

Your Flying Jetpack!

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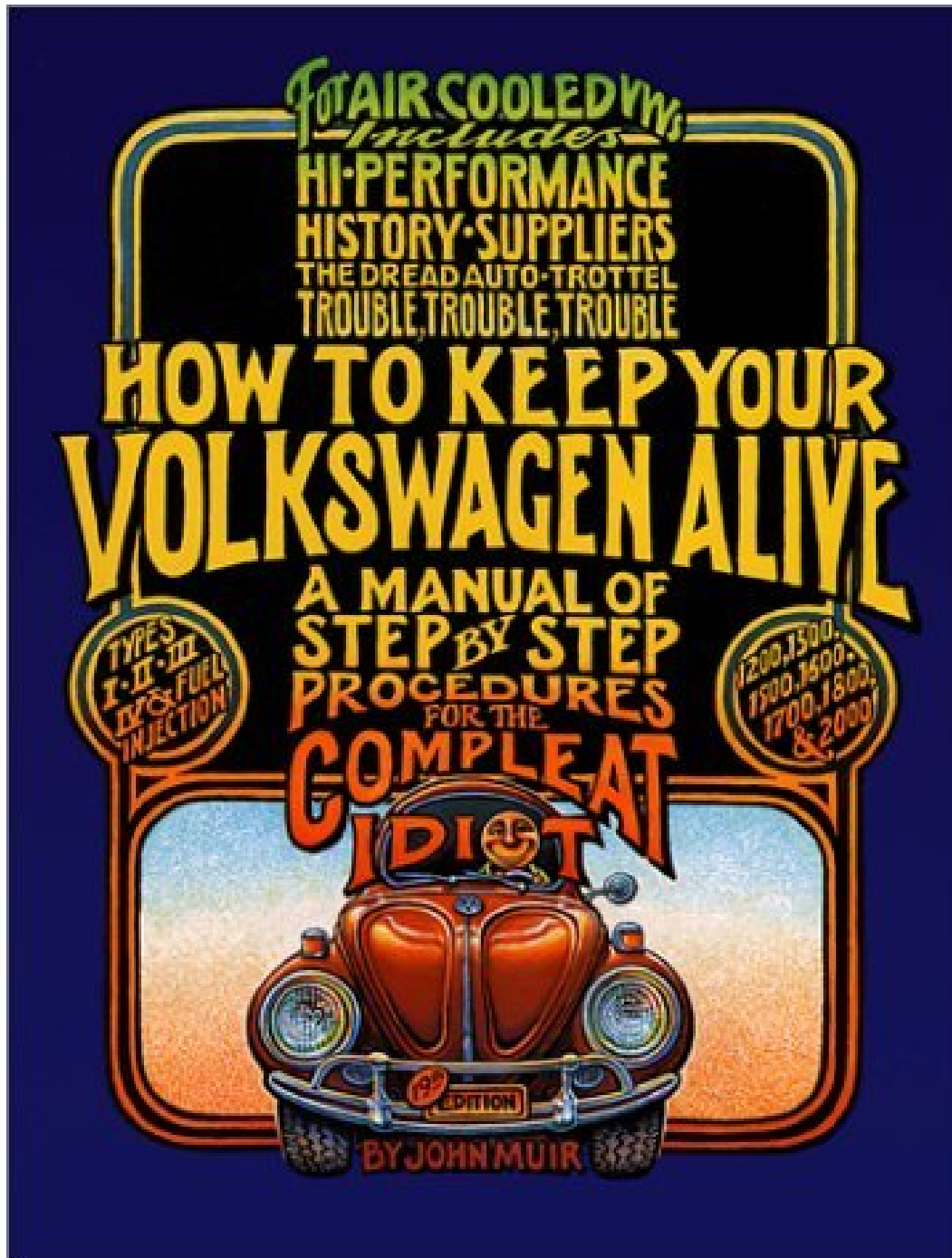




My wheelchair is a machine to get my body from one place to another.

I'd like for it to be easy to fix and hack.

Like a bike or a car.

