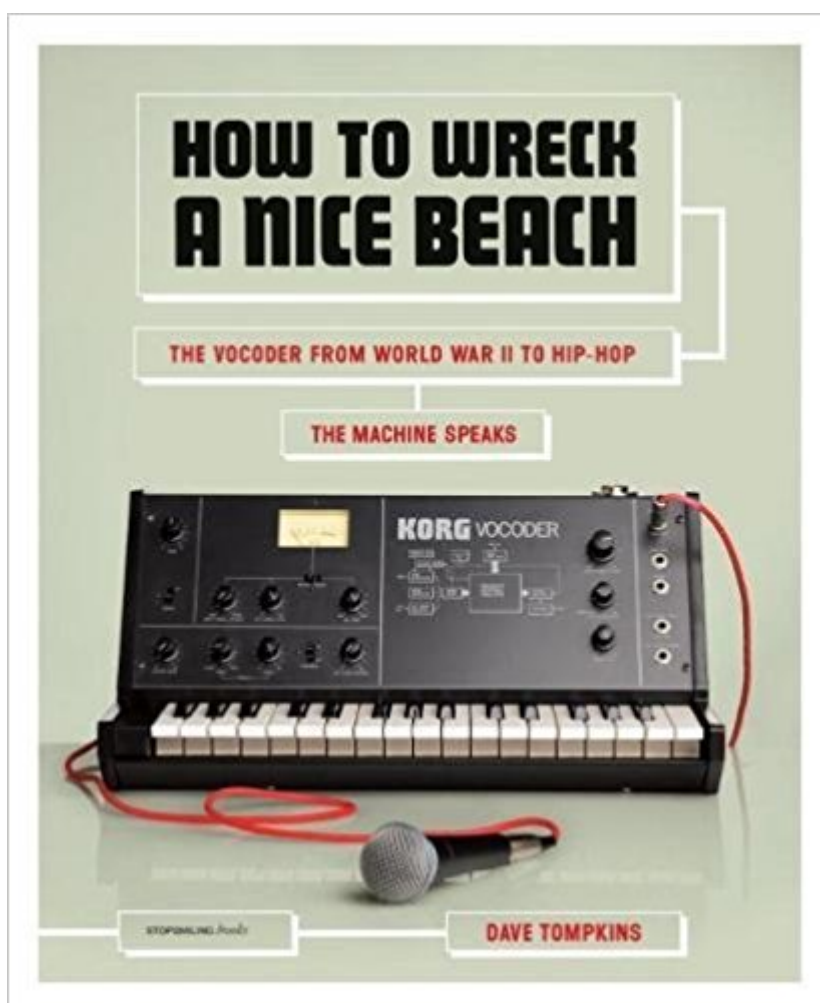**The book was found**

How To Wreck A Nice Beach: The Vocoder From World War II To Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks

Synopsis

The history of the vocoder: how popular music hijacked the Pentagon's speech scrambling weaponThe vocoder, invented by Bell Labs in 1928, once guarded phones from eavesdroppers during World War II; by the Vietnam War, it was repurposed as a voice-altering tool for musicians, and is now the ubiquitous voice of popular music. In How to Wreck a Nice Beachâ "from a mis-hearing of the vocoder-rendered phrase â œhow to recognize speechâ •â "music journalist Dave Tompkins traces the history of electronic voices from Nazi research labs to Stalinâ ™s gulags, from the 1939 Worldâ ™s Fair to Hiroshima, from artificial larynges to Auto-Tune. We see the vocoder brush up against FDR, JFK, Stanley Kubrick, Stevie Wonder, Neil Young, Kraftwerk, the Cylons, Henry Kissinger, and Winston Churchill, who boomed, when vocoderized on V-E Day, â œWe must go off!â • And now vocoder technology is a cell phone standard, allowing a digital replica of your voice to sound human. From T-Mobile to T-Pain, How to Wreck a Nice Beach is a riveting saga of technology and culture, illuminating the work of some of musicâ ™s most provocative innovators.From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When first looking at this book, the initial question on most readersâ ™ minds might be: What the heck is a vocoder? Simply put, the vocoder (invented in the late 1920s) took human speech and broke it up into its constituent frequencies, thus allowing that voice to be transmitted electronically, and reassembled and synthesized at the other end, reproducing the words, if not the sound, of the

original speech. The vocoder was developed as a means of encrypting speech, of protecting transmissions from prying ears. But, over time, it found other uses, in movies, television, and music (if you want to imagine what it sounds like, recall the Cylons from the original Battlestar Galactica). Eventually, what began its life as a tool for cryptology became a pop-culture icon. Tompkins tells the vocoderâ™s story with great relish, as though he canâ™t believe how mind-blowingly cool the device is, and itâ™s impossible to read the book without being caught up in his enthusiasm. This one has cult audience written all over it. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Itâ™s unquestionably brilliant, not only one of the best music books of the year, but also one of the best music books ever written." â"Los Angeles Times"Dave Tompkins is seven steps ahead of science and several leagues outside of time."â"Sasha Frere-Jones, Pop Music Critic,Â The New Yorker"The best hip hop writer ever born."â"Jeff Chang, author ofÂ Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation, winner of the American Book Award"One of the most bugged, brilliant guys I know."Â â"Oliver Wang, NPR music criticÂ Â "No one knows more about the vocoder thanÂ Dave Tompkins, not even the dude who invented it. [A]n awesome book about the vocoder and its cultural impactâ| read it immediately."Â â"The Faderâ œHow to Wreck a Nice Beach is much more than a labor of love: Itâ™s an intergalactic vision quest fueled by several thousand gallons of high-octane spiritual-intellectual lust. Outside of, say, William Vollmann, itâ™s hard to think of an author so ravished by his subject... A hallucinatory stew of Rimbaud, Tom Wolfe, Lester Bangs, and Bootsy Collins.â•â"New York "This one has cult audience written all over it."â"BooklistFrom the Hardcover edition.

