

**The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University**  
**Ohio State Engineer**

**Title:** Why I Am Studying Mechanical Engineering

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**Issue Date:** Jan-1932

**Publisher:** Ohio State University, College of Engineering

**Citation:** Ohio State Engineer, vol. 15, no. 3 (January, 1932), 9.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34866>

**Appears in Collections:** [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 15, no. 3 \(January, 1932\)](#)

## WHY I AM STUDYING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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By C. E. WOLF, M.E. 4

**M**Y INTEREST in engineering, if it may be so expressed, seems to date back to my early boyhood. The things which made the greatest impression on me at this age were the mechanical things around me, the automobile, the airplane, and when visiting the farm, the threshing engines. This interest in mechanical things continued throughout my youth. I read all magazines and books on these subjects and often constructed working models of machines about which I had read. I also became interested in radio and spent many long hours trying to tune in some distant station in hope that it would be farther away than any other I had ever heard.

During my course of education in the public schools, I found mathematics and the sciences were by far the easiest and most absorbing of my studies. By the time I had finished high school, I had decided to take a course in some engineering school. Following the wishes of my parents, I spent my first year at a small arts college. This, in itself, made me more determined to study engineering because there, as in high school, my most enjoyable classes were in mathematics and science. With the firm conviction that I wished to become an engineer, I entered the College of Engineering at Ohio State University.

I had, as yet, made no definite decision as to the particular phase of engineering which I wished to follow, but I realized, to gain any measure of success in modern industry, an education which was specialized to a certain degree was necessary. It has always been my belief that to attain success and satisfaction in one's work, there should be a natural inclination and interest along the line of work in which you are engaged. Following these convictions, I chose mechanical engineering, feeling that I was best fitted for this phase of engineering.

There is another angle which is worthy of consideration, the wide field of application for the mechanical engineer. The entire manufacturing industry requires his services, not only in the design of the products, but also in the design of the machines used in the production. It is the great progress made in the design and construction of modern machines which make available to all the conveniences and luxuries of our modern civilization. The production of power offers a very interesting field for research, and the development of prime movers is basically a mechanical engineering problem. The automotive and aeronautical industries are demanding a greater number of mechanical engineers. It can thus be seen that the demand for competent men, trained in mechanical fundamentals, will always be great.

There is opportunity for the individual to create new machines and improve old ones. It must be with a feeling of pride that one looks at a smoothly running machine and knows it is the direct result of his own labors. It is not an easy path and hard work must be put forth, but the results, both in the pride of your own achievement and in financial gain, must be well worth while.