

# Afterword:

## A MESSAGE TO ALL MAKERS

—From Mitchel Resnick, professor and director of the Lifelong Kindergarten group, MIT Media Lab, and co-founder of the Clubhouse



Flagship Clubhouse, Museum of Science, Boston, MA

## WELCOME TO THE MAKER COMMUNITY!

I hope you'll enjoy building projects using the ideas, tools, and materials described in this book. In the process, you'll learn many important things. For example, you'll learn math, science, and engineering concepts related to electrical circuits, conductivity, light diffusion, and computer programming. These concepts are important and valuable. But that's not the most important thing that you'll learn.

What's most important is that you'll learn how to think like a maker—and to think of yourself as a maker.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THINK LIKE A MAKER?

It means that you know to start with a spark of an idea and turn it into a meaningful project.

It means that you know how to break down complex challenges into simpler parts.

It means that you know how to identify problems as they arise, to keep trying when things get difficult, and to come up with new strategies and approaches.

It means that you know how to collaborate with others, to build on the work of others, and to share your ideas with others.

Learning to think like a maker is more important now than ever before. To thrive in today's rapidly changing world, you'll need to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively. And that's exactly what you learn as you work through the activities in this book.

But the activities in this book are just the beginning. The book is called *Start Making!* for a reason. Even when you've completed all the activities, you're still at the start of your journey as a maker. The challenge is to keep making!



**Collaborating on a project** (SCI-BONO CLUB-HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA)

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

You might want to work on variations of the activities and projects in this book. What if you make one of your projects bigger? Or smaller? What if you combine two of your projects into one? Or what if you add some new materials to an existing project? How about modifying one of your projects to turn it into a gift for a friend?

Or you might try making a totally new type of project. For inspiration, take a look at other books, magazines, and websites featuring maker projects (like [makezine.com](http://makezine.com)). Or imagine a new project that connects with one of your favorite hobbies or interests.

It's often helpful to make and learn with others. There are a growing number of Makerspaces and Maker Faires where you can meet other makers. And there are online maker communities (like [diy.org](http://diy.org) and [scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu)) where you can share your creations and see what others are making.

Learning to think like a maker is a lifelong process. You need to keep experimenting, taking risks, and trying new things. There are always new ideas to explore, new tools to use, new techniques to learn, and new projects to share. Let your curiosity be your guide.

The LEGO Group has a slogan that I love: "Joy of Building, Pride of Creation."

You'll make your best projects, and you'll learn the most in the process, when you embrace the joy of making, and when you share your projects (and your joy) with others.

Congratulations on joining the worldwide maker community! Keep making!