

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783169203321
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Titolo	Thing knowledge [[electronic resource] ] : a philosophy of scientific instruments / / Davis Baird
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif., : University of California Press, c2004
ISBN	9786612356681 0-520-92820-2 1-282-35668-2 1-59734-950-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Classificazione	TB 2280
Disciplina	502/.8/4
Soggetti	Scientific apparatus and instruments Science - Philosophy Science - Technological innovations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 239-259) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Instrument epistemology -- Models : representing things -- Working knowledge -- Encapsulating knowledge -- Instrumentation revolution -- Thing knowledge -- The thing-y-ness of things -- Between technology and science -- Instrumental objectivity -- The gift.
Sommario/riassunto	Western philosophers have traditionally concentrated on theory as the means for expressing knowledge about a variety of phenomena. This absorbing book challenges this fundamental notion by showing how objects themselves, specifically scientific instruments, can express knowledge. As he considers numerous intriguing examples, Davis Baird gives us the tools to "read" the material products of science and technology and to understand their place in culture. Making a provocative and original challenge to our conception of knowledge itself, Thing Knowledge demands that we take a new look at theories of science and technology, knowledge, progress, and change. Baird considers a wide range of instruments, including Faraday's first electric motor, eighteenth-century mechanical models of the solar system, the cyclotron, various instruments developed by analytical chemists between 1930 and 1960, spectrometers, and more.