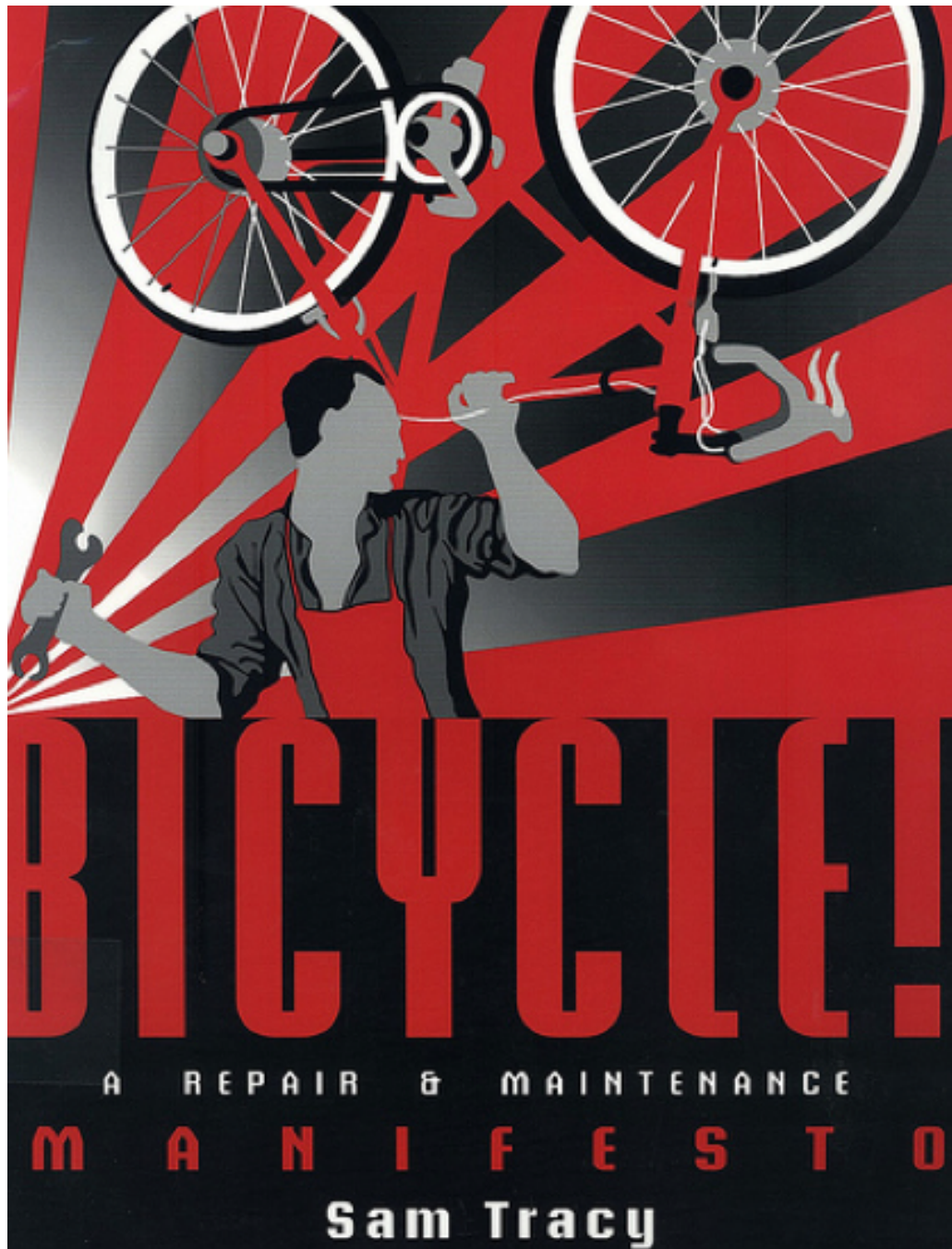


You can find info
on how to fix a car

Or you can go to a
car repair place

Anyone can start
a car fixing
business

They're
everywhere



You can find out how
to fix a bike

And there's little
independent bike
shops everywhere



How to fix a wheelchair

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

NOT!!

**But you can't find out
how to fix a
wheelchair**

Or build one

Because rather than just being a tool like a bike
or a car or a computer

It's a MEDICAL DEVICE



YOU will likely be “disabled”
- have a significant physical impairment -
for around 8 years of your life



55 M PWD
in US

18% of
population



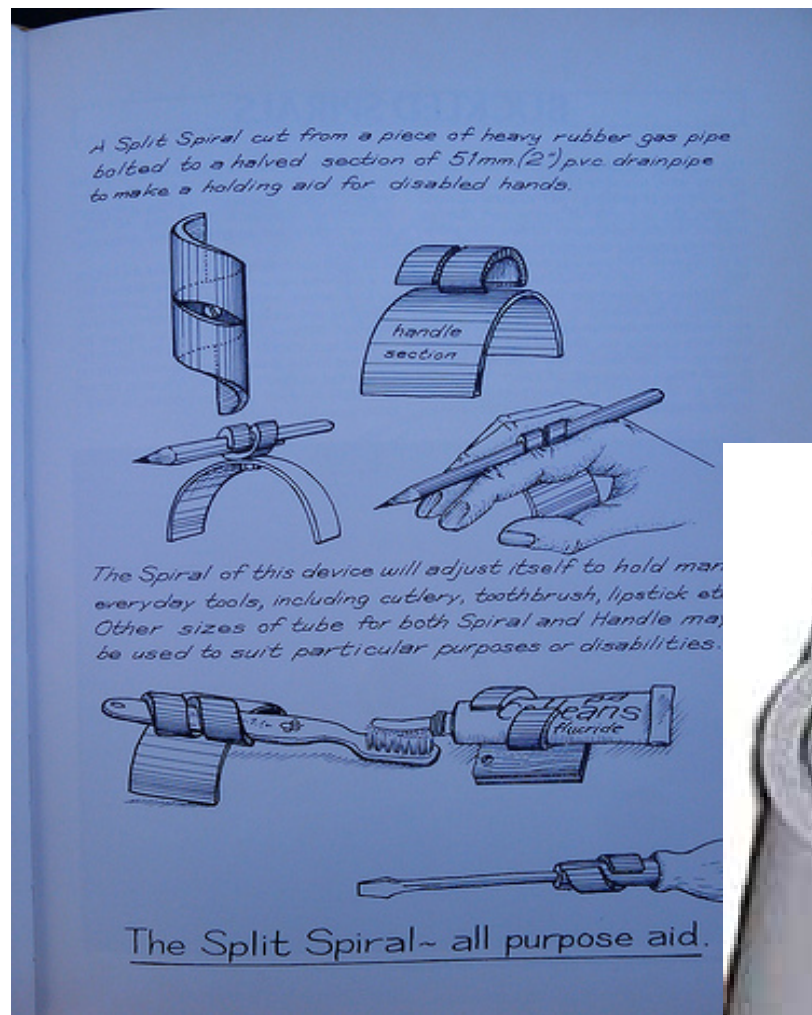
How can you avoid...

