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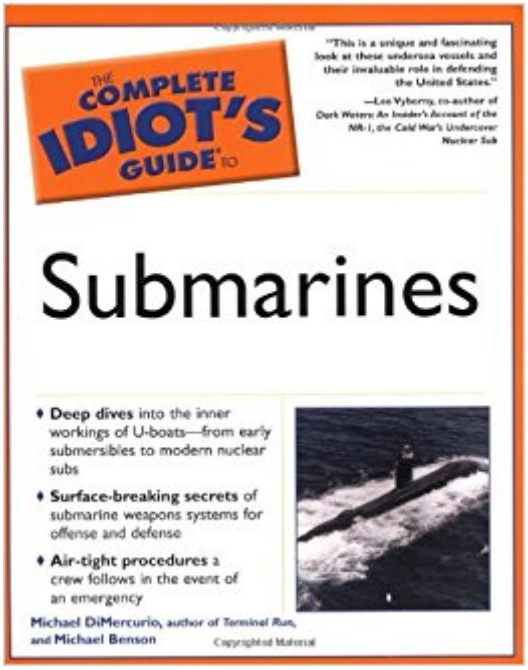
Complete Idiot's Guide To Submarines (The Complete Idiot's Guide)



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Synopsis

Providing a detailed look at modern submarines and an exhaustively researched history, this book will be a comprehensive look into the world of underwater boats. An extensive look at submarines in battle and an inside look at future submarines is also included. The technology discussed will be as cutting-edge as it gets-co-author Michael DeMercurio is well-known in the world of submarines for his novels such as Threat Vector and Venus Sub Zero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

GREAT book, very detailed. I bought it for about $20 when my son was about to join the Navy submarine force and he loved it. A good friend is a career submarine officer with 20 years in subs, and when he read it he was surprised that some of the details were so close to being confidential. I loaned it to my son's girlfriend - and she lost it. I've tried to replace it, but the cheapest I've seen are used ones at $100! If you like submarines, read DiMercurio's series of semi-fiction novels - far more interesting than Tom Clancey's "clinical" submarine books, and far ahead of any other fiction series on subs.

I read this one in 4 nights. Chocked full of stuff I had forgotten from 40 years ago. The verbiage is excellent and if that isn't good enough the authors throw boxes with meanings of other terms right on the page and a Glossary in the back of some 20 pages. Also throughout the book are boxes with humorous insertions by the authors (Mike's Corner), Beneath the Surface boxes which are insights

or additional information, Secrets of the Deep boxes with unexpected facts and the above mentioned Subtalk box which helps with the terminology.I was shocked to see the detail that is included about the nuclear plant. For you ex-submarine "nukes" out there, I am talking about Tave, Green Band, Pressurizer pressure and other readings and capacities. The explanations of reactor operations is really a lesson in Pressurized Water Reactors. An example is the detailed explanation of the procedures and language used when the CO sneaks back and scrams the reactor.Other system descriptions that I've never seen before include a lot on the Sonar systems, Weapons, Radio and Periscope systems. Even the Garbage Ejector is explained as is the Hovering System, Interior Communications, Atmosphere Contol and many other of the ships control features, procedures and devices.Emergency procedures are covered in depth and that includes all the "reactor" plant problems and steam leaks. Perhaps the reactor theory and emergencies are covered in more detail than most will have some difficulty with, I found it candy because I have been through the training and assisted in reactor operatons for 4 years.Creature comforts was the only chapter that could have been expanded. The movies, games, library, exercise equipment, CDs, DVDs, all night card games, email home, and those much desired family-grams from home. Also, eating and cooking were gone over a little too quickly.But this book has just shut the door on Clancy's "Submarine." No comparison. This is "THE" book to read to help you explain newer submarines to civilians who may be asking more than the usual type of "where are windows" type questions.From the author's jocular use of terms like "sonar girls", "S... Pump", "Nukes" to calling the Electricians the smartest in the entire crew, I found the book a pleasure and a welcome read in the wonderful world of the Silent Service.Other interesting features include a history of submarining of some 51 pages, interesting stories about Admiral Rickover and the authors feelings and remembrances while he was a rider.

Hard to find, reasonably priced

I know,you're not an idiot, so the title puts you off. My advice, though, is to swallow your pride and get this book! This is the ultimate in publicly available technical information on modern US submarines. In addition to a bit of sub history and a tour through the boat, there are extremely detailed chapters on weapons systems, sensors, and two incredible chapters on nuclear propulsion, with such detailed sub-headings as control rods, end of life cores, moderators, ship service turbogenerator, main condenser, main seawater system, thrust bearing, shaft seals and a whole lot more. He has additional detailed chapters on reactor startup, getting underway, emergencies,

submarine missile systems, and a day in the life of the crew underway. As an example, in the reactor startup chapter he describes what the crew would do, and then, in considerable detail, what the effect is on the reactor. A look ahead at newer submarine classes such as Seawolf and Virginia SSNs is also included. This book includes an extensive glossary, bibliography and index. DiMercurio is a graduate of the Naval Academy and MIT, and was an officer on board the Sturgeon class SSN, USS Hammerhead. He went right up to the edge on classified material to bring readers a real appreciation of the intricate technology and skilled people involved in modern submarine operations. This book way outclasses the Clancy book on modern submarines, and is a real bargain at under $20!

good job

As a former radioman on 688i class submarines, I found that this brought back lots of memories and items I had forgotten. There are a few factual errors, but as most submarine information is officially classified it’s close enough in most cases.

My copy of this guide was dated copyright 2003. Possibly the reviewers who gave this book a 5-star were reading a revised issue, maybe 2011? Because I cannot understand how this book got a 5-star rating. Anyway, here is my review. The 2003 version did not have adequate illustrations, nor story lines of USA submarines. Nothing. It talked about unnecessary details in obscure functional parts of one or more submarines. No history grouping of subs was given. Nothing into early creation, middle wartime uses, and current nuclear subs. Just a bunch of mish mosh! No mention about grouping a various classes of subs. So, my guess is that the author(s) thought these were "trivial" items to learn. Maybe? Uses of submarines in USA war was not clearly discussed. Written by experts for experts? Maybe? I came away with the idea that I was still an idiot as to the value submarines played in USA wartime. Oh yes, me!! I was the idiot. Maybe in 10 years I will understand this book. Oh, sorry, my mistake, the title did say Idiots Guide, right?My suggestion --> Get another book, if you can --> U.S. Submarines in World War II: An illustrated History of the Pacific. At least, that is what satisfied me as to my HUNGER to learn about submarines. The illustrations and chronological examples were excellent. Written by Larry Kimmett. Very nice book for beginners.

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