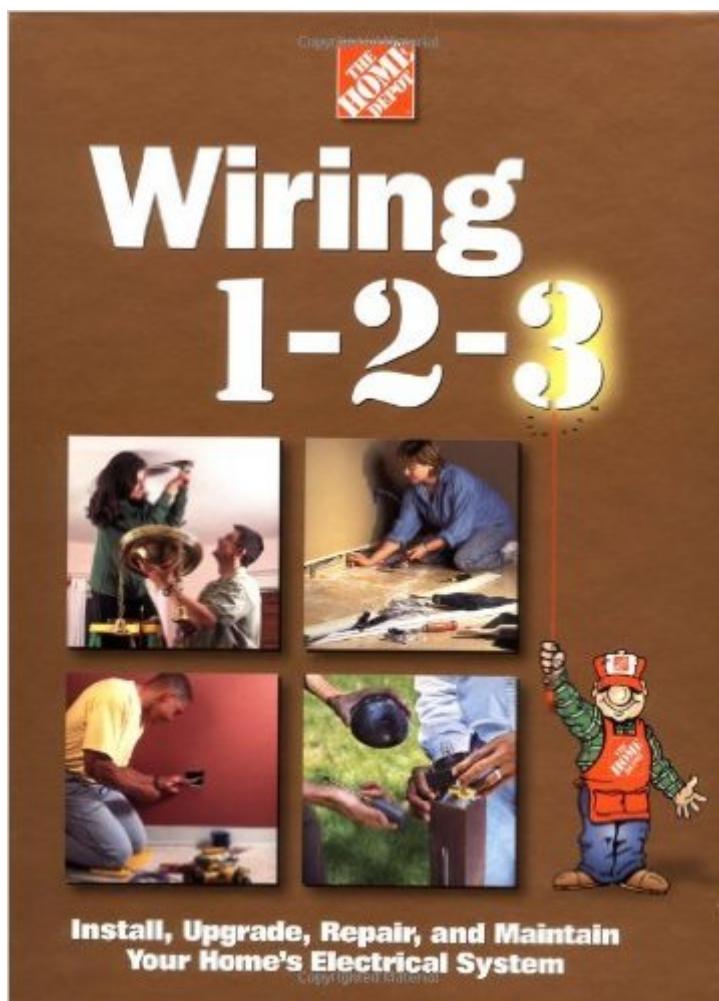


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# Wiring 1-2-3 (Home Depot ... 1-2-3)



## **Synopsis**

More than a million do-it-yourselfers tackle wiring projects yearly. \* A comprehensive resource for homeowners of all skill levels \* The most up-to-date information -- from replacing a switch to upgrading an older electrical system \* 125 projects \* More than 600 photographs \* More than 30 illustrations \* More than 150 tips

## **Book Information**

Series: Home Depot ... 1-2-3

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,303 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Home Repair #22 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Electrical #57 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Design & Construction

## **Customer Reviews**

...I found three books that seemed to have the information I needed: Wiring 1-2-3 by the people at Home Depot, The Complete Guide to Home Wiring by the Black and Decker people, and Wiring a House by Rex Cauldwell. Each is an excellent book with much to offer, but I definitely found that each had a slant that made it specialized in some way. Of the three books, only the Cauldwell book was written in a person-to-person format. The author is a third generation electrician with years of experience, and as he says quite charmingly, "I have written this book from lifelong experience and knowledge--some of which has been passed down through each generation. However, there is no one within my family to pass the gauntlet to--no fourth generation to pick up the trade. Therefore, by reading this book you will become heir to my knowledge and experience. You, in effect, will become the fourth generation (p. 1)." His style is very much master of the craft to learning apprentice, explaining all facets of his field from how electricity is produced, how it is measured, what types of

wires carry it to and into your home, and what tools one needs to do electrical work. He not only provides the information, he tells the reader the "whys" of what is, which I find helpful because it permits one to problem solve and trouble shoot more effectively. Particularly useful are those things that he tells the reader to avoid and what can happen when they aren't! The drawings are very helpful, particularly as they are clearer than photographs can be. Sometimes less is more in this regard. The schematic of the main floor of a house (pp. 22-23) which detailed how wiring is arranged for each room was quite helpful for my project, since it described what I should (and did) find in the walls when locating my power source and routing new wiring. I also found that the information on materials to select was helpful. I was able to go to the store and pick out just what I needed without any trouble at all. While the Cauldwell book is a good one to read from cover to cover because of it's clear and thorough discussion of electrical wiring and its many helpful hints (which I did), it really did not help with my specific plans. It does cover some types of project, but I found that The Black and Decker book was more useful for my specific wiring goals. It's definitely a "how to do it" book with information on trouble shooting current wiring for potential problems (pp. 122-143), on code requirements (pp. 145-146), on how to calculate electrical loads and when to upgrade. It also includes simple repairs for the home owner, everything from checking which fuse controls which part of the house, to replacing plugs and repairing fluorescent lights. It also provides some advanced projects, like rewiring a kitchen or installing outdoor wiring. Of particular interest to my husband, the computer guru in our household, was the information on the home network wiring systems. For my own project, I found the circuit maps for 26 common wiring layouts of greatest help. With the aid of this feature and the Cauldwell book, I was able to draw on paper the likely arrangement of the present wiring in my spare bedroom, and plan in the pathway to and from the projected new outlets. The diagrams on pages 155-167 also gave me a clearer idea of which wires connected to which specific sites on the receptacles, and what the pathway of the current would be. I was thrilled when I turned on the wall switch in the room, and the lighted crown molding actually came on, first try! Wiring 1-2-3 is another group-effort type book like the Black and Decker. It'd made a splendid gift for the new home owner or prospective buyer. It provides the most extensive information on inspecting the home for electrical problems and providing measures for repairing them. The table of contents highlights almost every conceivable project, and each project has a list of materials, a skill scale that projects the level of difficulty to expect, and the amount of time that would be required by the experienced, the handy and the novice. It also makes some suggestions regarding the selection of a professional electrician for difficult projects, and does not urge the novice to go beyond their comfort level. Although I didn't use the Home Depot book for actual

