The Synthesizer: A Comprehensive Guide To Understanding, Programming, Playing, And Recording The Ult

"Synthesizers are wonderful musical instruments that cover a very wide range of implementations and uses. Mark Vail's *The Synthesizer* is a must-read for anyone who has interest in learning about these engineering marvels. It is a great introduction if you are new to synths, but also very informative and up-to-date for the seasoned synth player."
—DAVE SMITH

"Mark Vail is the best explainer and historian of music synthesizers that I know. I highly recommend this book, which is a whole lot of fun to read." —ROGER LINN

"A hugely detailed, exhaustively researched and splendidly idiosyncratic work which nails its extensive subject matter. Mark Vail enthusiastically charts the development of the synthesizer from the Trautonium to the latest software instruments, and also gives us valuable insights and tips from leading electronic composers, including legendary synth pioneer Wendy Carlos." —DAVE STEWART, Keyboardist

"In the past few decades, the synthesizer has finally come of age. Mark Vail's extensive work documents this journey from its austere and rarified beginnings to its present technologically sophisticated state. His well-illustrated book is filled with anecdotes and insights, amazing successes and ridiculous flops, expert advice on how to roll your own, lots of commentary on artists, their gear and their methodology, and finally, a guide to recording and disseminating your own musical masterpieces. Stash this volume where it's easy to get to; you'll be using it a lot."
—DON BUCHLA, Composer and Instrument Designer, Berkeley, California

In *The Synthesizer,* veteran music technology journalist, educator, and performer Mark Vail tells the complete story of the synthesizer: the origins of the many forms the instrument takes; crucial advancements in sound generation, musical control, and composition made with instruments that may have become best sellers or gone entirely unnoticed; and the basics and intricacies of acoustics and synthesized sound. Vail also describes how to successfully select, program, and play a synthesizer; what alternative controllers exist for creating electronic music; and how to stay focused and productive when faced with a room full of instruments. This one-stop reference guide on all things synthesizer also offers tips on encouraging creativity, layering sounds, performance, composing and recording for film and television, and much more.

FEATURES:
- Explains the important developments throughout the history of the synthesizer
- Describes how engineers, musicians, and visionaries have advanced its capabilities
- Gives important practical tips on choosing a synthesizer
- Reveals the deep creativity and imagination of those who work with synthesizers
- Thoroughly illustrated with over 350 images
- Includes a companion website

▶ Visit the companion website at www.oup.com/us/thesynthesizer

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
The author of *Vintage Synthesizers* and *The Hammond Organ: Beauty in the B,* Mark Vail is internationally acknowledged as a foremost authority on synthesizers.
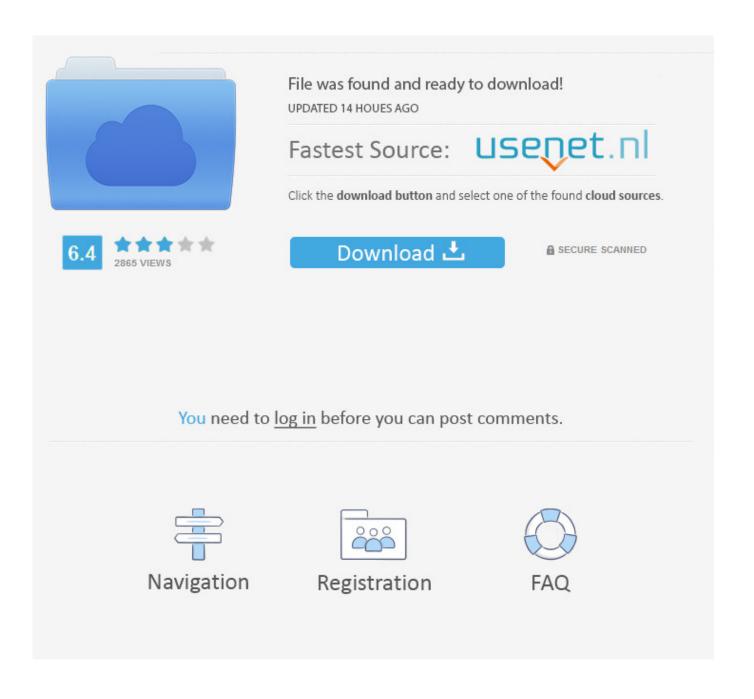
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