

Acknowledgements

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Accompanying this book is additional web support that provides pdf files of traditional, “wordless” LEGO instructions for building robots, downloadable programs for controlling the robots that we describe, and videos that demonstrate robot behaviour. This web support is available at <http://www.bcp.psych.ualberta.ca/~mike/BricksToBrains/>.

The instructional images that are provided in this book were created by first building a CAD model of the robot using the LDRAW family of programs. This is a set of programs available as freeware from <http://www.ldraw.org/>. The CAD files were then converted into the instructional images using the LPUB4 program, available as freeware from www.kclague.net/LPub4.htm. Resources are available that provide detailed instructions on how to use such software tools (Clague, Agullo, & Hassing, 2002). The NXC code for the various robots described in this book was created, and downloaded to the robot, using the BricxCC utility, available as freeware at <http://bricxcc.sourceforge.net/>. This utility provides an excellent help file to describe the components and the syntax of the NXC programming language.

All of the photographs used in Chapter 1 were taken by Nancy Digdon, and are used with her permission. The beaver in Section 1.2 was in Astotin Lake at Elk Island National Park near Edmonton, Alberta. The beaver dam in the same section is located at the nature trail in Miramichi, New Brunswick. The two images of the bald-faced hornet nest were also taken at Miramichi. The wasp nest under construction in Section 1.10 was found at Elk Lake Park, near Victoria, British Columbia.