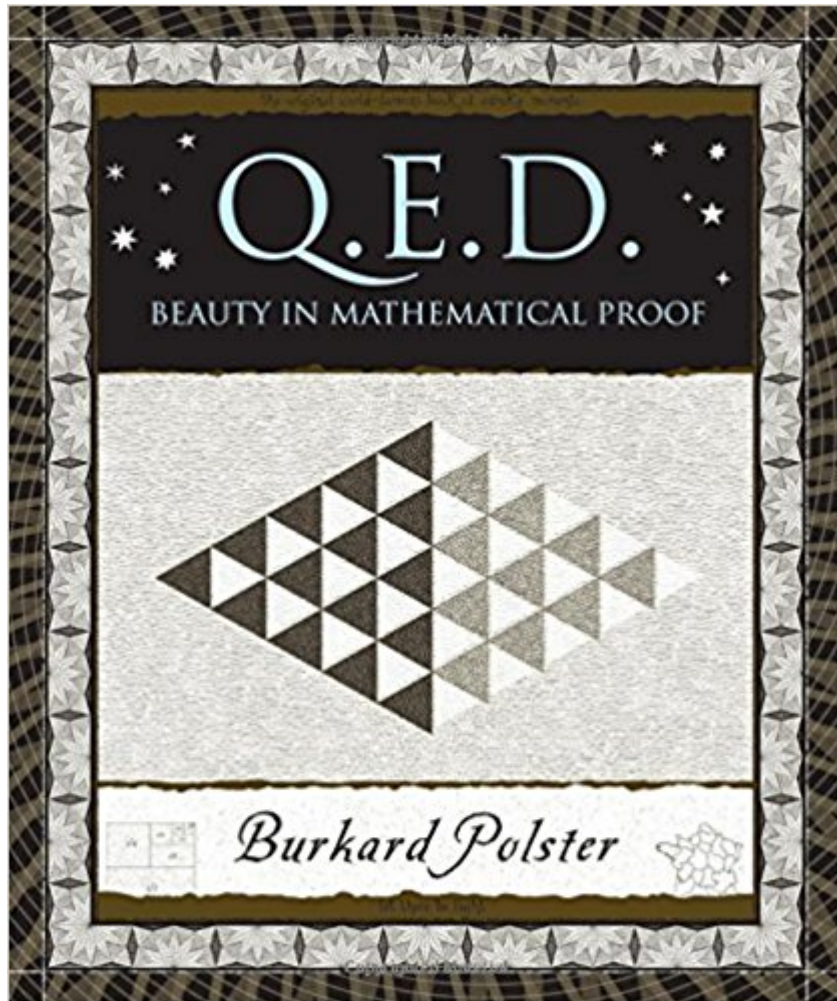


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# Q.E.D.: Beauty In Mathematical Proof (Wooden Books)



## Synopsis

Q.E.D. presents some of the most famous mathematical proofs in a charming book that will appeal to nonmathematicians and math experts alike. Grasp in an instant why Pythagoras's theorem must be correct. Follow the ancient Chinese proof of the volume formula for the frustrating frustum, and Archimedes' method for finding the volume of a sphere. Discover the secrets of pi and why, contrary to popular belief, squaring the circle really is possible. Study the subtle art of mathematical domino tumbling, and find out how slicing cones helped save a city and put a man on the moon.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The fascinating, informative Wooden Books series blends ancient wisdom and modern knowledge. The books are thin, impeccably designed, and will stimulate more thinking and subsequent 'Eureka' moments than a dozen novels laced with narrative innovation and postmodern stylings."

Burkard Polster is a mathematician at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. His previous books include *The Mathematics of Juggling* and *The Geometrical Picture Book*.

This Wooden Book is an excellently bound, has an eye-catching cover and contains an eclectic collection of mathematical proofs. I couldn't help but think that having a text book with this kind of gentle and engaging approach might do a lot to minimize math-phobia. This volume (as is the case with almost all the Wooden books I've ever purchased) makes a wonderful addition to my library.

As a beginning proof writer, I enjoyed this book. It is elegant and simply written. Unfortunately, what I appreciate about this book is also what I do not like. In the second half of the book, more detailed proofs would have been helpful for understanding the proofs.

QED, must be read carefully, one page at a time. Many of the proofs are immediate, but some must be re-read as in any math book. When the proof is finally understood, the effect is breathtaking clarity. The book can be read on several levels. Some proofs are not proofs at all, but require extensions by the reader, but the key concepts are still beautiful.

I love all of the Little wooden books. Very nice illustrations and concise information.

I haven't had a chance to actually read through this yet, but the little bit I have read is just as titled... beautiful. I actually just ordered a second one because I gave this one to my Calc teacher. I want to get more of the Wooden Books series.

all of these wooden books series are so impressive.....none of these books are very expensive, 10\$ at most, small and to the point...i am so glad i've bought most of them!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I found that this text was full of brilliant observations in mathematics, and was altogether worthy of being collected. If there is a criticism, it is the over-emphasis on geometry over other types of math. But the geometric illustrations are very attractive and educational, so ultimately this was not such a bad thing. I don't think you'll find anything about Heisenberg in this book, it is more introductory than that, but does a good job of pushing beginners onto a new plateau of understanding. A lot of math is about geometry, after all, I started thinking. As for the whole series, I found even the Stonehenge version of the wooden books was very cleverly constructed, and attractive.

If you feel that you have lost the touch of history of mathematics, have lost your creativity into the rigour of formal methods, and need integral calculus to solve simplest of the mathematical problems, this is the book you need. Q.E.D. is a compilation of ancient mathematical problems with unexpectedly short mathematical proofs, which one you know them, are as simple as they can be, yet you may not think of them by yourself. My idea is to train (or re-train) my mind with that creative thought with which you can find elegant proofs to mathematical problems rather than resorting to

differential equations at each point. This book is just great on that. I could work myself through half of the book in about two days. So thought-provoking is the content that I ended up proving a few theorems myself that were not included in the book. (Yet I see a simpler proof of one of them later in the book!) I wish this book included five times more material than what it has. I wish to have all of mathematics to be taught in this fashion. Had once encountered a problem from electromagnetism that I could not even start on, finally gave up and continued reading the Feynman lectures on Physics (vol 2) to see the proof. The proof, albeit more complicated than all proofs in this book, Q.E.D., was still unexpectedly simpler. I wish for a book like Q.E.D. that teaches me a lot more mathematics. But this is not to say that Q.E.D. hasn't served the purpose it aimed for.

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