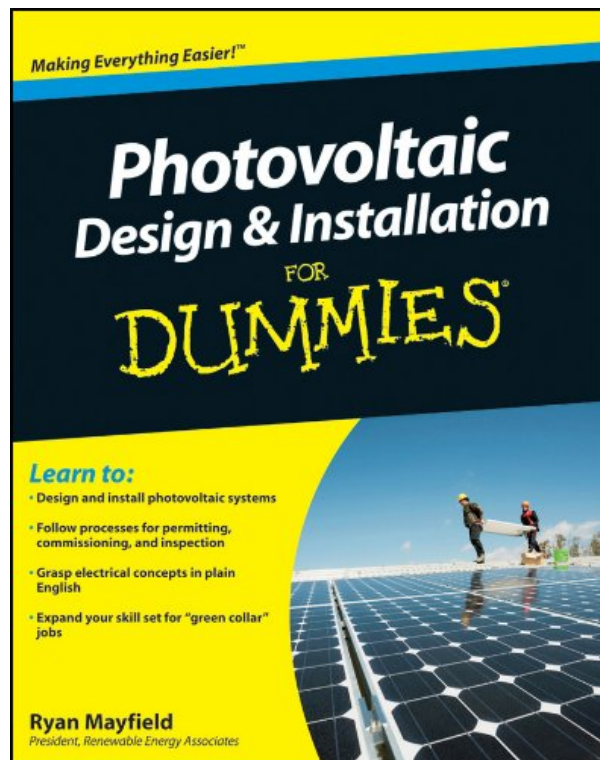
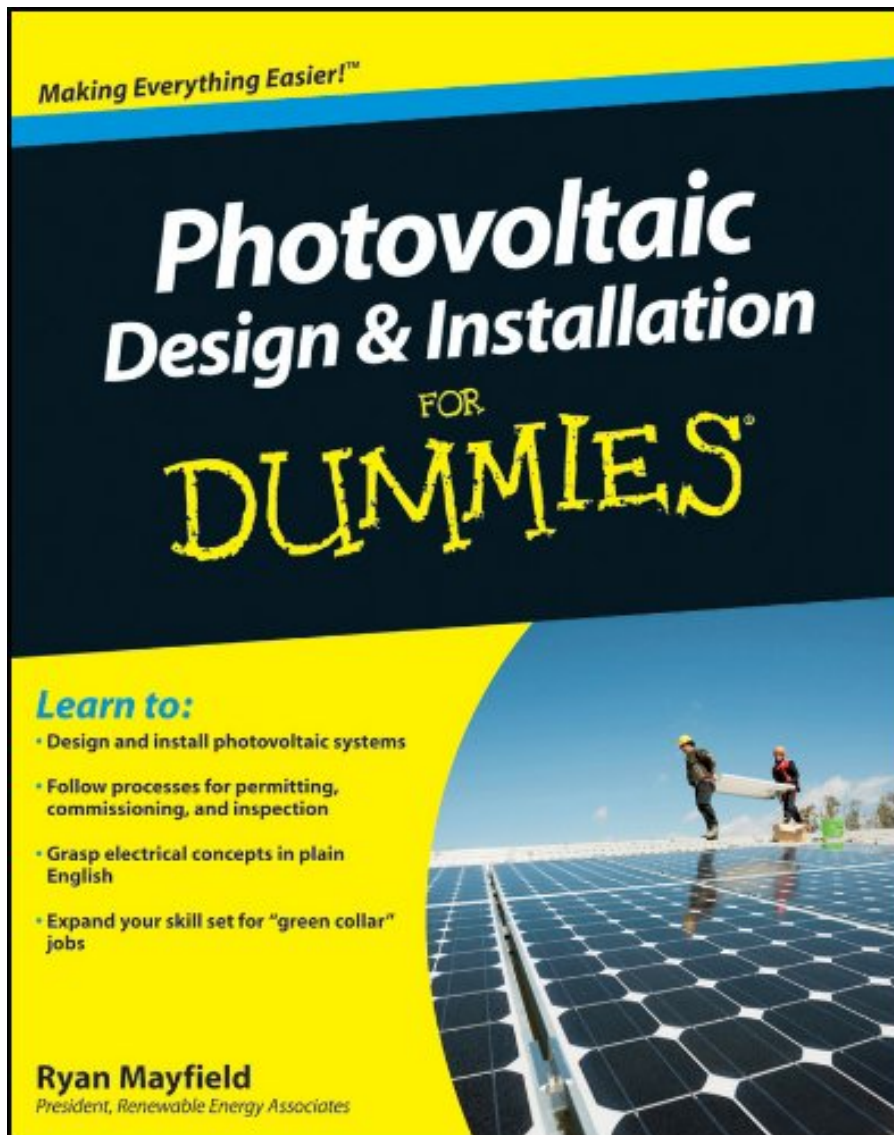


# PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN AND INSTALLATION FOR DUMMIES BY RYAN MAYFIELD



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From the Back Cover

Get a grip on photovoltaic design and installation

Are you looking to secure a job in the exciting field of photo-voltaic design and installation? This hands-on, friendly guide covers the workings of residential and small commercial-sized photovoltaic systems and gives you the essentials you need to safely install a system from start to finish.

- Shed some light on PV systems — get the scoop on electricity basics and how the sun-earth relationship affects where a PV system will (or won't) work
- Dig into the nitty-gritty of components — understand the technologies used in all types of PV systems, from modules and batteries to charge controllers, inverters, and more
- Know that size matters — discover how to properly size a grid-direct system, a battery-based system, wiring, and safety devices
- Safety first — follow helpful guidance for staying safe anytime you work on a PV system, from general construction and battery safety to working on ladders and roofs
- Break ground — learn how to assemble mechanical parts and integrate electrical elements to put together your PV system

Open the book and find:

- Advice on figuring out which system type is right for you
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Ryan Mayfield is President of Renewable Energy Associates, a consulting firm providing design, support, and educational services for commercial photovoltaic systems. He is also Photovoltaic Systems Technical Editor for SolarPro magazine, where he also regularly contributes feature articles.

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The fun and easy way to get a grip on photovoltaic design and installation

Designing and installing solar panel systems is a trend that continues to grow. With 'green collar' jobs on the rise and homeowners looking for earth-friendly ways to stretch their dollars and lesson their carbon imprint, understanding photovoltaic design and installation is on the rise.

Photovoltaic Design & Installation For Dummies gives you a comprehensive overview of the history, physics, design, installation, and operation of home-scale solar-panel systems. You'll also get an introduction to the foundational mathematic and electrical concepts you need to understand and work with photovoltaic systems.

- Covers all aspects of home-scale solar-power systems
- Viable resource for professionals, students, and technical laymen
- Can be used to study for the NABCEP exam

Whether you're a building professional looking to expand your business and skills to meet the growing demand for solar power installation or are seeking a career in this rapidly expanding field, Photovoltaic Design & Installation For Dummies has you covered!

- Sales Rank: #138881 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-08-20
- Released on: 2010-08-20
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Most helpful customer reviews

145 of 147 people found the following review helpful.

A book for someone who's actually going to install a solar PV system

By Hafharhr Amalmahay

I'm coming at this as a homeowner and generally handy person who's up for a bit of a challenge, wanting to install my own PV system on the roof of my Southern California home. There seem to be a lot of books on solar power that are just kind of informational and theoretical and don't really tell you how to actually plan & install a system in a hands-on practical way. This is one of the few that actually aims to do that.

Looking at a finished PV system sitting on someone's roof, it is kind of deceptively simple. And the nuts and bolts of installation are not that hard, if you can do electrical work, it's not that different from any other kind of electrical equipment installation. BUT. The planning and understanding the components is really quite a challenge. The equipment has very unique properties. You have to analyze your electrical needs, survey the site and its solar potential, understand the impact of the daily and seasonal workings of the sun and weather, figure out if you want batteries and how much battery power you need, and understand the main components, the solar panels themselves, the charge controller, the inverter, and the circuits and safety provisions. Sizing all the components. Permitting and nuts and bolts hardware installation. The book covers all of this, for the most part, in an organized, disciplined, and reasonably thorough manner.

