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Make: Fire: The Art And Science Of Working With Propane



Synopsis

Learn how to safely build projects that burn, poof, "boosh," and flare! This complete reference and hands-on guide to working with propane explains how to create a variety of flame effects projects that can be built with common tools and materials. Starting from the basics, this book explains everything you need to know to safely work with propane. An essential reference for building projects like fire cannons, forge torches and flaming sculpture, *Make: Fire* explains the history, chemistry, and combustion of propane. Using that knowledge as a foundation, readers can then construct a variety of flame-based project on their own using illustrated, step-by-step instructions provided by the author. With simple tools, you can build a gorgeous flambeau, a torch capable of melting aluminum, or flame effects that ignite jaw-dropping fireballs in the sky. Focusing on safety at every step and written by a licensed Flame Effects Operator, this book provides information that has never been brought together in one place. With this guide, readers will master the fundamental components of almost all propane-based projects and develop the skills they need to create their own flame devices and artworks.

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Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [Fire as a Medium](#) Author Tim Deagan on using fire for expression I joined a volunteer fire department when I was 16, after years in the Boy Scouts and on the Red Cross Disaster Action Team, so my love for fire started young. I even bought a fire engine and kept it at my house. Fire is a seductive, powerful, unforgiving, hypnotic force of nature. I burn propane in

100-pound quantities over the course of just a weekend. And while I've never lost my fascination with it, over the years I've wanted to better understand fire as a tool. I want to be able to use fire in very precise ways as a catalyst for creation and communication. Now, fire is as much a medium for me as metal or even software. **Tim's Tips:** Water and rust will accumulate shockingly fast in a disassembled flame effect. Buy a plug or cap for every open fitting to avoid grief. Avoid plastic-handled wire brushes with brazing or welding. Brushing the handle accidentally against the hot metal will leave a streak of melted plastic.

Over the years I've become frustrated at the lack of clear information about building projects that utilize propane. "Few fuels are safer to work with when handled correctly." But few sources of information explain how to do so. "In the course of teaching myself how to build flame effects, foundry burners and other propane based fire projects, I decided that I needed to share what I'd learned with other makers." **Make:Fire** combines an introduction to and reference for working with propane and then puts that knowledge to work in a series of projects. "Each project builds on the skills learned in its predecessors so that you can start out with no experience and learn as you go." I've always been very frustrated with project books that leave out critical information or assume you have special knowledge. "I've tried to write this book clearly, completely and in a way that is open to beginner as well as experienced makers." Fire art is exciting, but the real dangers are in ignorance. "Make:Fire is my attempt to make these types of projects safer and more accessible to interested artists and makers."

Tim Deagan has written for *Make: magazine*, *Nuts and Volts*, and other technical publications. He is a licensed Texas Flame Effects Operator and the Flame and Safety Coordinator for the Austin Mini Maker Faire. After years of building flame effects, aka "booshes," in the local Burn community, Tim began teaching classes called "Propane 101" and "Build Your Own Aluminum Foundry" to help other interested makers create their own projects. As a former firefighter in the Brent Volunteer Fire Department and captain of a Red Cross Disaster Action Team, Tim has always believed that the most exciting pursuits are at their best when safety is fully understood and becomes part of the culture. Tim is also a contributor to the open-source 3D CAD program *OpenSCAD* and an active member of the *Handibot CNC* and *Printrbot 3D printer* communities.

A great guide for anyone interested in learning about creating fire art. It covers everything from the very basics (propane, tools, etc), to easy projects (fire torch and pit) and then on to more advanced

projects - like how to build large poofers, add electronic controls and more. Deagan's writing is clear, approachable and entertaining. He keeps a good focus on both safety and having fun, and his walkthroughs are excellent. This book is suitable for a total beginner as well as those who already have experience. I have taken fire arts classes, and worked on several fire art projects in the past and I still learned a ton from this book. Enjoy!

Great book. The thoughts and projects are laid out in a logical way. Easy to follow directions and diagrams. Well done. I was able to complete several of the projects after reading through their sections several times. This was my first time working with propane and I was a bit worried. Tim really makes safety a priority and builds your skills slowly. At no time did I feel unsafe. I have a great looking propane tiki on my deck now. Thanks Tim.

I wanted to make a propane-powered flame thing for an event like Burning Man. I'm an experienced maker, and have closely examined other propane flame effects, so I thought I knew what to do. But... it could be dangerous for someone with no experience. This book filled my need perfectly. It goes through some example projects in great detail. It also explains enough of the theory and general principles so it's clear **why** things should be done the way they are. I'm going to build one or two projects from the book to gain experience, then do my own. The book is clear, very well written, and fun to read. I highly recommend it.

This book is impressive in the thorough presentation on making fiery projects using propane. The author sets the user/maker up for success, starting with basics of propane and proceeding to help you learn the principles project by project as you progress from easy to complex.

Great background on how to work with and properly handle Propane. Safety First! Gives the reader all the background and science needed to design very fun propane projects safely. I really enjoyed the detail given to all the parts and assembly tips to make sure you do it right. Wish I had this reference when I started and glad I have it in my library now. If you're going to poof, get this book.

Well written has good explanation of the why behind the rules. I have always been interested in fire effects but nervous about experimenting for fear I would blow myself up. This book gave me the information I needed and the safety guidance to feel comfortable to experiment with some small fire effects.

I'm a noobie with hopes of being a hobby metal caster. So far, I've just been accumulating information and materials. The author is very safety oriented, and does a good job of identifying fittings and components are suitable to use with propane. Several chapters are about building fire effects. Even so, I found chapter 2 (Equipment and Parts) and chapter 8 (Venturi Burner - a Ron Reil burner) to be very helpful. Recommended.

Incredible book. It has all the details, all the engineering and science, neat projects, great advice. The author clearly knows his stuff, because he is pointing out safety issues and risky shortcuts in projects that appear in online pages and videos. This is a hefty dose of propane know-how.

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