

Dedication

During the forty-plus years that I've worked in the electrical field, more people than I can possibly mention have helped me understand the many facets of this special trade. Some were experts in electrical theory, while others stressed the importance of craftsmanship, the necessity for teamwork, or fostered the development of safe work practices. Often a fellow worker shared a technique to accomplish a task better, faster, or easier. By far the most influential of my mentors has been my father, Vail Gilliland, who always has time for questions. He continues to enthusiastically encourage me in my writing, teaching, and experimentation. His outstanding knowledge and skill, coupled with infinite patience and a willingness to share, are characteristics I greatly admire and appreciate. I dedicate this work to him.

Preface

The harnessing of electrical power to lighten mankind's work-load is only a little over a century old. During my own career, I have witnessed many changes in equipment, work methods, industry organization, and company philosophies. In today's fast-paced work environment, one of the greatest challenges electricians face is that of keeping abreast with technological change. Interestingly, part of the solution may be technology itself - we now have powerful, inexpensive computers and the Internet. These tools greatly simplify the tasks of writing, illustration, and dissemination of information. This medium seems the logical avenue to communicate the specialized knowledge that we as electricians need so acutely.

I've long thought about compiling a book containing information that would help apprentices and electricians to better understand and perform their jobs. I'm planning to write and publish this information in serial form on my web site www.kilowattclassroom.com. I envision a book that will provide, in addition to electrical theory and reference data, a section for manufacturers' literature, a place to keep personal notes and records from various jobs, and a section to file other related technical articles and information. It's also important, I believe, to remember the contributions of some of the electrical industry's early pioneers - it helps us to keep our own knowledge in perspective - so the beginning of each chapter will contain some historical information as well. It will be in loose-leaf form so it can be easily updated with new information and permit removal of the data that is obsolete or no longer needed. You can, of course, download only the material which is of interest to you. Eventually, perhaps, these articles can be made available as an e-book with hyperlinks that can quickly jump the reader to related articles, definitions, or required reference data.

I hope you find *The Electrician's Notebook* interesting and helpful.

Elwood V. Gilliland

The Electrician's Notebook
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