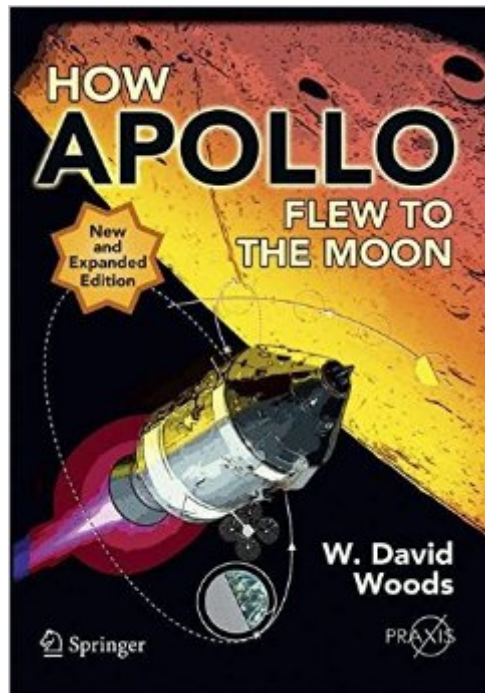


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How Apollo Flew To The Moon (Springer Praxis Books)



Synopsis

Stung by the pioneering space successes of the Soviet Union - in particular, Gagarin being the first man in space, the United States gathered the best of its engineers and set itself the goal of reaching the Moon within a decade. In an expanding 2nd edition of *How Apollo Flew to the Moon*, David Woods tells the exciting story of how the resulting Apollo flights were conducted by following a virtual flight to the Moon and its exploration of the surface. From launch to splashdown, he hitches a ride in the incredible spaceships that took men to another world, exploring each step of the journey and detailing the enormous range of disciplines, techniques, and procedures the Apollo crews had to master. While describing the tremendous technological accomplishment involved, he adds the human dimension by calling on the testimony of the people who were there at the time. He provides a wealth of fascinating and accessible material: the role of the powerful Saturn V, the reasoning behind trajectories, the day-to-day concerns of human and spacecraft health between two worlds, the exploration of the lunar surface and the sheer daring involved in traveling to the Moon and the mid-twentieth century. Given the tremendous success of the original edition of *How Apollo Flew to the Moon*, the second edition will have a new chapter on surface activities, inspired by reader's comment on .com. There will also be additional detail in the existing chapters to incorporate all the feedback from the original edition, and will include larger illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To me, amongst books, the gold standard for explaining difficult scientific and technological projects and concepts to non-technical readers is Richard Rhodes's "The Making Of The Atomic Bomb". I've long felt that a similar book was needed to explain for us non-techies the other greatest technological achievement of the 20th century--the Apollo moon project. I think this book fills that void. The tone of this book is different from that of Rhodes's. Rhodes's was conceived as an historical epic, beautifully written and researched, while this book, though just as deeply researched, is less formal, sort of as if someone sat down to talk to you to tell, "Well, son, here's how it happened." My own tech level is about that of Popular Mechanics, and my scientific knowledge is on the level of Popular Science, except in Geology, in which I took a number of college level courses. So I'm no expert on these things, though I came to the book with a knowledge of some terms and concepts. This book is much deeper than that, but the writer works you into the concepts and the jargon slowly enough that you begin to get them page by page. By the end, the only subject I was still having a little difficulty with was the navigation and such things as X, Y and Z axes and Refsmaat. I did get them, but only having to go back and re-read some passages several times. But then I bombed badly in trigonometry in high school, so maybe it's a personal mental block. What I found this book especially useful for is in learning and understanding all of NASA's very arcane jargon.

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