

"Encyclopedic Dictionary of Pyrotechnics"

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A Book Review, by Paul W. Cooper

I recently received a copy of this book and was amazed by its coverage of the title subjects. The *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Pyrotechnics* (and Related Subjects) is an updated and greatly expanded version of the *Illustrated Dictionary of Pyrotechnics*, originally published in 1995. It is initially being released as a CD. The Encyclopedic Dictionary consists of more than 4600 entries (not counting the 3300 cross-references, abbreviations and symbols), 1200 pages, including 3000 photographs and illustrations, 600 pyrotechnic formulations and 500 data tables. In addition to many more entries, more explanatory information is included, with many entries ranging from 1/2 to 1 (or even several) pages.

The primary focus of the dictionary is the broad range of civilian pyrotechnics, ranging from fireworks, special effects and rocketry, through highway flares and matches. However, also included are entries from other areas of related interest, ranging from high explosives and commercial blasting, nonpyrotechnic flame effects, and fire science. A relatively few military pyrotechnic terms are also included. Entries from the primary focus areas (e.g., civilian pyrotechnics) are discussed in substantial detail. Entries from related fields typically are relatively short.

Fireworks of all types, ground and aerial, are described in great detail, including the materials, construction, and assembly. The aerodynamics of rockets and mortars is covered very thoroughly. Scanning through the volumes, I found an article on grenades which included stun

(diversion), smoke, and tear gas types. I even found a three page article on particle residue from pyrotechnic reactions which included collection techniques for use at incident scenes as well as analysis.

I consider this 1200 page gem a must have reference. It's available on a CD for \$30 in the U.S. and \$34 international, and can be ordered from: Journal of Pyrotechnics, Inc. 1775 Blair Road, Whitewater, CO 81527, at the web site www.jpyro.com, or by contacting bonnie@jpyro.com.