

An attempt to obtain an out of print technical handbook

Leandra Vicci
10 March 2005

This was a book of highly specialized engineering formulas and tables that had been out of print for decades, "Inductance Calculation," by Frederick Grover. After years of library renewals and checking the used book market, it became clear that copies of Grover were rare, and the two that I had seen come available were both snapped up before I could buy them.

We contacted the publisher, who would have been happy to approve our making a photocopy, but their records did not convince them that they still held the rights. Accordingly they only gave us a highly qualified approval to copy it (see attachment).

On further pursuit, of which I have lost my own records, we found that the ISA (Instrument Society of America) was trying to reprint this handbook through Dover. If I recall correctly, Dover could not publish until ISA could certify approval by the copyright owner. ISA determined the ownership had reverted to Grover's estate. The estate executor (or agent?) would not respond to ISA's requests, so ISA abandoned the project.

This left me neither with permission to copy, nor a way to buy a reprint, which would have been best for me. I took the risk of photocopying it anyway, with the qualified approval of the original publisher. I have attached a photocopy of the first three pages of the copy I made.

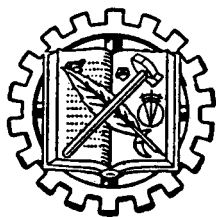
While rather specialized and obscure, to date this is the only compiled source of these kinds of data, and it is unconscionable that its accessibility is so arbitrarily limited by existing laws. This example highlights a flaw in the current copyright codes that hinders technical advancement in the United States. I urge that this flaw be remedied.

INDUCTANCE CALCULATIONS

Working Formulas and Tables

FREDERICK W. GROVER, PH.D.

*Professor of Electrical Engineering, Union College;
Formerly Consulting Physicist, National Bureau of Standards*



NEW YORK

D. VAN NOSTRAND COMPANY, INC.

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July 7, 1997

ATTN: *CAEL Maddalone*
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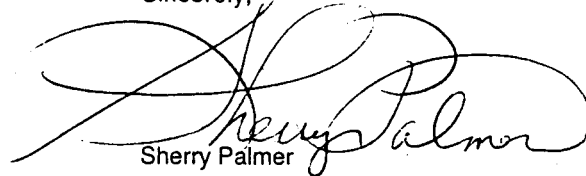
Dear Sir:

We have attempted for over a year to obtain the above-referenced book, and have been unable to locate a copy. This book is very useful in the work that we do here in the Microelectronic Systems Laboratory, Department of Computer Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

We would very much like to make a copy of this book to maintain in our reference library. The book we have at present has become overdue at our university library and so if at all possible, we request that you expedite this request. You may send permission via fax to me at (919-962-1798).

We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Sherry Palmer

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Carl Maddalone
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