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Using Reason's Virtual Instruments: Skill Pack



Synopsis

What will distinguish the sounds you make in Reason from the rest of the crowd? One of the keys to mastering Reason lies in mastering its virtual instruments—the numerous customizable synths and sample players that come with the program. With these tools, a nearly limitless virtual studio is at your fingertips—but how do you maximize these instruments to their fullest potential? Using Reason's Virtual Instruments: Skill Pack provides you the knowledge you need to freely express yourself with Reason, to get you out of the presets and into designing your own sounds. What may now appear to be an overwhelming jumble of virtual knobs, sliders, and buttons will soon become a finite and comfortable environment in which you can let your creativity soar. By the end of the book, you will know exactly what to do with every square inch of the Reason instruments. You will know what this or that knob does, and, when you adjust it to change sounds, you will understand why it changed. A key part of Using Reason's Virtual Instruments: Skill Pack is the CD-ROM included with this book. It's full of sample content for building your own NN-XT, NN-19, and Redrum patches. It also contains several finished patches for all the Reason instruments, as well as examples designed to allow you to check yourself as you progress through the various exercises. Unlike other books with companion discs, the source files on every Skill Pack CD-ROM are an essential part of the book's tutorials—they are not there as mere examples, but are the building blocks from which you'll construct the projects. The result is a fully integrated learning experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've owned Propellerheads Reason for years but never understood how to use it properly. I'm a songwriter by trade, and not an engineer, so I found all the various knobs and devices in Reason a bit overwhelming. The high cost of recording in the studio, however, convinced me I needed to learn how to produce my own tracks. With that in mind I purchased several books and videos in order to try and learn Reason. Of all the books and videos I've purchased, this is my favorite book. Not only does the book explain many of the most important and confusing devices in Reason, but it also very clearly explains a number of audio engineering concepts. If you've ever been confused reading an article or even a magazine review that waxes on about the virtues of Oscillators, LP, HP, and Notch filters, LFO's, etc, this book will explain those concepts very clearly. An interesting result of that is not only am I more confident using Reason, but I am more confident about Audio engineering concepts in general. Now when I hear songs on the radio I'm able to identify the type of sound used in the song (e.g. hmmm, that killer riff in is probably an analog synth using sawtooth waveform pattern with a low pass filter on it....), something I never imagined I'd be able to do. The Subtractor and Malstrom synths are covered in detail, which is good because they set the foundation for the rest of the material in the book. The NN-XT section demystified sampling for me. Sampling is something I've always found a bit confusing and quite honestly a bit scary. With this book it was easy to upload samples, map them across my keys, and use velocity switches and other nifty tricks to get them to sound more realistic. Surprisingly enough one of my favorite sections was the Redrum.

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