planning and wiring, I found it was especially helpful with the messy stuff, things like drilling holes through the attic to route wires, the nitty-gritty of fishing for wires, and repairing the damage to walls where holes had to be made to route wires. In general these books are useful all round books. I'd give all three books a 5, each for its own area of usefulness. If you're a person who likes to have a multi-perspective approach to your projects, then I'd recommend all three. Certainly the Home Depot book would be a very nice house warming gift.

We recently had a 16x12 workshop built in our back yard. I decided to do all of the electrical work myself, something I had never done before. With Wiring 1-2-3 at my side, I was able to complete all of the electrical work in a professional manner and--thanks to the book--I knew exactly what I was doing. I later added an additional branch circuit to our service panel (something I never would have considered before reading the book) and plan on doing all of the electrical work when we refinish our basement starting next month. As an unexpected side effect to reading Wiring 1-2-3, I actually found some things that the original electricians did incorrectly when our house was built (most notably the fact that our GFCI outlets are wired incorrectly). I can now fix these problems and avoid trouble in the future thanks to the book.

This book is way too basic to be useful to anyone other than a novice. Even then, it will not improve your knowledge enough to perform the most usual home wiring projects. For a much more complete and thorough overview of basic home wiring, I suggest the Black & Decker "Complete Guide to Home Wiring" which will be useful for novice and amateur Do-It-Yourselfers. If you really want to know more about home wiring and the National Electrical Code, I suggest "House Wiring with the NEC" by Mullin. If want to know everything then get "Electircal Wiring-Residential" by the same author. It covers what electrician apprentices learn about residential wiring and isn't that hard to understand.

Words cannot simply describe how well this book is organized. Teaches you the tools needed, how to use the tools, Safety precautions and techniques, and open-ended projects. What I mean by open-Ended projects is that the projects and renovations you want are only limited to YOUR creativity. The book teaches you the basics, a general to advanced guideline, and the rest is how detailed you want your project to be. Incredible book that covers everything from how electricity works, to 3-way switches, converting 120V to 240V outlets, adding new circuit breakers for expanding homes, to installing Home-network panels (Internet Cat5/Coaxial/telephone lines/etc.). I

highly recommend this book to people entirely fresh to electricity, as a review manual, and a guideline to planning new electrical projects in your home! I also own "Black & Decker The Complete Guide to Wiring 5th Edition", and "Wiring a House 4th Edition: Completely Revised and Updated." As a comparison: Home Depot 123 is like a manual for quick easy jobs. For people who think receptacles shoot lightning and great for beginners as its simple and easy to understand. Basically the Basics but intermediate enough to mess with circuit breakers and not get electrocuted to death by them. Black & Decker is HARDCORE! They assume you know what you are doing and you won't electrocute yourself with a metal ladder on of a puddle of water while running HOT electric lines. This book goes straight into advanced wiring designs and circuits for projects, electrical codes you need to know to be up to standards, and installing therm-electric floor-warming systems. It also goes lightly into electric appliance repair such as disassembling a burned out lamp circuitry to integrating a back-up power supply to your house. *Wiring a House For Pros by Pros* (The name says it all) This book teaches you the experience to be an electrician. It emphasizes the difference between an electrician that came fresh out of school and an electrician that has been On-the-job for 30+ years. Words cannot simply describe the ESSENTIAL information in this book. If Black & Decker is hardcore, this book is for Journey Men and Masters of the Trade. However this book does not go in-depth in planning home electrical projects. It makes you a smarter, wiser, and a more experienced electrician. For a range of Difficulty in understanding/learning how to wire a home: **BEGINNER>>>>>>>>INTERMEDIATE>>>>>>>>ADVANCED** Home-Depot 123>>>>Black&Decker>>>>>>>>>Wiring a House For Pros If you do not know what a wire stripper or wire cutter is or how to use it, I highly suggest the Home Depot 123. If you know and can differentiate what a 14 gauge, 8 gauge, and a 6 gauge is, I recommend the Black & Decker. If you know all of the previously mentioned items and need advanced mastery, I suggest *Wiring a Home for pros by Pros*.

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