THIS?

The clunkiest,
crappiest vehicle on
Earth.

50 lbs of cold steel...
signifying
helplessness.

Consider: you might lose some hand function from RSI.



People invent stuff to help with that

It's in out of print books

And on a couple of personal blogs



Why Should We Care Now?

- * Until you need it, you don't care
- * When you need it, you're busy, poor, and in pain

That's why we don't have our jetpacks.

Everyone 20 years ago was counting on their immortality nanobots.



Why isn't DIY disability hacking more popular?

Attitude....

- * Fear of mortality
- * Medical expert model
- * Charity model: PWD are passive recipients of charity
- * PWD are often isolated from community
- * Solutions are individual, and then aren't shared



(PWD meaning “people with disabilities” not “print working directory”)

THE MEDICAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



Stanley Wohl, M.D.

Why isn't DIY disability
hacking more popular?

... and systemic bias.

Your impaired body is under the
control of the

MEDICAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Your wheelchair repair manual

or voice control hack

MIGHT GET YOU SUED
if someone is injured

MIGHT VIOLATE copyright or a patent
might ruin someone's PROFIT

YOU will need assistive technology

YOU WILL WANT TO HACK IT.

You'll need DIY attitude
@ access

You'll need open source
information structures and
communities

Vision, speech, gaming doing ok
but mobility mods aren't integrated
with open source culture



Some cool hacks!

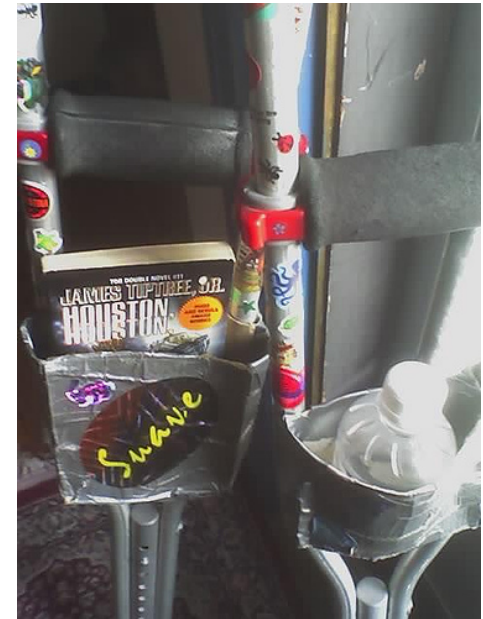
Bike crutch holders



Soda bottle prosthetic arm



Crutch pockets





Tactile Maps

Brilliant mashup, maps for people w/ visual impairments

Lighthouse for the Blind

Email them address, they print and snail mail you a raised print map

Lots of software/hw people working on this, good to join



Oneswitch.org

Brilliant collection of hacks
with step by step
instructions, photos

To control lots of devices
with one switch, hand or
mouth activated

Focus on gaming!

“10% of your clan members, guild members, forum friends, and that dude you just ganked are somehow disabled.”

- AbleGamers.com

people with disabilities need open source culture

open source culture needs the physical inventiveness, adaptations driven by necessity, of people w disabilities

WHAT TO DO?

Build your software to be accessible by everyone!

Document and share all your access hacks

Notice others' hacks!

Find projects at:

<http://www.hackabilityblog.com/links>



IN THE FUTURE...

Will you be a sad lonely person fumbling to epoxy tennis balls onto the feet of your totally World War II looking hospital walker ?



Or will you be hacking your burning man jetpack in a vibrant community that supports serendipity and a culture of invention!



A DIY approach to
HACKING ABILITY
will help everyone

We'll invent cool shit

We'll open source our way
out of nursing home
prisons run by the medical
industrial complex

and

The future will be
awesome!!!