Practical skills are taught at MIT

By Hillary Lust

A practical, as well as theoretical, technological education is available at MIT. The theoretical instruction can be found in many MIT programs, but the practical instruction can only be found at the Lowell Institute School, which is housed on the MIT campus.

The Lowell School offers practical courses in areas of modern technology, such as high-speed photography, television systems technology, basic scientific glassblowing, electronics technology, and mechanical drafting.

"The curriculum stresses 'hands-on experiences,"' says Bruce D. Wedlock, Director of the Lowell Institute School. "We use MIT's special facilities to teach practical courses, designed for the technician.

There are 320 students enrolled for the fall term at the school. Approximately twelve of these are for the fall term at the school. Approximately twelve of these are for the fall term at the school. Approximately twelve of these are for the fall term at the school.

The Lowell Institute School is only one of a number of programs sponsored by the Lowell Institute, a non-profit, philanthropic foundation. In addition to partially funding the Lowell Institute School, the Lowell Institute also sponsors several lecture series and other educational programs in the Boston area.

This fall, the Institute is sponsoring a series of ten lectures at the New England Aquarium on "Fishes and Men." It is also sponsoring two lectures at Boston University School of Theology and is underwriting various science programs and lectures under the auspices of the Museum of Science.

The Lowell Institute partially sponsors the Harvard University Commission on Extension Courses, which offers evening classes at Harvard.

The Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council — composed of the Lowell Institute, MIT, Harvard University, Wellesley College, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, and other organizations — helps to support these non-commercial, educational television stations and one non-commercial radio station, with donations. The stations are WBUR-TV, Channel 2, Boston; WGBX-TV, Boston; WGBY-TV, Springfield; and WGBH-TV.

The Lowell Institute of Boston was started in the mid-1900's, with a bequest from John Lowell. He left money to fund free public lectures for the residents of the Boston area. In the early years of the Institute, pre-eminent speakers gave frequent lectures at the Institute. In 1903, A. Lawrence Lowell, then the Trustee of the Lowell Institute and President of Harvard, and MIT's President Pritchett expanded the Institute's programs to include courses because they felt technical workers should have the opportunity for further education.

Pritchett gave Lowell Institute basic facilities, such as class-rooms and equipment, at MIT, and Lowell funded the rest of the program. They called the school the Lowell Institute School and began two-year technical programs: one mechanical and one electrical. The courses were intended for practicing technicians and not at night.

In the late 1960's, the two-year programs began to diminish in popularity. The two-year mechanical and electrical programs were ended in 1967. In 1972, the Lowell Institute School became an official part of MIT. At present, the Lowell Institute School is housed almost entirely by MIT, Lowell Institute, and the tuition and fees of students.

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The hifi systems at Tech Hifi can cost as much as $5,000 (we're not called The Hifi Show for nothing). Or as little as $269. (For the purposes of this ad, we'll assume you have Porsche taste, but a Toyota budget).

It is possible to be perfectly happy with an inexpensive hifi system. But only if all your components are "best buys" in their price range. (Incidentally, if you buy something at Tech Hifi and you're not perfectly happy with it, you can return it within seven days for a full refund.

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$299 You can spend days shopping around in every place that sells stereo, and we still guarantee you won't find a better-sounding system for the money than this one. It features the powerful Pioneer 434 AM/FM stereo receiver; reliable BSR 2260BX automatic turntable and startling ADC XT-6 loud-speakers which are small enough to fit in your book-shelves, yet loud enough to wake up an entire dormitory. Also included in the system price are a dustcover, base, and ADC induced-magnetic cartridge.

$329 For slightly more money you can own a system with the popular EPI 60 loudspeakers, the "Linear Sound" of EPI is more real-sounding than many expensive speakers, and they are just the right size for a college room or small apartment. The power for the EPI's is supplied by the superb Nikko 2025 AM/FM stereo receiver, and the turntable we include is the high performance Garrard 440M (Garrard is probably the most well-known manufacturer of turntables in the world). This turntable comes equipped with a rugged Pickering magnetic cartridge that will take good care of your record collection.

$399 It's rare, if ever, that you see a system with components by Marantz, KLH, Philips, and Audio-technica selling for under $400. This one features the powerful, high quality Marantz 2215B stereo receiver; famous KLH 101 two-way acoustic suspension loudspeakers; and the excellent Philips GA 427 belt-drive auto-return turntable, complete with an Audio-technica AT 95E Dual Magnet cartridge, base, and dustcover.

Before you spend a lot of money on stereo, spend a free evening this week at The Hifi Show.