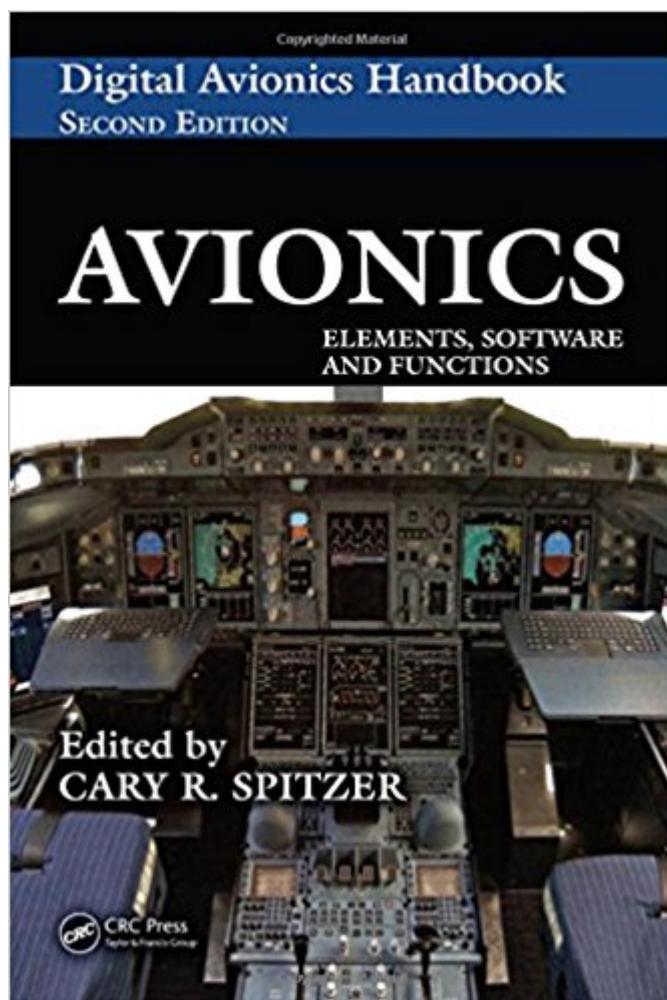


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# Avionics: Elements, Software And Functions (The Avionics Handbook, Second Edition)



## Synopsis

Renamed to reflect the increased role of digital electronics in modern flight control systems, Cary Spitzer's industry-standard Digital Avionics Handbook, Second Edition is available in two comprehensive volumes designed to provide focused coverage for specialists working in different areas of avionics development. The first installment, Avionics: Elements, Software, and Functions covers the building blocks and enabling technologies behind modern avionics systems. It discusses data buses, displays, human factors, standards, and flight systems in detail and includes new chapters on the Time-Triggered Protocol (TTP), ARINC specification 653, communications, and vehicle health management systems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Some good technical stuff in here. my area is spacecraft, so I saw the similarities and differences with aircraft systems.

This is a very good reference book for the area of avionics. As the book states very clearly, it's edited by Cary R. Spitzer (a very well known reference in the avionics area) and it is a compendium of papers written by professionals in the industry, arranged as a handbook. The book is arranged in two parts: the first one called "Elements & Functions" presents the reader the "building blocks" of technologies used for the later part of the book called "Functions". This second part describes

comprehensibly several functions used in the avionics world, such as navigation, communications, flight management systems, fly-by-wire technology, etc. The good points about this book is the somehow smooth progression on the topics, the organization of the different chapters and the level of depth in each topic and bibliography (when available). Overall, the book has a very good progression, starting with the basic functions, and building up the contents for the second part. The different chapters / papers are very well organized and edited (with a few exceptions), and are very readable. I have an electronics engineering background, and it wasn't difficult at all reading cover to back. Please note that it does include some minor math and concepts that are at college level. Additionally, the level of knowledge presented in each section is very good for a handbook, and very useful in practice (it focus on the practical implementation and application of the topics). Bibliography for each chapter is from good to excellent, depending on the writer of each chapter. The reason of why I knocked a star from this review is due to three areas that I wasn't satisfied with. These were the way the book is "edited" in some chapters, the lack of bibliography on selected chapters, the rather obscure paragraphs in some topics and the bias on a couple of discussions. The first and last "con" is due to the reason that this handbook is put together as a collection of papers instead of a book written by a small group of writers. This leads to some difference on the level of depth in some chapters (from being too basic to very detailed), and since the writers are former or current professionals in the specific areas there is some bias towards certain brands or systems, not being very neutral about their capabilities and characteristics. The great span of contributors / writers also implies that bibliography is not coherent: some chapters are very complete regards bibliography while others have none at all. Lastly, there are some passages that are not very well connected with previous chapters and/or discussions, making them very obscure if the reader is not familiar with avionics. All in all, I do recommend this book as a handy reference for the professional / engineer about to enter this fascinating area, as well as for the seasoned engineer working daily with avionics. I read it as an introductory material to general avionics technology, and it definitely serves its purpose as a handbook on different topics about avionics. For more in-depth analysis of certain topics (e.g. navigation, software, synthetic vision) I would definitely recommend specific book on those areas.

Previously published as one volume, this book is now one of two under the general name Digital Avionics Handbook (2nd Edition). The two volumes are Avionics: Elements, Software and Functions and Avionics: Development and Implementation. This book offers a comprehensive view of avionics from understanding the basic technology and components that make up the overall system. It

includes examples of modern systems flying on the latest military and civil aircraft. There are 23 chapters in Elements, Software, and Functions, 13 chapters in Development and Implementation. They are written by experts in their individual areas. The authors come from industry and government, from both the United States and other countries. The subjects range from the 'lowly' battery to the latest in fly-by-wire technology. With so many subjects to be covered, this book is basically an introduction to the various fields. It is, however, an introduction aimed at the engineer who has been assigned to or may in the future have to work in this area. This is the second edition, published in 2007 and up to date as of the mid to later part of 2006.

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