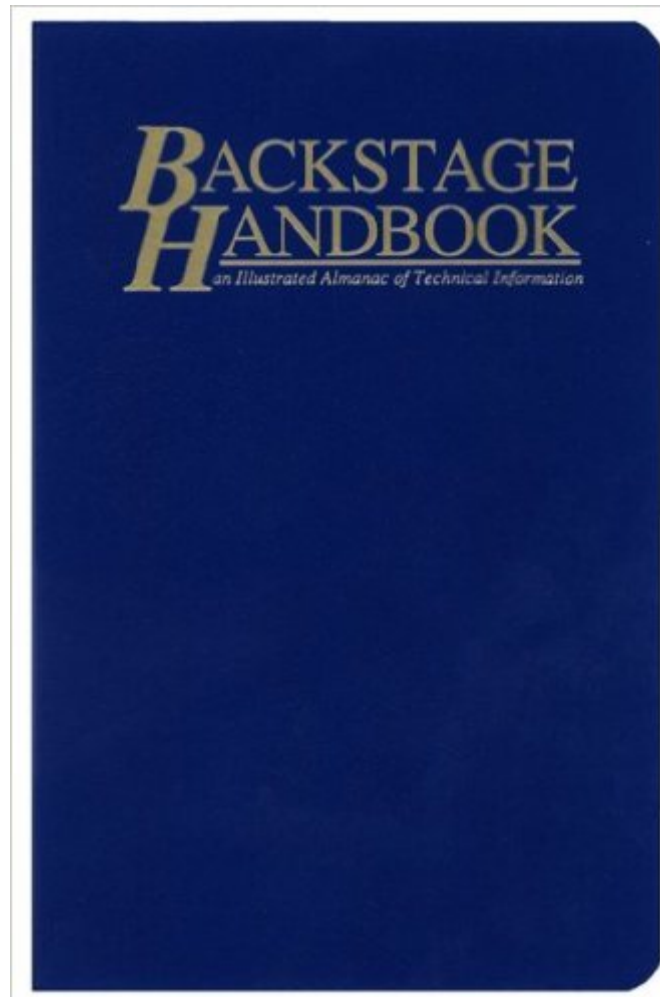


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# The Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac Of Technical Information



## Synopsis

First published in 1988, Backstage Handbook is one of the most widely used stagecraft textbooks in the United States, with about 10,000 copies sold every year. This handy reference book brings together under one cover an incredible variety of information useful to designers, technicians and students who work behind the scenes in theatre, film and television. Its sturdy leatherette binding will stand up to years of constant use. The third edition updates this popular reference book with new terminology and materials, and adds dozens of new illustrations of grip hardware, film lighting equipment and painting tools. Backstage Handbook includes chapters on Tools, Hardware, Materials, Electrics, Shop Math, Architecture and Theatre. There are hundreds of illustrations, tables and charts which cover everything from the stock sizes and specs of wood screws, to safe working loads for several kinds of rope, to illustrations of twenty-two types of standard lamp bases.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Backstage Handbook covers and illustrates much extremely useful information pertaining to the theatre and related industry. This book should be required reading by ALL college theatre majors - both design/technical and performance. The illustrated references make for easier learning when used in conjunction with hands-on instruction. If you do not own this book and are involved in the entertainment industry, you should purchase a copy right away! -Joshua C. Allen Lighting Design, New York, NY

I've used this book as a 'bible' for ten years. There is nothing like it. It is concise, exact and

obviously created by actual working live production personnel. Paul Carter fills a much needed lack of reference material in the production field. The illustrations/drawings are more than worth the price of admission. It is most unfortunate that Paul is not here to create new editions. Please keep this in print!

This book is soon to be updated for the third time, but for any student or professional in the backstage areas of the theatre this is the reference we all have needed. With humor sprinkled through-out it has all that misc info stage hands, technicians, designers, and stage managers need at their fingertips. You can keep that eclectic jumble of books and references on their shelf.

ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE:- How much does something weight?- What was that formula again?- What are those things called? You know!- You said reduce it how many times?- What does that joint look like?- What is the ground on this?- Isn't that too steep for a ramp?- Now let me show the basic outline of this arch. There is no better book

Even after 12 years of being a Grip in the industry, I was blown away by this book. There is so much info in this book that I carry it to set everyday. I buy one for every New Grip that I work with.

Had the earlier version of this book in the early 90's. It was the standard then, it continues to be. If you want to work back stage, or in a scene shop, electrical house or prop house, this is the bible. It covers just about everything including: carpentry skills, lighting instruments, wood and metal standards, tool identification, painting ingredients, practical math calculations and formulas, and a host of other things you literally could use at any time working back stage in a theater. If you know someone young that wants to get into it, this is a great gift. Should be required reading for any theater tech.

Quite possibly the best reference of it's kind, this book condenses the most commonly needed answers to the most commonly asked questions of technical theatre into a convenient volume. I keep it in my tool bag, and it has proved exceptionally useful. Carter has collected all those things that you're bound to forget. Get a copy, keep it with your tools, and never have to go crazy trying to find the elusive bit of knowledge you seem to have suddenly forgotten!

I have worked professionally as an electrician in theater for six years now. Before now, I have never owned a copy of this book, but I've seen it around a lot. In college lots of professors had a copy. I

decided to purchase my own copy mainly out of interest, because I'd never really looked through it before. Speaking particularly to the stuff that I know most about, electrics, and to a lesser extent rigging, this book is great for beginners to learn the basics. No, it doesn't really cover much on the "New hotness" of lighting (LED, DMX, and moving head units) but most theaters still rely heavily on standard ERS, PAR, and Fresnel instruments which this book covers well. This book also offers a simple and easy to understand guide to electrical properties and the basic properties of light. I enjoyed reading the parts that don't relate to what I do from day to day too. I even learned new stuff about areas of theater I don't know that much about like carpentry. The "Shop Math" section was also very valuable.

This was a great purchase. Bought it for my sister for her theater class and it helped her a lot! She expressed that this book was an essential and had a lot of information that she needed to know for her class. I'm glad that I was able to be helpful this way for her!

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