



Surviving Technology

A New Book by Bruce Vaughan, NR5Q

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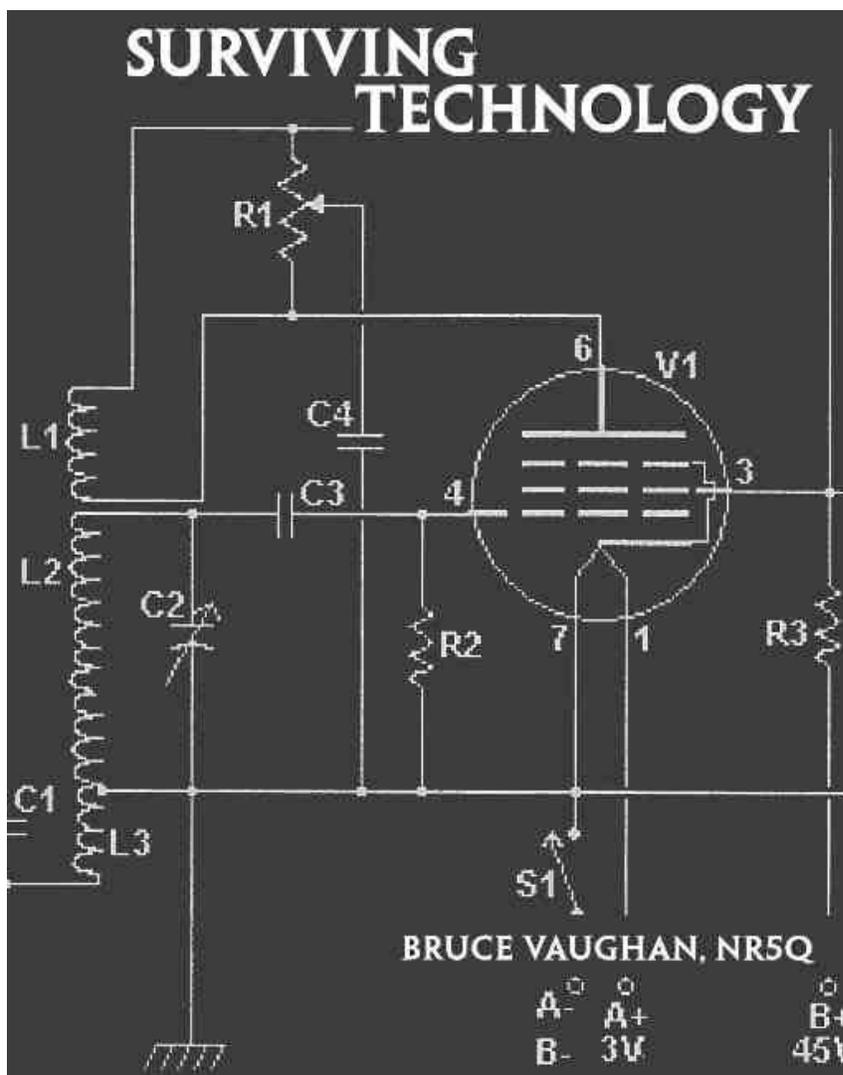
Long-Time ER readers are familiar with Bruce Vaughan's (NR5Q) many popular articles in *Electric Radio* over the years. Quoting from the introduction to his new book *Surviving Technology*, "This Book is Respectfully Dedicated to the Memory of Major Edwin Howard Armstrong."

"Major Armstrong's inventions moved radio from a limited method of communication into a practical science that enriched the lives of people worldwide. We cannot turn on a TV, pick up a cell phone, or listen to the radio without using his inventions. His entire life was spent fighting those who attempted, quite successfully for years, to steal his life's work."

"Among his many inventions are Regenerative and Super Regenerative receivers, the Superheterodyne circuit, and FM radio."

I've been a "penpal" of Bruce's for over ten years now, and after reading two of his previous books I was really looking forward to his latest.

