



How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks

By Dave Tompkins

Download now

Read Online ➔

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins

The history of the vocoder: how popular music hijacked the Pentagon's speech scrambling weapon

The vocoder, invented by Bell Labs in 1928, once guarded phones from eavesdroppers during World War II; by the Vietnam War, it was repurposed as a voice-altering tool for musicians, and is now the ubiquitous voice of popular music.

In *How to Wreck a Nice Beach*—from a mis-hearing of the vocoder-rendered phrase “how to recognize speech”—music journalist Dave Tompkins traces the history of electronic voices from Nazi research labs to Stalin’s gulags, from the 1939 World’s Fair to Hiroshima, from artificial larynges to Auto-Tune.

We see the vocoder brush up against FDR, JFK, Stanley Kubrick, Stevie Wonder, Neil Young, Kraftwerk, the Cylons, Henry Kissinger, and Winston Churchill, who boomed, when vocoderized on V-E Day, “We must go off!” And now vocoder technology is a cell phone standard, allowing a digital replica of your voice to sound human.

From T-Mobile to T-Pain, *How to Wreck a Nice Beach* is a riveting saga of technology and culture, illuminating the work of some of music’s most provocative innovators.

From the Hardcover edition.

↓ [Download How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from Worl](#)

[...pdf](#)

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks

By Dave Tompkins

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins

The history of the vocoder: how popular music hijacked the Pentagon's speech scrambling weapon

The vocoder, invented by Bell Labs in 1928, once guarded phones from eavesdroppers during World War II; by the Vietnam War, it was repurposed as a voice-altering tool for musicians, and is now the ubiquitous voice of popular music.

In *How to Wreck a Nice Beach*—from a mis-hearing of the vocoder-rendered phrase “how to recognize speech”—music journalist Dave Tompkins traces the history of electronic voices from Nazi research labs to Stalin’s gulags, from the 1939 World’s Fair to Hiroshima, from artificial larynges to Auto-Tune.

We see the vocoder brush up against FDR, JFK, Stanley Kubrick, Stevie Wonder, Neil Young, Kraftwerk, the Cylons, Henry Kissinger, and Winston Churchill, who boomed, when vocoderized on V-E Day, “We must go off!” And now vocoder technology is a cell phone standard, allowing a digital replica of your voice to sound human.

From T-Mobile to T-Pain, *How to Wreck a Nice Beach* is a riveting saga of technology and culture, illuminating the work of some of music’s most provocative innovators.

From the Hardcover edition.

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #965950 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-08
- Released on: 2011-11-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .88" w x 7.08" l, 1.57 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages



[Download How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World ...pdf](#)



[Read Online How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from Worl ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins

Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

When first looking at this book, the initial question on most readers' minds might be: What the heck is a vocoder? Simply put, the vocoder (invented in the late 1920s) took human speech and broke it up into its constituent frequencies, thus allowing that voice to be transmitted electronically, and reassembled and synthesized at the other end, reproducing the words, if not the sound, of the original speech. The vocoder was developed as a means of encrypting speech, of protecting transmissions from prying ears. But, over time, it found other uses, in movies, television, and music (if you want to imagine what it sounds like, recall the Cylons from the original *Battlestar Galactica*). Eventually, what began its life as a tool for cryptology became a pop-culture icon. Tompkins tells the vocoder's story with great relish, as though he can't believe how mind-blowingly cool the device is, and it's impossible to read the book without being caught up in his enthusiasm. This one has cult audience written all over it. --David Pitt

Review

"It's unquestionably brilliant, not only one of the best music books of the year, but also one of the best music books ever written."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"Dave Tompkins is seven steps ahead of science and several leagues outside of time."

—**Sasha Frere-Jones, Pop Music Critic, *The New Yorker***

"The best hip hop writer ever born."

—**Jeff Chang, author of *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation*, winner of the American Book Award**

"One of the most bugged, brilliant guys I know."

—**Oliver Wang, NPR music critic**

"No one knows more about the vocoder than Dave Tompkins, not even the dude who invented it. [A]n awesome book about the vocoder and its cultural impact... read it immediately."

—*The Fader*

"*How to Wreck a Nice Beach* is much more than a labor of love: It's an intergalactic vision quest fueled by several thousand gallons of high-octane spiritual-intellectual lust. Outside of, say, William Vollmann, it's hard to think of an author so ravished by his subject... A hallucinatory stew of Rimbaud, Tom Wolfe, Lester Bangs, and Bootsie Collins."

—*New York*

"This one has cult audience written all over it."

—*Booklist*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Dave Tompkins, a former columnist for *The Wire*, writes frequently on about hip-hop and popular music. His work has appeared in *Vibe*, *The Village Voice*, *Wax Poetics*, and *The Believer*. Nearly a decade in the making, this is his first book.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Marshall:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks* book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer connected with *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks* content conveys the thought easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different by means of it. So , do you still thinking *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks* is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Leo Osborne:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks* can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Henry Reavis:

The book *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Jeffrey Evans:

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many concern for the book? But almost any people feel that they enjoy for reading. Some people likes looking at, not only science book and also novel and *How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from*

World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks as well as others sources were given know-how for you. After you know how the great a book, you feel desire to read more and more. Science e-book was created for teacher or perhaps students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to add their knowledge. In additional case, beside science reserve, any other book likes How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this.

Download and Read Online How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins #BLE2V4ZMCDG

Read How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins for online ebook

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins books to read online.

Online How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins ebook PDF download

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins Doc

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins Mobipocket

How to Wreck a Nice Beach: The Vocoder from World War II to Hip-Hop, The Machine Speaks By Dave Tompkins EPub