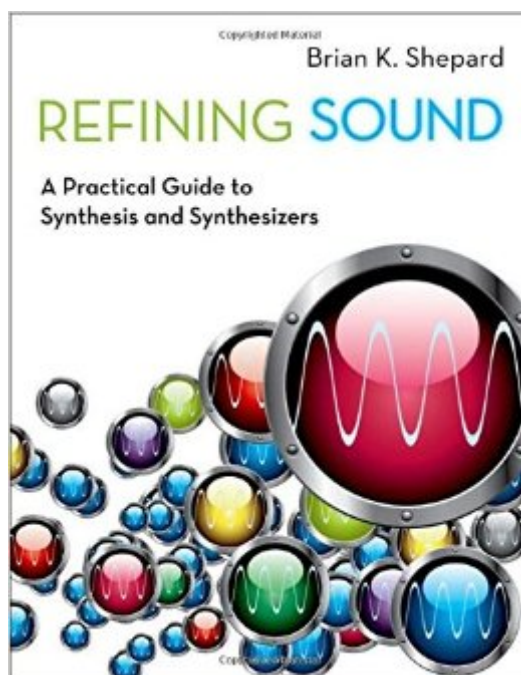


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# Refining Sound: A Practical Guide To Synthesis And Synthesizers



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Refining SoundNow retired I've just taken up an interest in synthesizer music and needed a book to help with the basic concepts of sound creation and use. I hit the nail on the head with this one! Brian takes you through the very basics of natural sound and electrically generated sound explaining how different sounds can interact in various ways or just plain cancel each other out. There are also explanations of the various pieces of hardware in analogue and software synthesizers. In fact I didn't know it but there are whole families of different types of synthesizer technologies. There are a couple of down-loads associated with this book so be careful to follow instructions closely. There is Maxitime 6.1, Crystal Soft Synth, and some chapter files relating to the book from University of Oxford site (passwords are in the book) to download. One thing that I missed was to download a "host" • otherwise things won't work (so I downloaded Savihost suggested on the Camel Audio site, who by the way, have a very good freebie synth called Alchemy). There is a sound generating programme called Maxitime 6.1 that relates to the subject matter of the chapters in, "Refining Sound". It is a must have to get this working because there is like audio laboratory examples from University of Oxford that you will need to hear and play with in Maxitime 6.1. You are also lead to a fantastic software synth called, "Crystal Soft Synth" • at a site called Greenoak.com. Once again make sure that you get all the bits and pieces. The manual (PDF) on the Greenoak site is also very useful for understanding the Crystal Synth and also gives definition to some of the acronyms used in synthesizer music and technology.

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