I was not disappointed. At 223 pages plus a 14-page prologue, *Surviving Technology* is a chronicle of Bruce Vaughan's lifetime of experience in radio and is a gorgeous, finely produced presentation with excellent illustrations and schematics. The book is in large-format 8-1/2" x 11" and weighs in at a hefty 2 pounds because it is



constructed with coated, glossy, medium-weight paper stock. The text is arranged so that it's not crowded and is very easy to read, and all of the photos follow the text nicely. While the book can best be described as autobiographical, it doesn't follow the typical linear model. Bruce has divided his book into four sections with 31 chapters.

Part 1, The World Goes to War: From Clarence's (W5BQI) help in getting Bruce his ham license, W5HTX, to enlisting in the Army Reserve and through his experiences in WWII, to coming home, Bruce describes this era very well.

Part 2, The Radio and Television Repair Years: The longest section covers 1946 – 1975 in sixteen chapters and is an expanded version of Bruce's series of articles in *Electric Radio, Radio's Golden Age* when Bruce ran a radio and television service business.

Part 3, Five Fiction Stories: All are well written fictional stories from Bruce's early years. I particularly enjoyed the

"Grouch", but all are well written.

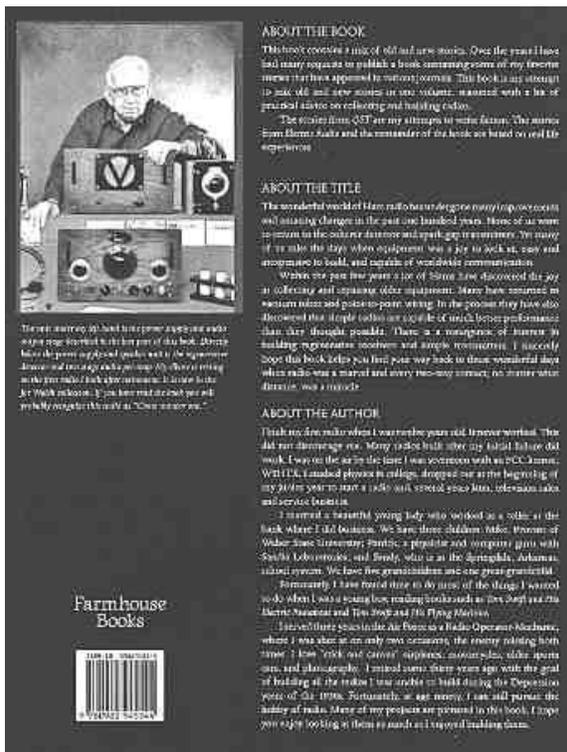
Part 4. Building the Ultimate Receiver: You say you want to build the "Ultimate" regenerative receiver? In 7 detailed chapters, Bruce gives you a blow-by-blow description, including schematics, of all the secrets needed to build a successful regenerative receiver. The "Ultimate" is amazingly straightforward, stoutly built, and Bruce provides all the details to successfully build your own based on his 60 years experience.

Bruce Vaughan's book gives an unabashed glimpse of rural life in America, his growing up years, the introduction of the automobile into that life, and the Depression years. I also found Bruce's introduction to amateur radio in 1937 just fascinating and how he was eventually able to use those skills in the 440th Troop Carrier Command during WWII. Old timers will appreciate his stories of maintaining the SCR-522, BC-348, BC-375, etc. His stories involving his retail sales of radios and the first televisions ever sold in the state, and his repair shop, are a hoot! Many times, it's just darn hard to lay the book down.

70 of the 129 photos contained in his book are of his various projects built over the years. The photo quality is excellent. His craftsmanship has to be seen to be believed - truly a master-craftsman. Longtime readers of *Electric Radio* will know exactly what I'm talking about.

Bruce's book is fun to read. It has a "sense of humor" about it. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would highly recommend it to all.

[Editor's Note: See page 61 for ordering information.]



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