

Don Lancaster's

RESOURCE BIN

number sixty one

A few of my favorite web sites.

Our usual reminder here that the *Resource Bin* is now a two-way column. You can get tech help, consultant referrals and off-the-wall networking on nearly any electronic, *tinaja questing*, personal publishing, money machine, or computer topic by calling me at (520) 428-4073 weekdays 8-5 Mountain Standard Time.

I'm now in the process of setting up my new *Guru's Lair* web site you will find at (where else?) www.tinaja.com This is the place you go for instant tech answers. Among the many files in our library, you will find complete reprint sets for all of the *Resource Bin* and other columns. Plus a brand new *Synergetics Consultant's Newtwork*.

You will get the best results if you have both *Netscape Gold* and *Acrobat Reader 3.0* installed.

Some Favorite Web Sites

My intent with www.tinaja.com is to include most of those cyber resources and tools that I actually need and use. The thinking being that, if I find them useful, the chances are that others just might as well. This month, I thought we'd review a few of my preferred or most used web sites.

The web really makes things easier than they used to be. I recently got a loan of an impressive new PostScript speaking (!) *PowerScript* PS-1000 video character generator from the *Videonics* people. At www.videonics.com At any rate, I did want to feature this in my current *Tech Musings* column. Along with a general tech background on video and NTSC.

Uh, whoops. A few months back I found something somewhere obscure about a new video fading circuit. But ignored it at the time. And because I subscribe to some 500+ trade journals, pinning it down as hard copy seemed futile. A quick visit to the "search all web sites at once" at www.lookup.com, followed by two trade journal sites at

www.electronicproducts.com and at the www.eet.com quickly told me this chip is a *Linear Technology* LT1251.

Bouncing on over to www.linear.com gave me a quick download with full tech details on this exciting chip.

More info on this Videonics cg and the Linear Technology LT1251 can be found in MUSE110.PDF

Finding Good Web Sites

Just how do you find out where the better sites are buried? Certainly by recommendations from your friends, by reading ads, and printed editorial mentions. There's a dozen or so new internet mags that offer hundreds of new site listings each month. We saw more on these back in RESBN55.PDF and RESBN56.PDF.

A second route is to sample one of those services that feature the 500 best sites. Such as those you might find at www.cciweb.com/iway500/ or www.cio.com/WebMaster/lm_frontpage.html

Another play is to use the *avalanche effect* where you always check the *surf other sites* hot button on each site you drop in. Theoretically, each and every web site is within *seven* or so mouse

NEXT MONTH: Don shows us an alternate method to find new trade journals.

clicks from each other. So by linking a link to a link, you can end up nearly anywhere you like.

Pay particular attention to *gateway sites* which have lots of definitive and well annotated links.

But the best way I've found to pin down new sites is using the good old Yahoo dice at www.yahoo.com Each hit jumps you *somewhere* in cyberspace. Run your own avalanche effect three or four clicks deep, and you can end up nearly anywhere.

Technical Sites

You'll find the *Nuts & Volts* web page at www.nutsvolts.com Included is a FTP library with scads of shareware, source code, columns, and other info. There's also the events calander, back issues, writer's guides, subscription services, and bunches more.

Other resources of technical interest include both PE and EN magazines at www.gernsback.com; Jeff Duntemann's *Visual Developer* at www.coriolis.com; Try Steve Ciarcia at www.circellar.com; Dave Baldwin's fine *Computer Journal* at www.psyber.com/~tcj/; that *Recharger* magazine at rechargermag.com; Or Jeff Anderson's *Home Automator* located at www.automator.com; and Richard and Karen Perez's *Home Power* you should find at www.homepower.com

My own site is www.tinaja.com The online reference library is arranged by shelves. These include *Math Stuff*, *Tech Musings*, *Blatant Opportunist*, *Resbin*, *Cubic Spline*, *Book-on-demand*, *Tinaja Questing*, *Flutterwumper*, *Guru's Lair*, *Hardware Hacker*, *Magic Sinewave*, *PIC Pecking*, *Navicube*, *PostScript*, *Patent Avoidance*, *Other*, *ISMM*, *Pseudoscience*, *Synergetics*, *Tech Musings*, *Third Party* and *Webmastering* topics.

You'll also find plenty of annotated site links, a few newsgroup links, that *Synergetics Consultant's Network*, my online catalogs, that surplus bargain page, and a tech forum. Plus a handy online library for third party authors. Such as Scott Edwards, Jim Dubois, and Jim Fitzsimmons.

