

A note for the teacher.

Hello, if you're one of the hundreds of teachers we've worked with over the years you will know what to expect in the following pages. If we've never met then, 'How do you do?' We're Dick and Len, of Rude Mechanicals.

So . . . why another book on primary school technology?

Mainly because you, or at least some of your colleagues, have repeatedly asked us why we haven't written one yet; why we haven't set down the advice we give at the in-service courses we run.

It is not our natural inclination to put ideas and advice into print. New ideas supercede old ones and advice is frequently modified in light of fresh experiences, and that's how it should be.

But we have been persuaded - and so here's yet another book for your bookshelf.

It's probably fair to say that most primary school teachers are uncomfortable with the idea of teaching technology. We suspect that if technology were to be removed from the curriculum the communal sigh of relief would be audible above the noise of the traffic! This is a shame, and much of the blame for this must be laid at the feet of those who have been involved in developing the various documents that have appeared in our schools. Though claiming to 'demystify' technology they often confound and obscure. What we are attempting here is to find a clear route through this fog of complexity - we hope you will find it a path you can follow - we have tried to light the way with nothing more complicated than common sense.

Every focussed practical activity described in this book has been fully 'field-tested' in the classroom - some many times. They set realistic objectives.. They have been developed to ensure that they are within the capabilities of the children targeted and to make efficient use of resources.

The tips and 'handy-hints' are the result of a total of over twenty years experience of practical technology teaching in Scottish primary schools.

We hope this book will make life a little easier for you.



IMPORTANT

We have taken great care to ensure that any activity suggested can be carried out without significant risk of injury. All the tools and processes advocated are already in use in a considerable number of primary schools. If in any doubt as to safe practice, it is important that you consult your Local Authority Health & Safety Guidelines.