In fact, the book seems to have even higher goals than mine, which is just to plan, install, and manage my own home system. This book is also overtly aimed at those interested in becoming a professional PV installer. You'd be pretty well grounded in that goal having thoroughly absorbed this book, along with some experience actually installing some systems, I think.

Is it perfect? No. For one thing, it's a "For Dummies" book so the introduction and organization are, frankly, kind of ridiculously repetitive. He tells us what he's going to tell us about 7 times - not exaggerating - before

he actually starts the telling. And then at the start of each chapter, he tells you what he's gonna tell you another two or three times for good measure. Tiresome. This book is not really for dummies wanting to get a little basic information. True dummies, I think, are not going to be installing their own PV systems. It's for people with some ability who want to become experts.

There are a few things that could simplify things for a lot of people. Yes, it's good and necessary to be able to analyze someone's electrical needs by going around to each appliance and light and electrical load and checking it's wattage and the owner's usage patterns. But there's an easier and even more accurate way that most solar pros make use of, which is to simply check the past electrical bills for average daily, monthly and seasonal energy consumption. That's not an estimation, that's hard data. And you're gonna want to do this even after you do a load analysis just to double check your work. Sure, newly constructed buildings won't have past electric bills. But a lot of cases certainly will. But absolutely no mention of this tactic is made in the section on load analysis. Really odd.

Next, I would have liked to see some representative, carefully chosen, very specific examples of actual completed solar installations to illustrate in concrete terms the main types of installations (grid direct, stand-alone battery, and grid-connected with battery back-up.) How they were sized. The specific components used. Photos of the installations. That would have been immensely helpful in seeing how all the separate steps are brought together to a completed whole. There's nothing like that. This leaves all the separate chapters on various stages of the planning and execution seeming still theoretical and somewhat abstract.

There's not a single actual photo in this book. The diagrams and charts are fairly good. But not enough.

On balance, this is still a very good book with most of the critical theory and information in one place that you are absolutely going to need to do a proper PV installation. Are you really going to be ready to immediately plan and build a PV system? Probably not quite. But you'll have a very thorough grasp of what all the considerations are.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

This is an excellent introduction to solar power

By Charles

This is an excellent introduction to solar power. It is very well written by a man that obviously knows his subject. It is lucid and yet apparently comprehensive. I have a hard time getting my head around many principles of electricity, but Mr. Mayfield gently nudges me along with illuminating analogies and precise, simple and understandable language. I have tried other books on the subject written by electrical engineers but my eyes have quickly glazed over. Although I usually pass by anything in the "Dummies" stable, this book is worth every penny and then some. Thanks to Mr. Mayfield for the considerable work that obviously went into the production of this fine technical publication.

37 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

Detailed and Thorough Treatment of PV Systems

By Sean McCoy

This is the best of the half dozen books I have read about solar electricity generation. All the other books I have read teach you about solar systems in general but don't give you enough of the nitty gritty nuts and bolts details to actually put one together. This book literally tells you what nuts and bolts are needed.

After having read the book I'm more excited about the info in the book than the prospect of actually being a PV installer. The trade sounds like a challenging if not overwhelming combination of electrician, electrical & electronic engineer, roofer and contractor.



All signs indicate that PV has a bright future hardy har so for those who wish to get into the trade this is an excellent place to start and probably all the book learning you'll need.

See all 127 customer reviews...

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The publications Photovoltaic Design And Installation For Dummies By Ryan Mayfield, from basic to complex one will be a quite helpful works that you could require to alter your life. It will certainly not provide you negative statement unless you do not obtain the meaning. This is definitely to do in reading a book to overcome the significance. Typically, this publication qualified Photovoltaic Design And Installation For Dummies By Ryan Mayfield is read because you really similar to this type of publication. So, you could obtain simpler to understand the perception and definition. Again to constantly bear in mind is by reading this book **Photovoltaic Design And Installation For Dummies By Ryan Mayfield**, you can fulfil hat your interest begin by completing this reading book.

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