The issue with the bad reviews IMHO is just this...the book is marvelous for those of us who are old enough to know what this guy is talking about OR who have a really excellent background in world history. This is hard to explain, but just imagine someone making a joke about the boot and pasta...and if you did not know that "the boot" is Italy...you totally miss the amusement. Or Churchill putting one finger down and thus insulting an entire nation (so you have to know about his obsession with the V sign). Every sentence in this book is that way. Very clever. Intensely amusing. Hilarious at points. I am having trouble finishing the book because it is so delicious I often read each paragraph three times just to entertain myself all over again. And the fourth time I have to read the paragraph out loud to my husband just so I can watch him fall out of bed laughing.

A deep look into the history of the vocoder. I'd give it 5 stars but there is another volume out there

that has 6 records with samples on vinyl. For the price, this was is very deserving of 4 stars.

A good book but not great.It features a detailed history of the military interest and use of the Vocoder as a way of transmitting coded information during the Second World War. These information is both great and fascinating to read, as are the discussions regarding variant technologies of the Vocoder sounds, such as the Talk-Box.Where the book is weak is in certain sections of the authors' discussion of music. There isn't enough discussion of the early embrace and use of the Vocoder by experimental electronic musicians. Instead the author spends slightly too much time indirectly promoting and defending musically weak entertainers in the 1980's that have occasionally used the Vocoder. These entertainers are far from being truly prolific musicians who understand the Vocoder as a true musical instrument. They are merely just people who were in the right place at the right time to become part of a scene, and who are largely just wanna-be's trying to make a name for themselves. This doesn't qualify them worthy of serious discussion in a book about the Vocoder and it's history. The fact that some aspiring rap or pop stars used it only occasionally (and only as a gimmick), is completely irrelevant especially when more important prolific musicians are reduced to sections of paragraphs or omitted entirely. But at least true innovators like Roger Zapp Troutman are given due credit.In sum, this book is a good source for information on the Vocoder. But a better book still needs to be done where the irrelevant social scenes surrounding musically weak 'hangers on' don't cause more important relevant information to be minimized or omitted.

First off, this isn't a book about how a vocoder really works. There's no math. NONE. No pseudocode. Not even a deep discussion in plain English. Nor is it a book about how to use a vocoder, for secure speech or for putting an epic drop into your newest piece of music.It's more a history of the Vocoder and the people who made it happen and who used it. The characters range from the steely-eyed guys who had security clearances higher than Churchill and Eisenhower, to rappers who spent as much time behind bars as at stagefront. And- it's told in a first-person mode; the author is telling of his experience in researching the book, who he's met, who he partied with, who he got to know, and (spoiler) who he became friends with who are no longer with us.That said, it's fun and a good read. THAT said, remember it's limitations; it's a history, not an article in a maker magazine.

An interesting subject. Unfortunately, the author has a somewhat rambling and schizophrenic style

of prose. There's very little actual information interspersed among the madness.

Allthough this book has its focus on the use of the vocoder in the hiphopscene, non-hiphop-fans, like myself, can still enjoy it alot. The author has a special style of telling the tale, it's not allways easy to understand and requires some background knowledge, but it is written in a very interesting way.

It's a tremendously interesting topic, but the rock writer style just doesn't work with it. The author goes into some convoluted language as he tries to get inside the minds of the artists which can make for a tough read.

This is the greatest book written on the electronic encoding of the human voice. It has people that worked on this when it was developed in interviews and people that used this technology with music with song titles. Buy it and check out the blog, howtowreckanicebeach.com Support this movement and buy the 2nd installment comming in the fall of 2011 =)

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks Hip Flexor Pain: The Ultimate Guide to Fix Tight Hip Flexors and Cure Tight Hips Life! (hip flexors, hip pain, hip flexor stretches, hip flexor, hip pain relief, hip joint pain, hips) South Beach Diet: South Beach Diet Recipe Book: 50 Delicious & Easy South Beach Diet Recipes (south beach diet, south beach diet recipes, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet cookbook) Hip Hop Rhyming Dictionary: The Extensive Hip Hop & Rap Rhyming Dictionary for Rappers, Mcs,Poets,Slam Artist and lyricists: Hip Hop & Rap Rhyming Dictionary And General Rhyming Dictionary Hip Hop: A Short History (Hip Hop) (Hip Hop (Mason Crest Paperback)) Tight Hip Flexors: The 7 Minute Tight Hip Solution:Simple and Effective Movements That Quickly Release Tight Hip Flexors And Reduce Hip Pain (Hip replacement ... mobility exercises, hip flexor exericises) Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks Experience) South Beach Diet: The South Beach Diet Beginners Guide to Losing Weight and Feeling Great! (south beach diet, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet recipes) It's a Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: Children's Book It's A Hip Hop Hip Hop World For Every B-Boy and B-Girl: African American Children's Book Hip-Hop History (Hip-Hop World) Hip-Hop Fashion (Hip-Hop World) The Hip Hop Wars: What We Talk About When We Talk About Hip Hop--and Why It Matters It's Bigger Than Hip Hop: The Rise of the Post-Hip-Hop Generation

B-Boys: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop) (Volume 2) Graffiti: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 4) DJs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 1) MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop Book 3) Hip-Hop Dance (Hip-Hop Insider) MCs: A Children's Guide to the Origins of Hip Hop (The Five Elements of Hip Hop) (Volume 4)