



# Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers

By Brian K. Shepard

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**Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers** By Brian K. Shepard

*Refining Sound* is a practical roadmap to the complexities of creating sounds on modern synthesizers. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of learning to create sounds on a synthesizer is understanding what all the individual synthesizer components contribute to the complex finished sound. Author and veteran synthesizer instructor Brian K. Shepard draws on his years of experience in synthesizer pedagogy in order to peel back the often-mysterious layers of sound synthesis one-by-one. The result is a book that allows readers to familiarize themselves with each individual step in the synthesis process, in turn empowering them in their own creative or experimental work.

*Refining Sound* follows the stages of synthesis in chronological progression from the "raw materials" of sound waves through the various stages of the refinement process, ultimately bringing readers to the final "polishing" of their sounds with audio effects. Each chapter focuses on a particular aspect of the synthesis process, and contains easily digestible guided projects (entitled "Your Turn" sections) that focus on the topics of the chapter. Throughout the text, the material is supported by copious examples and illustrations and more than forty interactive synthesis demonstrations on the related companion website that allow the reader to experiment with and understand these concepts without the distraction of other synthesizer controls and modifiers. The final chapter brings everything together as the reader creates several common types of synthesizer sounds with detailed step-by-step instructions and explanations of the concepts behind those steps. With all of the sounds in the final chapter, readers are given suggestions and tips on ways to modify the sounds, with final outcomes left to the readers' own creativity. *Refining Sound* is essential for all electronic musicians from amateur to professional levels of accomplishment, students, teachers, libraries, and anyone interested in creating sounds on a synthesizer.

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## Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers By Brian K. Shepard Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Shepard employs an inviting and accessible writing style to explain advanced topics in a way that is easy to understand. This book demystifies many of the topics of synthesis that can be confusing to people."--VJ Manzo, Assistant Professor of Music Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and author of *Max/MSP/Jitter for Music*

"*Refining Sound* is an approachable introduction to the secrets of synthesis. The companion website is chock full of tutorials, making this well organized book a handy reference for either self-study or in a course."--Mary Simoni, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, University of Michigan, Dean, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

"In *Refining Sound*, Brian Shepard provides a deeply valuable and sorely needed resource for the musician seeking to understand sound design. In clear language, he thoroughly explains and illustrates concepts that could be tedious and overwhelming for most readers, and does so from the perspective of the musician rather than the mathematician or physicist. I'm sure we will use this book as the primary text in our synthesis classes for years to come."--Scott L. Phillips, PhD, Co-director of Music Technology, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

"Brian K. Shepard's book on synthesizers and synthesis is one of those rare volumes which is comprehensive in its explanations of the history of synthesizers and electronic music in general that makes for a jolly good read. For enthusiasts and professionals alike, this book is the best I've read in years. Thoroughly recommended!"--J. Peter Robinson, Composer

"I'd venture to say that even veterans will find a few interesting facts here that were previously unknown to them...a first rate source of instruction for those with no knowledge or just partial knowledge of subtractive synthesis. Additionally, I can't imagine a better textbook to use in a formal class."--*Sound Bytes*

#### About the Author

**Brian K. Shepard** is Professor of Audio Design Practice and Assistant Dean of the USC Iovine and Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation at the University of Southern California. For more information, visit his website at [briankshepard.com](http://briankshepard.com).

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#### **Roxanne Jimenez:**

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a concern. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one works to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers as your daily resource information.

#### **Bruce Brown:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try and and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not just a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers.

#### **Melvin Groth:**

Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Randall Rearick:**

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a guide. They are directly felt that when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the book Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers to make your reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading ability is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open up a book and examine it. Beside that the e-book Refining Sound: A Practical Guide to Synthesis and Synthesizers can to be your new friend when you're sense alone and confuse using what must you're doing of that time.

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