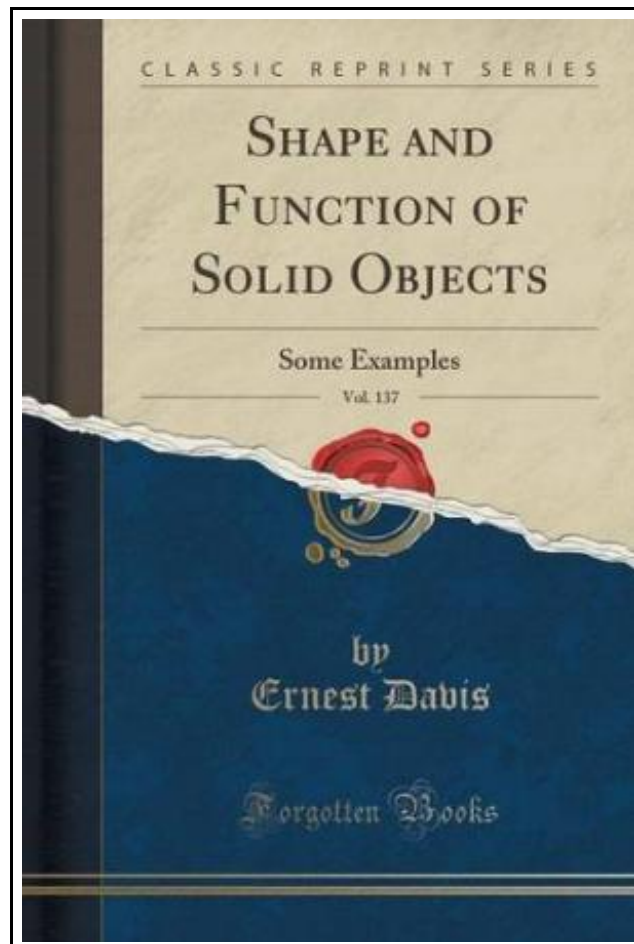


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Shape and Function of Solid Objects, Vol. 137: Some Examples 1. Introduction This paper analyses the relation between shape and function in a few basic objects - various kinds of boxes, buttons, and rings. The bask ontology used in the analysis has already been studied in [1]; it gives a formal semantics for such concepts as object, action, physical law, etc. By analysing these particular objects in detail, we wish, firstly, to test the adequacy of this ontology in reasoning about shape and action, and, secondly, to determine what geometric predicates are needed in this domain. Our analysis of each type of object has three parts. First, we present a general definition of the object in terms of its shape. Second, we enumerate some important facts about the functioning of the object, and express them in terms of our ontology. This expression is sometimes in English, sometimes in predicate calculus, and sometimes in both, whichever is dearest. Third, we define some of the geometric predicates which are useful in determining whether an object can serve a given function in a given situation, and we give a few simple heuristics for evaluating these predicates in simple cases. In the intuitive understanding of these types of objects, there is generally a continuous range between example and non-examples, with a broad range of dubious cases in between. Any formal definition must therefore be somewhat arbitrary in drawing lines. We have chosen, as a rule, to draw lines as broadly as possible, and we leave it up to the processes which employ this theory not to use descriptions which, though technically accurate, are inappropriate. About the Publisher Forgotten Books...



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