

★ Chapter 12 — “Woz”

(About Steve Wozniak — Co-founder of Apple)

This chapter tells the story of **Steve Wozniak**, a brilliant, kind, playful engineer whose creativity and curiosity helped create the **Apple computer** and shaped the future of personal computing.

Wozniak is shown as the perfect example of a **true hacker**:

- curious
 - playful
 - loves solving problems
 - loves helping others
 - builds things for fun, not money
-

🌱 1. Who Was Wozniak?

Steve Wozniak — everyone calls him **Woz** — was:

- shy
- gentle
- extremely smart
- loved electronics since childhood
- always building things in his room
- always dreaming about computers

While most kids played outside, Woz read electronics books and built circuits.

Cleverness was his superpower.

2. Woz's Childhood = Pure Hacking

Woz grew up doing things like:

- building his own gadgets
- designing circuits just for fun
- making little computers on paper
- understanding electronics better than adults

He wasn't trying to be famous.

He just loved the **joy of building**.

This joy is the core of hacker culture.

3. Woz Discovers Computers

When Wozniak saw real computers at a young age, he felt like he had found magic.

He loved how computers:

- followed instructions
- made logic come alive
- allowed you to create anything

But computers were extremely expensive at that time — far beyond what a normal person could buy.

Still, Woz dreamed:

👉 “One day, people will have their own personal computers.”

He imagined this long before Apple existed.

4. Woz's Superpower: Doing More With Less

Woz had a special talent:

👉 He could design circuits using **fewer chips** than anyone else.

This meant:

- cheaper computers
- simpler machines
- more efficient designs

This ability became *very* important later when he built the Apple I and Apple II.

He wasn't just smart — he was **creatively smart**.

5. Woz Meets the Homebrew Computer Club

Woz joined the **Homebrew Computer Club** meetings (Chapter 10).

Here, he saw other hobbyists building computers from new microchips.

And then he realized something big:

👉 “I can build a better computer myself.”

This thought changed history.

Homebrew inspired him to go home and start designing.



6. Woz Builds the First Apple Computer

At home, Woz worked day and night.

He built a computer that had:

- a keyboard
- a screen connection
- easy-to-use design
- efficient hardware
- a simple BASIC system

It was friendly.

It was powerful.

It was cheap (compared to others).

It was called the **Apple I**.

He built it out of love for computers — not for business.

He simply wanted to show it to his friends.



7. Steve Jobs Enters the Story

Woz's friend Steve Jobs saw the Apple I and said:

👉 "We should sell this."

Jobs had the business vision.

Woz had the engineering talent.

Together, their skills matched perfectly.

This partnership became the foundation of **Apple Computer, Inc.**

But Woz himself didn't care about money or becoming famous.

He cared about:

- building cool things
- sharing ideas
- helping people learn

This made him different from most “company founders.”

8. Woz’s Big Contribution

Woz didn’t just build a computer.

He built:

 **The first truly user-friendly personal computer.**

Some of his innovations:

- a full keyboard input
- easy connection to a TV
- color graphics
- a clean design
- powerful yet simple hardware
- incredible efficiency (using very few chips)

This made computing accessible to everyone.

Without Woz, personal computers might have taken many more years to become common.

9. Why Hackers Loved Woz

Woz represented the **pure hacker spirit**:

- he created for joy
- he cared about people
- he shared knowledge
- he didn't seek glory
- he was playful and humble
- he believed technology should empower everyone

He didn't want to hide secrets.

He wanted everyone to learn and build.

To hackers, Woz was a hero — a real one.

10. The Core Essence of Chapter 12

This chapter celebrates Woz as the “heart” of the personal computer revolution.

👍 His brilliance + his kindness + his hacker spirit created computers that ordinary people could use.

👍 He didn't do it for money, but for passion.

👍 He showed how one person's creativity can change the world.

Core Essence in One Sentence

Chapter 12 shows how Steve Wozniak's pure love for building things, his brilliance in electronics, and his hacker spirit led him to create the first Apple computers — helping ignite the personal computer revolution.