



Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments

By Davis Baird

Download now

Read Online ➔

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird

Western philosophers have traditionally concentrated on theory as the means for expressing knowledge about a variety of phenomena. This absorbing book challenges this fundamental notion by showing how objects themselves, specifically scientific instruments, can express knowledge. As he considers numerous intriguing examples, Davis Baird gives us the tools to "read" the material products of science and technology and to understand their place in culture. Making a provocative and original challenge to our conception of knowledge itself, *Thing Knowledge* demands that we take a new look at theories of science and technology, knowledge, progress, and change. Baird considers a wide range of instruments, including Faraday's first electric motor, eighteenth-century mechanical models of the solar system, the cyclotron, various instruments developed by analytical chemists between 1930 and 1960, spectrometers, and more.

↓ [Download Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instru ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Inst ...pdf](#)

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments

By Davis Baird

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird

Western philosophers have traditionally concentrated on theory as the means for expressing knowledge about a variety of phenomena. This absorbing book challenges this fundamental notion by showing how objects themselves, specifically scientific instruments, can express knowledge. As he considers numerous intriguing examples, Davis Baird gives us the tools to "read" the material products of science and technology and to understand their place in culture. Making a provocative and original challenge to our conception of knowledge itself, *Thing Knowledge* demands that we take a new look at theories of science and technology, knowledge, progress, and change. Baird considers a wide range of instruments, including Faraday's first electric motor, eighteenth-century mechanical models of the solar system, the cyclotron, various instruments developed by analytical chemists between 1930 and 1960, spectrometers, and more.

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2637888 in Books
- Published on: 2004-02-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .90" w x 6.00" l, 1.24 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 296 pages

 [Download Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instru ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Inst ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird

Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"Davis Baird's *Thing Knowledge* uses instruments to do philosophy. Grappling with a wonderful assortment of objects—from antique orreries to modern spectrographs—he draws the reader deep into fascinating questions about the nature of knowledge. All too often, the knowledge Baird pursues here has been obscured by accounts that reduce understanding to theory. By contrast, in this rich text Baird shows the myriad of ways that models and devices do work in science: by representing, by manipulating, by measuring, and by calculating. This is a book as lucid on the semantic account of theories as it is on the inner workings of the cyclotron; it is a book that brings the laboratory to philosophers and philosophy into the laboratory."—Peter Galison, author of *Einstein's Clocks, Poincare's Maps: Empires of Time*

"Davis Baird has given us something new and demanding to think about: namely, in addition to propositional knowledge, he argues, there is 'thing knowledge.' That is, scientific instruments embody or encapsulate knowledge in ways that most often not transparent. In making his case, Baird forces us to reconceptualize how we go about doing science and how to understand the product of human labor, both intellectual and manual. *Thing Knowledge* is must reading for anyone interested in the development of science and its attendant technologies."—Joseph C. Pitt, author of *Thinking About Technology: Foundations of the Philosophy of Technology*

"Over the years the new frontier in philosophy of science has been on logic, then on theories to most recently on models and experimentation. Davis Baird goes one step further and considers the 'immediate' kind of knowledge embodied by scientific instruments and devices. His book is highly thought provoking and will become a classic source."—Eric Scerri, UCLA, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and editor of *Foundations of Chemistry*.

"From the air pump to the dynamo to the cyclotron, machines have played key roles in the development of scientific knowledge. Here, for the first time, Davis Baird looks at those machines as actual forms of scientific knowledge. Baird moves adeptly from historical case study to philosophical explanation in this convincing study of the material culture of science."—Ann Johnson, Department of History, Fordham University

From the Back Cover

"Davis Baird's *Thing Knowledge* uses instruments to do philosophy. Grappling with a wonderful assortment of objects—from antique orreries to modern spectrographs—he draws the reader deep into fascinating questions about the nature of knowledge. All too often, the knowledge Baird pursues here has been obscured by accounts that reduce understanding to theory. By contrast, in this rich text Baird shows the myriad of ways that models and devices do work in science: by representing, by manipulating, by measuring, and by calculating. This is a book as lucid on the semantic account of theories as it is on the inner workings of the cyclotron; it is a book that brings the laboratory to philosophers and philosophy into the laboratory."—Peter Galison, author of *Einstein's Clocks, Poincare's Maps: Empires of Time*

"Davis Baird has given us something new and demanding to think about: namely, in addition to propositional knowledge, he argues, there is 'thing knowledge.' That is, scientific instruments embody or encapsulate knowledge in ways that most often not transparent. In making his case, Baird forces us to reconceptualize

how we go about doing science and how to understand the product of human labor, both intellectual and manual. "Thing Knowledge is must reading for anyone interested in the development of science and its attendant technologies."--Joseph C. Pitt, author of "Thinking About Technology: Foundations of the Philosophy of Technology

"Over the years the new frontier in philosophy of science has been on logic, then on theories to most recently on models and experimentation. Davis Baird goes one step further and considers the 'immediate' kind of knowledge embodied by scientific instruments and devices. His book is highly thought provoking and will become a classic source."--Eric Scerri, UCLA, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and editor of Foundations of Chemistry.

"From the air pump to the dynamo to the cyclotron, machines have played key roles in the development of scientific knowledge. Here, for the first time, Davis Baird looks at those machines as actual forms of scientific knowledge. Baird moves adeptly from historical case study to philosophical explanation in this convincing study of the material culture of science."--Ann Johnson, Department of History, Fordham University

About the Author

Davis Baird, Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina, is author of *Inductive Logic: Inferring the Unknown* (1999) and coeditor of *Heinrich Hertz: Classical Physicist, Modern Philosopher* (1997).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sarah Fernandez:

What do you regarding book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question because just their can do this. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments to read.

Alice Ybarra:

Reading a book to get new life style in this year; every people loves to examine a book. When you read a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments provide you with a new experience in looking at a book.

Bessie Scudder:

It is possible to spend your free time to learn this book this book. This Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments is simple to create you can read it in the park, in the beach, train in addition to soon. If you did not have much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Claire Davis:

E-book is one of source of understanding. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen want book to know the upgrade information of year for you to year. As we know those textbooks have many advantages. Beside we all add our knowledge, can also bring us to around the world. By the book Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments we can take more advantage. Don't someone to be creative people? Being creative person must love to read a book. Simply choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't become doubt to change your life at this time book Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments. You can more attractive than now.

Download and Read Online Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird #TSHKICRAVP8

Read Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird for online ebook

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird books to read online.

Online Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird ebook PDF download

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird Doc

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird Mobipocket

Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird EPub

TSHKICRAVP8: Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments By Davis Baird