All the big engineering firms, major semiconductor houses, trade journals, and distributors have web sites. Most of these chip manufacturers seem to be trying to get away from hard copy data books. Because they have gotten outrageously expensive. Instead, CD ROM and Adobe Acrobat 3.0 on line distribution are becoming the norm.

Since there's hundreds of EE sites,

I'll save you lots of typing by sending you instead to all their annotated hot links on www.tinaja.com

Individual Sites

Here's some labor-of-love locations that I am really impressed with: John Simonton's [Paia Electronics](http://www.paia.com) electronic music site at www.paia.com Try Steve Hansen's [Bell Jar](http://www.tiac.net/users/shansen/belljar) high vacuum stuff at www.tiac.net/users/shansen/belljar

Frank Miller's direct toner method printed circuitry at www.dynaart.com; and Eric Smith's [PIC Projects](http://www.brouhaha.com/~eric/pic/) found at www.brouhaha.com/~eric/pic/ Check out Eric's OJ Simpson detector!

See Seth Friedman's [Factsheet Five](http://www.well.com/f5/f5index2.html) over at www.well.com/f5/f5index2.html His guide to underground 'zines has got something to offend everyone.

Shawn Carlson writes that [Amateur Scientist](http://www.thesphere.com/sas/) column in *Scientific American*. He also honchos the *Society of Amateur Scientists*. You'll find his SAS web site at www.thesphere.com/sas/

Steve Roberts is into nomadics and human powered vehicles in one really big way. Such as recumbant bicycles, catamarans, submarines, or whatever. His web location is www.microship.com Look there for newsletter details.

Tim Jenison runs [NewTek](http://www.newtek.com). Home of the *Video Toaster*, *Video Flyer*, and his *Lightwave* software. Now available for all major platforms. Tim's site can be found at www.newtek.com

Lance Wally runs [Parallax](http://www.parallax.com), home of the *Basic Stamp* and other *PIC* goodies. The full set of *Basic Stamp Application Notes* are at www.parallaxinc.com Note that www.parallax.com is a different url run by somebody else.

Useful Tools

A major resource for pinning down book info is [Amazon Books](http://www.amazon.com). Located at www.amazon.com They are vastly more convenient than *Books in Print*.

One excellent telephone directory is [Lookup USA](http://www.lookup.com/Homepages/73107/search.html) at www.lookup.com/Homepages/73107/search.html I especially do like their map feature that shows you exactly how to get to the number you have just looked up.

Surplus US government sale info is at <http://131.87.1.51/> Straight from the horse's whatever, even.

Free newsletters and free catalogs from thousands of sources are offered by pub.savvy.com/subject.html Or from www.halcyon.com/2001/

Extensive listings for ezines appear on www.meer.net/~johnl/ezine-list/

Links to the top 100 computer mags are at www.netvalley.com/netvalley/top

100mag_defgh.html/#h

An impressive collection of 15,000 clip art subjects useful for site design can be found through the *Stevie Site* at www.stevie.com/cgi-bin/STEVIE/stev_graphics Good stuff here.

Buying or selling a car is amazingly easy using that *Cool Notify* feature of *Classifieds 2000* Whose site is found at www.classifieds2000.com But I am still having difficulty finding a clean VW *Synchro*. A finder's fee if you can help me out here. Or perhaps a free *tinaja quest*. To one of those places you can only get to in a 4WD *Synchro*.

Investments

A big warning here: Anybody can start up a web page and then tell you anything they like. Including selling, recommending, or promoting stocks. And ripping you off. So, *always* check out *multiple sources* for any investment information. Every time.

One major gateway site to nearly all credible investment stuff is that *Wall Street Research Network*. Find this site at www.wsrn.com You will find tens of thousands of links here.

My favorite source for quick stock quotes with detailed price histories is at www.quote.com. But these folks will typically charge sponsoring web sites for their fancier services.

I do use their freebie *Playboy* link at fast.quote/fq/playboy/quote?adbe.aapl

This service does have five minute delayed price quoting and does hang up badly during busier times. As its backup, I use an alternate and slightly less convenient quotes.galt.com

Jobs

There are several dozen useful job locator sites. One gateway link to a lot of these is *Datamation* magazine: www.datamation.com/PlugIn/jobs/jobs.html

And, of course, alternatives to full time jobs are located in my *Incredible Secret Money Machine*.

