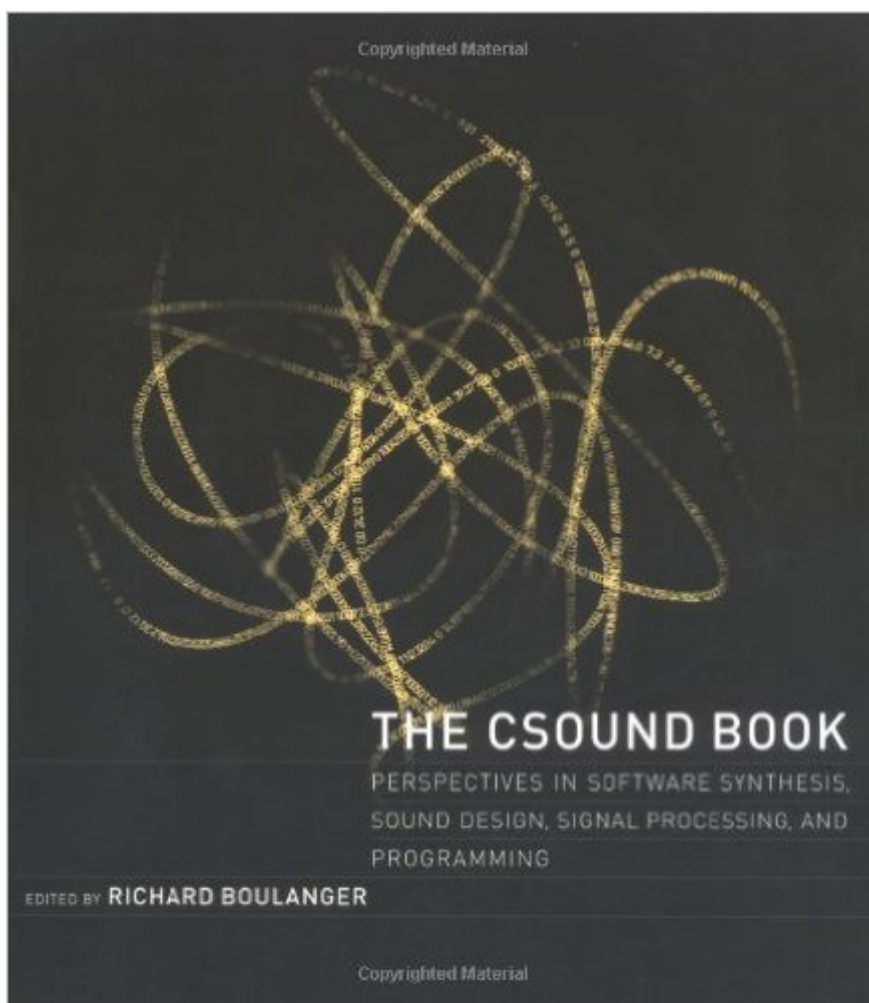


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The Csound Book: Perspectives In Software Synthesis, Sound Design, Signal Processing, and Programming



Synopsis

Created in 1985 by Barry Vercoe, Csound is one of the most widely used software sound synthesis systems. Because it is so powerful, mastering Csound can take a good deal of time and effort. But this long-awaited guide will dramatically straighten the learning curve and enable musicians to take advantage of this rich computer technology available for creating music. Written by the world's leading educators, programmers, sound designers, and composers, this comprehensive guide covers both the basics of Csound and the theoretical and musical concepts necessary to use the program effectively. The thirty-two tutorial chapters cover: additive, subtractive, FM, AM, FOF, granular, wavetable, waveguide, vector, LA, and other hybrid methods; analysis and resynthesis using ADSYN, LP, and the Phase Vocoder; sample processing; mathematical and physical modeling; and digital signal processing, including room simulation and 3D modeling. Supplemental Content is now available for download at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262522618>

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Customer Reviews

First, I have to admit I'm one of the contributors to the book. However, I'll make every effort to provide an unbiased review to help you decide if the book is for you. For those who don't know, Csound is a software synthesizer written by Barry Vercoe in the 1980s that continues to be used by mostly university-based composers of electronic music and computer music. Lately, because today's ordinary personal computers are more powerful than the mainframes used by the pioneers

of computer music and come with decent sound cards, and also due to the spread of software synthesis into popular music with techno and electronica, independent composers and even some more pop-based musicians are beginning to use Csound. I find that the book is an enormously useful resource for computer musicians, even though the material is sometimes repetitive and is of uneven quality. With about 50 contributors, sometimes more than one person covers the same ground. Probably a sizeable chunk of the people seriously using Csound contributed to the book! Csound is one of the most powerful software synthesizers in existence (it is unquestionably the most powerful one that costs nothing!), and that makes it one of the most powerful musical instruments in history. However, it's not a physical object but a computer program, and in fact it's not even a finished program, it's a programming language. So, it's hard to use Csound, and even harder to get started. Not surprisingly, one of the main purposes of the Csound book is to explain how to program Csound. I find that the book does a pretty good job of this for beginners, and there is not much competition, so if you want to learn Csound, you need this book.

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