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# SCIENCE NEWS

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## Round-Trip Cosmos



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Books.

One thing separates humanity from its beastly origins: tool lust. That's the white heat that hits you behind the eyes when you see the perfect chainsaw or left a heavenly hammer. And where does this lightning bolt strike? In a hardware store, of course.

Vince Staten, a man raised in a hardware store, offers not only a tour of that mechanical mecca, but also answers the questions that have plagued humankind from time immemorial. Here, you'll discover if the Swiss Army knife is really Swiss. You'll find the answers to such essential questions as: If cement is 7,000 years old, why isn't the entire planet paved? Can you cook a duck in duck tape? And is there anything that Super Glue won't stick to? Yes, in this book you'll discover the secret history of all the things that hold your house together, and where all the tools that you ever dreamed of have come from.

And answers aren't all that Staten provides here. Drawing on his years behind the counter of his father's hardware store, he reminds us that there was once a place where you could get together with like-minded souls and talk about really important things—like baseball and box-end wrenches and bad movies and how long you can fiddle with that leaky toilet before you have to call a real plumber.

—from Simon & Schuster

Simon & Schuster, 1996, 234 pages,  
5 1/2" x 8 1/4", paperback, \$12.00

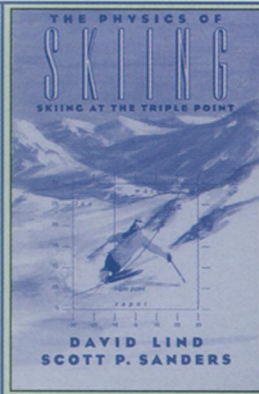
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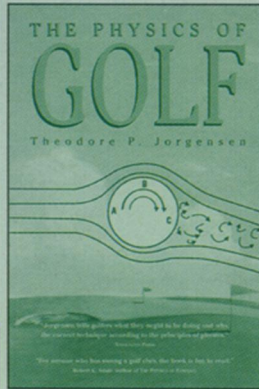
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In many sports, the properties of the playing field are relatively fixed and unchanging, and they remain so during the course of play. That is definitely not true in skiing. In fact, skiing can only be done on a playing field whose basic physical properties *change*. Thus the concept of skiing at triple point—where the three possible states of water (solid, liquid, and vapor) coexist—is key to this book.

**The Physics of Skiing** examines the many forces and properties that come together in this sport to give us the rush of carving a smooth, parallel turn on fresh-powder snow. The authors focus on the three principal classes of skiing—alpine, Nordic, and adventure—and examine all aspects of ski equipment and its relation to snow in these circumstances. Drag, friction, aerodynamics, and how these physical principles affect balance, edging, and wedging all come into play as Lind and Sanders analyze each aspect of the sport. —from AIP Press



Both books AIP Press paperback, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4"



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## Interested in improving your game?

Eager to develop a swing that works for you? Curious about why a golf ball behaves as it does?

Twenty-five years of research culminate as Theodore Jorgensen demonstrates how knowing the principles of dynamics and energy can be used to improve your game, choose the right clubs, and understand the intricacies of the handicap system. This thoroughly engaging book provides new golfers with tips concerning the critical components of a good swing. It gives experienced players advice on how to take their game to the next level while increasing their understanding of the technical aspects of the golf stroke.

**The Physics of Golf** features an introductory chapter that traces the historical development of golf clubs and balls. It also presents an eye-opening chapter on golf legend Harry Vardon, revealing how his swing yielded such exceptional results. —from AIP Press

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