Pseudoscience

I have long been utterly fascinated by *pseudoscience*. Mesmerizingly awful "research" on such topics as perpetual motion (or "overunity energy"), one thousand MPG cars, antigravity, Area 51, rampant Teslaism, UFO's, psychic powers, and miracle medicines.

Scams aside, pseudoscience usually results from either (A) bad or missing lab work which is not even wrong; or (B) not having the skills and tools to understand the problem.

One of my goals around here is to

new from DON LANCASTER

ACTIVE FILTER COOKBOOK

The sixteenth (!) printing of Don's bible on analog op-amp lowpass, bandpass, and highpass active filters. De-mystified instant designs. **\$28.50**

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Millions of copies in print worldwide. THE two books for digital integrated circuit fundamentals. About as hands-on as you can get. **\$28.50** each.

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Updated 2nd edition of Don's classic on setting up your own technical or craft venture. **\$18.50**

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Don's best early stuff at a bargain price. Includes the CMOS Cookbook, The TTL Cookbook, Active Filter Cookbook, PostScript video, Case Against Patents, Incredible Secret Money Machine II, and Hardware Hacker II reprints. **\$119.50**

LOTS OF OTHER GOODIES

Ask the Guru I or II or III	\$24.50
Hardware Hacker II, III or IV	\$24.50
Micro Cookbook I	\$19.50
PostScript Beginner Stuff	\$29.50
PostScript Show and Tell	\$29.50
Intro to PostScript Video	\$29.50
PostScript Reference II	\$34.50
PostScript Tutorial/Cookbook	\$22.50
PostScript by Example	\$32.50
Understanding PS Programming	\$29.50
PostScript: A Visual Approach	\$22.50
PostScript Program Design	\$24.50
Thinking in PostScript	\$22.50
LaserWriter Reference	\$19.50
Type 1 Font Format	\$16.50
Acrobat Reference	\$24.50
Whole works (all PostScript)	\$380.00
Synergetics Surplus Catalog	FREE
Technical Insider Secrets	FREE

POSTSCRIPT SECRETS

A Book/Disk combination crammed full of free fonts, insider resources, utilities, publications, workarounds, fontgrabbing, more. For most any PostScript printer. Mac or PC format. **\$29.50**

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Ongoing details on Book-on-demand publishing, a new method of producing books only when and as ordered. Reprints, sources, samples. **\$39.50**

THE CASE AGAINST PATENTS

For most individuals, patents are virtually certain to result in a net loss of sanity, energy, time, and money. This reprint set shows you Don's tested and proven real-world alternatives. **28.50**

BLATANT OPPORTUNIST I

The reprints from all Don's Midnight Engineering columns. Includes a broad range of real world, proven coverage on small scale technical startup ventures. Stuff you can use right now. **\$24.50**

RESOURCE BIN I

A complete collection of all Don's Nuts & Volts columns to date, including a new index and his master names and numbers list. **\$24.50**

FREE SAMPLES

Check Don's Guru's Lair at <http://www.tinaja.com> for interactive catalogs and online samples of Don's unique products. Searchable reprints and reference resources, too. Tech help, hot links to cool sites, consultants. email: don@tinaja.com

FREE US VOICE HELPLINE

VISA/MC

SYNERGETICS
Box 809-NV
Thatcher, AZ 85552
(520) 428-4073

Write in 146 on Reader Service Card.

