

Table of Contents

The Typical Home Electric Power System	1
Basic Electricity	3
Voltage, Current, and Resistance	3
Two Circuit Laws	4
Reactance	8
Waveforms	9
Waveforms: How Much?	10
Power	11
Energy	12
Phase and Power Factor	13
Solar Panels	15
Trackers	17
Panel Wiring	21
Battery Banks	28
Battery Charge Capacity	29
Battery-Bank Voltage	29
Lead-Acid Batteries	29
Battery Electrochemistry	30
Electrolyte	32
Battery Life	33
Charging Rate	35
Sulfation	36
Battery-Bank Wiring	36
Battery Alternatives	37
Solar Chargers and Converters	39
Charger Wiring	41
Battery Charging	44
Equalization	45
Inverters	46
Inverter Features and Selection	46
Inverter Load Instability	48
Inverter Dan Refurbishment	48
Inverter Repair Tips	49
Power Distribution and Loads	50
Average Power	50
The Power Budget	51
Peak Power	51
Electrical Outlets	52
Motors as Loads	53
Electronic Loads	53
Reactive Load Instability	54
High-Resistance Plugs	55

Gasoline and Diesel Generators	56
Generator Maintenance	58
Wind Generators	60
Streams and Home-Made Ethanol	62
Energy Generation from Streams	62
Energy Generation from Home-Made Ethanol	63
Power System Design	66
Estimating Load Demand	67
Distribution System Sizing	67
Solar Array Sizing	67
Battery-Bank Sizing	68
Solar Charger Sizing	69
Inverter Sizing	69
Power Facility Design	71
Index	74