



How to Build a Time Machine

By Paul Davies

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How to Build a Time Machine By Paul Davies

With his rare knack for making cutting-edge theoretical science effortlessly accessible, world-renowned physicist Paul Davies has won a devoted readership with his bestselling books *The Fifth Miracle*, *About Time*, and *God and the New Physics*. Now Davies tackles an issue that has intrigued humankind for centuries—is time travel possible?

The answer, insists Davies, is definitely yes—once you iron out a few kinks in the space-time continuum. With tongue planted seriously in cheek, Davies explains that to visit the future, all you need is a little help from gravity and a spaceship that can travel just under the speed of light. As for returning to the past, the best bet is to find a convenient black hole equipped with a traversible worm hole—though if you're not careful you may find yourself sucked into a one-way journey to nowhere. Finally, having brilliantly laid the theoretical foundation, Davies sets out a four-stage process for assembling the time machine and getting it to work. He also addresses the ticklish question of why, if time travel is really feasible, we're not swarmed with time tourists visiting us from the future.

Wildly inventive and theoretically sound, *How to Build a Time Machine* is creative science at its best—illuminating, entertaining, thought provoking, and fascinating in every way.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Is time travel possible? If so, what manner of machine would one need to traverse this fourth dimension? Covering ground similar to J. Richard Gott's *Time Travel in Einstein's Universe*, this slim, tongue-in-cheek treatise invokes the primary tenet of Einstein's special theory of relativity that both time and space are elastic to illustrate that time travel, while impractical, is definitely possible. The time travel mechanisms Davies (The Fifth Miracle) envisions are dramatically different from the devices that SF authors H.G. Wells and Ray Bradbury have employed in their fiction. All that's needed to travel to the future, noted theoretical physicist Davies asserts, is a little help from gravity and a spaceship that can reach speeds just under the speed of light. Traveling to the past is a trickier task, however, and Davies spends the bulk of his book explaining the components needed to construct a wormhole (a black hole "with an exit as well as an entrance"). Despite the author's penchant for diagrams and his habit of highlighting and repeating his major points, readers will struggle to accept some of his more difficult and extreme propositions such as the existence of an exotic matter possessing antigravitational properties, which is vital to his construction of a wormhole. While Davies's discussion of the paradoxes inherent in time travel and of the physical laws that seem to prevent it is both thought provoking and accessible, his limited focus on wormholes may disappoint those hungering for a broader discussion of time travel technology.

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From Scientific American

Is time travel possible? Yes, says Davies, who recently retired (in his early 50s) as professor of mathematical physics at the University of Adelaide in Australia to concentrate on his writing. But "a moment's thought uncovers some tricky questions." Whereupon he discusses lucidly and engagingly both the concepts of physics that establish the possibility of time travel and the tricky questions. You could reach the future "by simply moving very fast." For visiting the past, the most popular proposal is a wormhole, "a sculpture in the structure of space that provides a shortcut between two widely separated spaces." There may be "cosmic taboos," though, that make time travel forever elusive.

Editors of Scientific American

From [Booklist](#)

A time-traveling machine *can* be constructed--provided one rotates a superdense cylinder of infinite length or locates a wormhole. Such are the contraptions contemporary physicists such as Frank Tipler and Kip Thorne (*Black Holes and Time Warps*, 1994) have conceived in their explorations of whether it's possible to build a time machine. Davies, also a physicist, has an impressive track record of writing popular titles about space-time (e.g., *About Time*, 1995), and he opens up the fascinating yet weird concept of time travel to readers new to the basic features of space-time. That does not mean his precis is simple, but it is lucid throughout, even sketching out the four technical parts required in a time machine that exploits quantum effects. And if a machine were actually built, many paradoxes would arise, which Davies explores in an inventive manner. An excellent explainer, Davies will well reward the curious bent on bending space-time.

Gilbert Taylor

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Russell Bussey:

The e-book with title How to Build a Time Machine contains a lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

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