

Review of: *Ignition Handbook*

Vytenis Babrauskas
Fire Science Publishers
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K. L. Kosanke
PyroLabs, Inc., Whitewater, CO USA

What an incredible reference text, especially to have been assembled by a single author. The book has 1116 large format pages (8.5 by 11 inches), is printed on high quality paper and sturdily bound, is well indexed (36 pages), is very thoroughly referenced (one chapter has 2154 references) and sells for only US\$198 (\$140 if purchased directly from the author).^[1]

The chapters are titled:

- 1) Introduction (12 pages)
- 2) Terminology (11 pages)
- 3) Fundamentals of combustion (17 pages)
- 4) Ignition of gases and vapors (100 pages)
- 5) Ignition of dust clouds (41 pages)
- 6) Ignition of liquids (52 pages)
- 7) Ignition of common solids (118 pages)
- 8) Ignition of elements (15 pages)
- 9) Self-heating (77 pages)
- 10) Explosives, pyrotechnics and reactive substances (53 pages)
- 11) Characteristics of external ignition sources (94 pages)
- 12) Preventative measures (18 pages)
- 13) Special topics (28 pages)
- 14) Color Plates (38 pages)
- 15) Information on specific materials and devices (347 pages)
- 16) Tables (59 pages)
- Index (36 pages)

In terms of the accuracy of the information relating to pyrotechnics and explosives, a cursory examination by this reviewer, found no errors. However, there were occasionally minor points wherein the author's lack of detailed and current experience with pyrotechnics is somewhat apparent. As an example of this, potassium chlorate is described as being "commonly used in pyrotechnics". While was once quite correct and still today this is not incorrect, it may give the impression that potassium chlorate is currently used somewhat more frequently than it is.

While no more than about 10% of the book explicitly relates to pyrotechnics and explosives, probably another 20% is of relevance to pyrotechnics and explosives. Considering the price of the book, even if one never uses any of the non-pyrotechnic information, this still must make this text one of the most cost effective sources of pyrotechnic data and information available anywhere. This reviewer is most pleased to have this fine volume on his bookshelf.

1) vytob@doctorfire.com.