SOME FAVORITE WEB LINKS

Adobe Acrobat – www.adobe.com
 Amazon Books – www.amazon.com
 Bed and Breakfast Guides – www.homearts.com/affil/ahi/main/ahihome.htm
 Bell Jar Newsletter – www.tiac.net/users/shansen/belljar
 Black Range Lodge <mailto:blackrange@zianet.com>
 Blond redneck Aggie lawyers – www.winn.com/pwinn/humor/index.html
 Church of the Subgenius – sunsite.unc.edu/subgenius
 Circuit Cellar magazine – www.circellar.com
 Classifieds 2000 Cool Notify cars – www.classifieds200.com
 Computer mags – www.netvalley.com/netvalley/top100mag_defgh.html/#h
 Computer Journal magazine – www.psyber.com/~tcj/
 Dilbert and Dogbert – www.unitedmedia.com
 Don Lancaster's Synergetics – www.tinaja.com
 Dynaart Designs – www.dynaart.com
 E. E. Times Magazine – www.eet.com
 Electronic Products Magazine – www.electronicproducts.com
 Emory University Med Web – www.gen.emory.edu/medweb
 Eric Smith's PIC Projects – www.brouhaha.com/~eric/pic/
 Ezines list – www.meer.net/~johnl/ezine-list/
 Factsheet Five magazine – www.well.com/f5/f5index2.html
 Family oriented kiddy site – www.bess.net
 Film review site – www.film.com
 Flying Pig Site – www.randi.org/jr/
 Fodor's – travel.epicurious.com/travel/b_places/05_bnb.html?63106
 Free catalogs – www.halcyon.com/2001/
 Free newsletters – pub.savvy.com/subject.html
 Galt stock quotes – quotes.galt.com
 Great Outdoor Recreation Places – www.gorp.com
 Home Automator magazine – www.automator.com
 Home Power magazine – www.homepower.com
 Internet Movie Database – us.imdb.com
 I-way magazine – www.cciweb.com/iway500/
 Job locator – www.datamation.com/PlugIn/jobs/jobs.html
 KeelyNet pseudoscience – www.keelynet.com
 Linear Technology – www.linear.com
 Master web searcher – www.lookup.com
 Medical Access – www.medaccess.com
 More wilderness lodges – www.inns.com/nm.html
 Netscape Gold www.netscape.com
 NewTek video toaster – www.newtek.com
 Nuts & Volts magazine – www.nutsvolts.com
 Paia Electronics – www.paia.com
 Parallax Basic Stamp – www.parallaxinc.com
 PE and EN magazines – www.gernsback.com
 Quaint inn guide – <http://www.incrawler.com/>
 Quick stock quotes – www.quote.com
 Playboy stock quotes – fast.quote/fq/playboy/quote?adbe.aapl
 Recharger magazine – rechargermag.com
 Review site at Film Zone – www.filmzone.com
 Roberts nomadics & human power vehicles – www.microship.com
 Saucer Smear magazine – www.mcs.com/~kvg/smear.htm
 Science Hobbist – www.eskimo.com/~billb/
 Skeptical Inquirer magazine – www.csicorp.org
 Society of Amateur Scientists – www.thesphere.com/sas/
 Stevie Site clip art – www.stevie.com/cgi-bin/STEVIE/stev_graphics
 Telephone directory – www.lookup.com/Home_pages/73107/search.html
 UFO links gateway – www.io.com/~sheol/ufo.html
 US government surplus sales – <http://131.87.1.151/>
 Videonics PostScript cg's – www.videonics.com
 Visual Developer magazine – www.coriolis.com
 Wall Street Research Network – www.wsrn.com
 Webmaster magazine – www.cio.com/WebMaster/lm_frontpage.html
 Wilderness lodge guide – cimarron.metronet.com/index.html
 Yahoo dice hypersurfer – www.yahoo.com

pile up all pseudoscience on center stage, shine a bright light onto it, and get you to personally conclude "Yup – that sure is a big pile all right."

Which is why I've placed bunches of the pseudoscience links and bizarre downloads onto my www.tinaja.com I even gave it a private library shelf.

I cannot fathom how anyone could possibly be stupid enough to believe that unlimited free energy is useful or even remotely desirable.

Unlimited free energy would be far and away your most heinous possible crime against humanity. This would rapidly turn the planet to a cinder.

Instant toast.

At any rate, the "best of the worst" pseudoscience is up on Jerry Decker's KeelyNet at www.keelynet.com They've even made me their resident skeptic.

Your finest one stop flying saucer location is Thomas L. Wellborne II's *UFO Links* at www.io.com/~sheol/ufo.html One prime example of superb "in your face" muckraking journalism is James Mosley's *Saucer Smear* found at www.mcs.com/~kvg/smear.htm

For a well done site that includes a rich mix of both real and fake science, do not miss William Beaty's *Science Hobbist* at www.eskimo.com/~billb/

And, on the other side of the fence,

check out the Amazing Randi's *Flying Pig Site*, where \$640,000 is available to anyone that is able to convincingly demonstrate dowsing or pretty near any other psychic technique. The site is www.randi.org/jr/ And, of course, there is always that good old *Skeptical Inquirer* site at www.csicorp.org

Humor

The Guru's and Swami's local 204 union rules demand that all technical web sites have a Dilbert and Dogbert link. To www.unitedmedia.com

I especially liked that strip where Dogbert the programmer replies "It's not my fault. Some mil guy named General Protection did it."

