
**Review of:
*Explosives***

Fifth Completely Revised Edition

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This book, for those who are not familiar with it, it is a compendium of short references to various explosives and related items of interest. There are some limited references to pyrotechnic materials and items, but the material is strongly oriented toward high explosives both civilian and military.

This book is of particular interest to those needing some sort of reference to many older, or obscure, materials. While most entries are not very extensive, they often have enough information to either provide sufficient information or, at least, give some indication of where further information may be sought. A some-

times useful feature is that many of the entry names are given in German and French as well as English.

In briefly comparing this 5th edition to the older 2nd edition, additions and deletions were moderately numerous. An unfortunate matter is that although this is the 5th edition, there are still entirely too many typos or “odd” word selections to call this a completely “English” version.

An example of where the book may be most useful is the article on Impact Sensitivity (Testing). This article is approximately 4-1/2 pages long and gives some detail and comparison about how various national standard tests are performed. Similarly, the Airbag entry describes typical airbag gas generators and even has a table of expected effluents and their specified limits.

On the other hand, the entry for Black Powder only takes about 1/2 page and this covers composition, use, and manufacture.

One of the few directly pyrotechnic items is Illuminant Composition, which has no actual composition information and the text implies that illuminant composition is always pressed into a container.

As a further indication of the primarily high explosive orientation, the entry for Detonation runs to about 12 pages plus a 2 page bibliography.

This 5th edition was also supplied with a CD ROM containing a database and compilation of thermochemical data for 500 substances. Also available from the publisher is a more complete database containing information on over 6000 substances. This might prove useful to those doing such work or needing to add information to the database contained in PEP (Propellant Evaluation Program).

For those who either do not have a copy of this book, or who have a much earlier edition, it may prove useful to examine a copy for possible use.