

*Don Lancaster's*

# **Hardware Hacker**

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*Selected reprints — volume IV*

*Electronics Now series (January 1992 - January 1994)*

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## Introduction

Welcome to the fourth volume in our ongoing series of my *Hardware Hacker* reprints from *Electronics Now* magazine. This volume includes the January 1992 through January 1994 columns.

As before, I do use the term "hacker" in its original context, namely anyone who is genuinely interested in pushing all the limits of software and hardware and is willing to do so in a fully cooperative, low cost and sharing network environment.

I've tried to expand the topics beyond the strict boundaries of traditional electronics. Going into the science and math subjects many of you have asked for over our voice helpline.

I still get lots of pseudoscience and "free energy" questions. So, focus areas of this volume include thermodynamics, power transfer theorems, and related engineering fundamentals. Stuff that outright precludes *all* perpetual motion scams. At the same time, I have indexed and listed most of the fake pseudoscience sources. Mostly, because they make wondrously bizarre reading, I guess.

Some of the more popular subjects in this volume include distant FM reception, Newtek's *Video Toaster*, advanced halftone imaging, and new solar energy developments. Plus updates on wavelets, caller ID, and GPS navigation. And great stuff on cubic splines, UFO's, and phone interfaces.

Preprints and reprints of most of my columns are also available electronically via *GENie* PSRT. Presented in both *PostScript* and *Adobe Acrobat* formats. For *GENie* access, have your modem dial (800) 638-8369. After the prompt, enter JOINGENIE. When you are later asked for your keycode, enter DMD524.

I continue to offer my no-charge voice helpline at (602) 428-4073, and offer free referrals from our *Synergetics Consultant's Network*. I've also got a free and newly expanded *Hardware Hacker Inside Secrets* and catalog waiting for you when you call or write. You can also grab this as SYNCAT1.PS off *GENie* PSRT, or else request one through my *Internet* address of SYNERGETICS@GENIE.GEIS.COM.

The *Electronics Now* subscription number is (516) 293-3000.

## About the Author

As he said in his classic *Incredible Secret Money Machine II*, Don Lancaster writes books. And quests *tinajas*.

Microcomputer pioneer and guru Don Lancaster is the author of 33 books, 2 videos, and countless articles. These include his *TTL Cookbook* and *CMOS Cookbook* internationally published million seller classics. Don is considered by some to be the father of the personal computer, for his early ground-breaking work with hacker digital electronics and low cost video terminal displays. He is considered by others to be the patron saint of the Walter Mitties of the World. And by yet others as the... Uh, I guess we better skip that one.

Don is the *Hardware Hacker* in *Electronics Now* (516) 293-3000, runs his *Resource Bin* in *Nuts & Volts* (714) 371-8497, and is the *Blatant Opportunist* in *Midnight Engineering* (719) 254-4558. Don is also the sysop for *GENie* PSRT, a leading Hardware hacking, PostScript, laser publishing, and money machine on-line resource. His *Ask the Guru* columns continue to be published electronically on PSRT. For fast *GENie* modem access, dial (800) 638-8369. Then JOINGENIE and DMD524.

Don is also the head honcho of *Synergetics*, a new-age design and consulting firm that specializes in computer applications, laser printing, PostScript development work, electronic prototypes, Book-on-demand publishing, technical writing, and innovative software design. His avocations include firefighting, cave exploration, bicycling, and, of course, *tinaja questing*.

Don maintains a no-charge voice helpline at (602) 428-4073. He does welcome your calls and letters. The best calling times are 8-5 weekdays, *Mountain Standard Time*. Referrals to Don's *Synergetics Consultant's Network* are available through this same number. ♦

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