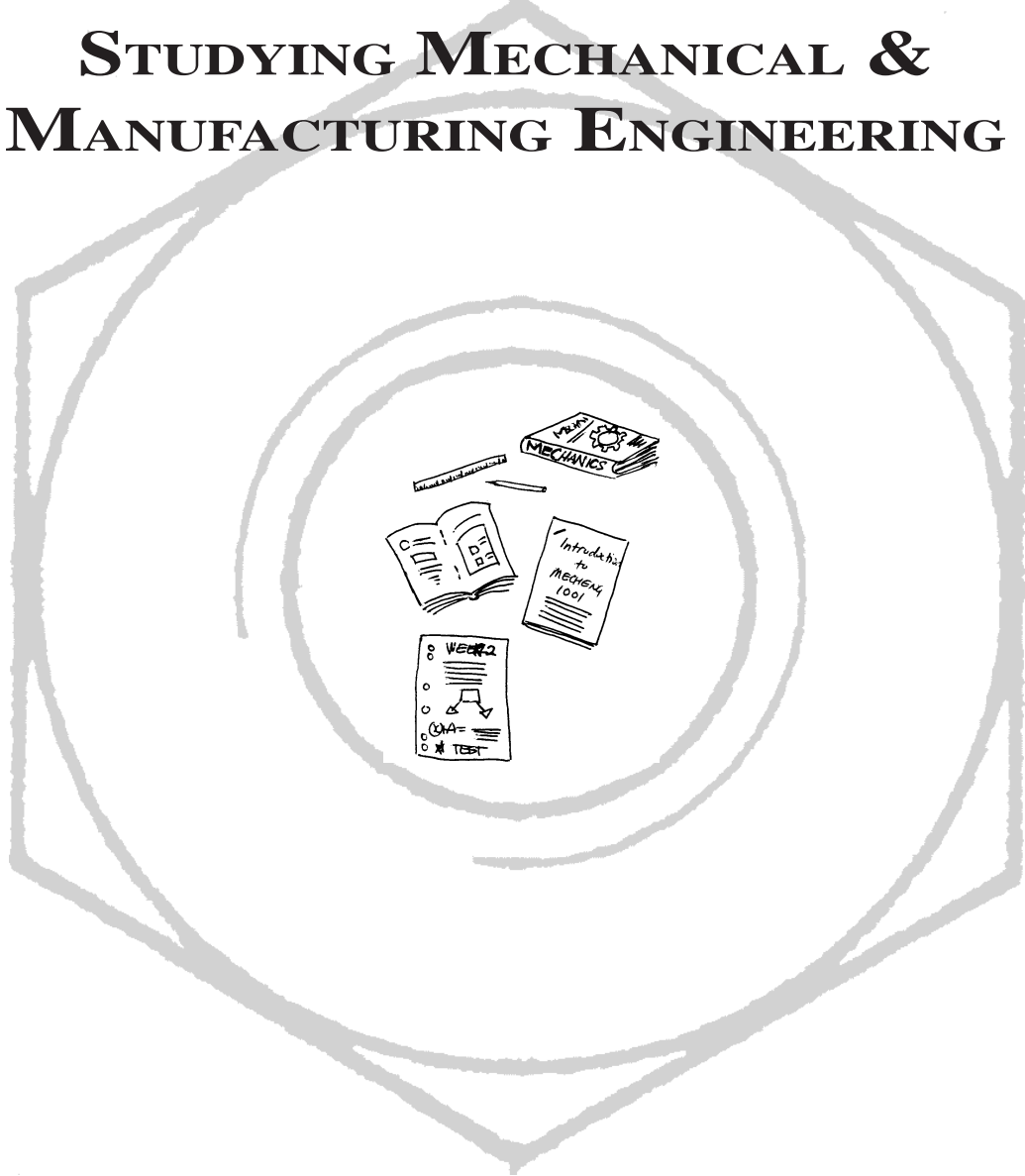


In a Nutshell

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO STUDYING MECHANICAL & MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING



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Produced by:
The Learning Centre
The University of New South Wales

**WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL
OF MECHANICAL AND
MANUFACTURING
ENGINEERING'S STUDY GUIDE**

In a Nutshell

In a Nutshell is your handy reference guide to many of the assignments you will have in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

It has been compiled by staff in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and The Learning Centre to help you get the most from the effort you put into your subjects.

This is our third edition of *In a Nutshell*. If you have any comments, drop a line to Associate Professor Robin Ford (School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering) or Pam Mort (The Learning Centre, p.mort@unsw.edu.au)

When Starting an Assignment . . .

Don't Panic

Start Here

STEP 1: READ COURSE INSTRUCTIONS & LECTURE NOTES

STEP 2: READ THIS GUIDE

STEP 3: MAKE A START

STEP 4: GET MORE INPUT

- Students
- Textbooks
- The Web

<http://www.mech.unsw.edu.au/mech>

- Library
- Lecturer
- Tutors
- The Learning Centre
- Workmates
- Family

**STEP 5: GET IT DONE ON TIME AND AT LEAST GOOD ENOUGH—
OR BETTER IF YOU CAN!**





Using This Guide

PURPOSE

When you have a task to do for your degree, this guide will help you to:

- *get started*
- *meet the requirements*
- *get the best result for you efforts*

DESCRIPTION

Two or three pages per topic give you clear, simple, basic and easy-to-follow guidelines for many tasks. There are also hints on how to study, and directions for where to go if you want more help.

OPTIONS

You might use *In a Nutshell* (IAN) in many ways. For example:

- Read it all right away to see what's there and learn from it now, or refer to it later to refresh your memory.
- Look at the contents list now to see what's in IAN and come back to the guide when you think it might help.
- Put it away and come back to it later when beginning to panic because an assignment is almost due.

IAN will help in all these situations. So file it in a place where you can find it again.

Sometimes, the handouts for various courses will include instructions on the same topics that are in this guide. These course instructions will set the requirements, but IAN will often help you satisfy them.

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These pages will help you with communication tasks during your degree, and later as a professional engineer.

You will need to present your calculations in ways that satisfy markers. Later on you will need similar skills as part of your professional work.

University is a new experience, and now is a good time to review your approach to study.

Engineering goes beyond brain work. It hits the emotions. So does studying engineering.

Learn the specialist words in each subject beforehand and get a head start.