



Maker Library

Slade, Giles. *Made to Break: Technology and Obsolescence in America*. Harvard UP, 2007.

“At one point, researching *Design for Repair*, I became convinced that the ONLY reason so many consumer goods were made so poorly was because it was better for the bottom line: businesses stand to make more money if people buy new when something breaks, rather than fixing. (It wasn't the only reason, as it turned out.) But ‘planned obsolescence,’ in high-tech products particularly, remained—remains—a vexing problem for contemporary material culture.

In the decade since *Made to Break* was published, the dominant electronic device-maker of our time has taken numerous concrete steps that make iPhones and MacBooks harder to fix. To listen to Johnny Ive tell it, these choices result naturally from the pursuit of the purest possible industrial design, but Apple's products have become so delicate and hard to upgrade they no longer seem intended for use in the real world. That's a dismal failure, in my opinion, regardless of whether in service of Apple's profits or a Platonic ideal of physical perfection. ”

Derrick Mead
Featured Librarian
October