Didja hear the one about the blond redneck Aggie lawyer who... Details can be found on www.winn.com/pwinn/humor/index.html

I was reading a WWII book recently that included this curious historical footnote: Supposedly one of the last US Marines to perish in the war was Spammed to death when the supply parachute failed to open on a POW relief aid mission.

Which is apparently the very first instance of Spamming. I guess we can skip the web page that specializes in pornographic Spam Haiku's. I seem

to have misplaced its url.

Actually, if you search *Alta Vista* on "Spam Haiku", you are guaranteed to be utterly appalled by those 9000 site hits you will receive. No joke.

And a Few More...

Wilderness lodges and quaint inns can be found at Deborah Sakach's *Bed and Breakfast Guides* at www.homearts.com/affil/ahi/main/ahihome.htm

Four alternate sources here include cimarron.metronet.com/index.html; <http://www.incrawler.com/>; Or *Fodor's* at travel.epicurious.com/travel/b_places/05_bnb.html?63106 And finally check out www.inns.com/nm.html

My own chosen wilderness retreat is the *Black Range Lodge*. Where you'll find Frisbee champion levitating UFO aliens busily editing straw bale home videos. While cooking in a horno. Uh, that's on an ordinary day when things don't get too strange.

Craftily hidden in the part of New Mexico that you can't get to. Er, their web site is not quite on line yet. But email them at blackrange@zianet.com

Meet me there some day. To scam your company into sending you there free, see MSINPROP.PDF on the Magic Sinewave shelf of www.tinaja.com

For an outdoor and wilderness area

web site I like, look at *Great Outdoor Recreation Places* at www.gorp.com

One family oriented and "G" rated kiddie site is up at www.bess.net Bess, of course, is a retriever. Amazingly, Bess often leads to some surprisingly sophisticated research sites.

For instance, click *science and nature*, then *other good science sites*, then that *electronic zoo*, then *animals*, then *cows*. Then your choice of *dairy* or *beef*. And observe *nearly a thousand* professional, commercial and scientific links telling you far more than you could possibly ever wanted to know about bovines.

Of the many medical web locations, two I like are Emory University's *Med Web* at www.gen.emory.edu/medweb and *Medical Access* at www.medaccess.com

What you really want to watch for are *Medline* links. Which is a premium service that the doctors all use. Free access (with some minor restrictions) to Medline are now newly offered by a dozen or so sites.

There's scads of movie review sites. Three I prefer are that *Internet Movie Database* at us.imdb.com; www.film.com or www.filmzone.com

Last and quite possibly least, why think international while you can go completely off the planet instead? Do check out the finest and foremost web religion ever. At the J.R. "Bob" Dobbs *Church of the Subgenius*. It is found at sunsite.unc.edu/subgenius

This one is way beyond beyond.

This Month's Contest

You'll find "live" links to all of the mentioned sites plus hundreds more on my www.tinaja.com.

The freshly colorized *Acrobat pdf* 3.0

format gives you amazing legibility, fast online viewing, plus instant hot links. If you are not quite web literate, do check into my Webmaster Library page first. Especially our new files on *Exploring the Web*, *Finding answers on the web*, *How to start your own web page*, and *Secrets of Webmastering*.

For our contest this month, simply send me a listing of your favorite web sites. Preferably obscure ones I have never heard of. And tell me how you found them and why you like them.

There will be a largish pile of my new *Incredible Secret Money Machine II* books going to the dozen or so better entries, plus an all-expense-paid (FOB Thatcher, AZ) *tinaja quest* for two that will go to the very best of all.

Send all your *written* entries to me here at *Synergetics*, rather than to *Nuts & Volts* editorial. ♦

Microcomputer pioneer and guru Don Lancaster is the author of 33 books and countless tech articles. Don maintains his no-charge US tech helpline found at (520) 428-4073, besides offering all of his own books, reprints, and consulting services. Don also has two free catalogs full of his resource secrets waiting for you. Your best calling times are 8-5 on weekdays, Mountain Standard Time.

Funding and time constraints restrict this helpline service to US callers only.

Don is in the process of setting up his Guru's Lair at <http://www.tinaja.com>

Full reprints and preprints of all Don's columns and ongoing tech support appear here. You can reach Don at Synergetics, Box 809, Thatcher, AZ 85552. Or send any messages to his US Internet address of don@tinaja.com