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WARNING!

Very dangerous voltages exist inside every oscilloscope, even after it is switched off.

All the technical information contained in this book is intended only for EXPERT TECHNICIANS, fully aware of the connected risks and their management.

If you are not an expert, don't try even to open them under any circumstance, and always refer to the applicable documentation for their use.

Automatic Oscilloscopes?

Oh, well, you will answer, [every oscilloscope](#) is automatic! But it didn't use to be always so. Almost all that we use in a modern oscilloscope had a first: the first trigger, the first sweep, the first delayed sweep, the first dual trace etc.; and all these "firsts" have been signed by Tektronix.

[Tektronix](#) (shortform "Tek") is a large company, founded in 1945 by [Howard Vollum](#) and [Jack Murdock](#), building electronic instruments. But for my generation, Tektronix "is" the oscilloscope itself.

In this book, we will retrace the history of this invaluable instrument, crucial for our scientific evolution, through examining many products of this great American firm.

Many others came after Tek in the oscilloscope market, and Tek's activity has not been limited to oscilloscopes, but, for us, the word Tektronix is and will remain the synonymous to oscilloscope.

[Why this book?](#) Simple: I love old electronic instruments. Old equipment is extremely charming, either because it was part of our lives, either because we still have a lot to learn, not only from the technical point of view, from the old, "true" Tektronix, Hewlett & Packard, and other giants who literally wrote the history of electronics. Wonderful classic instruments, which today we have the pleasure and the privilege to preserve for the future.

I wish to thank Mr. [Denis Meyer](#), senior editor and producer at Elektor, who guided the long process of converting my amateur work into a professional product, with extreme kindness and patience.

I hope that our efforts will be appreciated by others who, like me, like these witnesses of a distant era.

Giovanni "Gianni" Becattini

*To my wife
and my family*