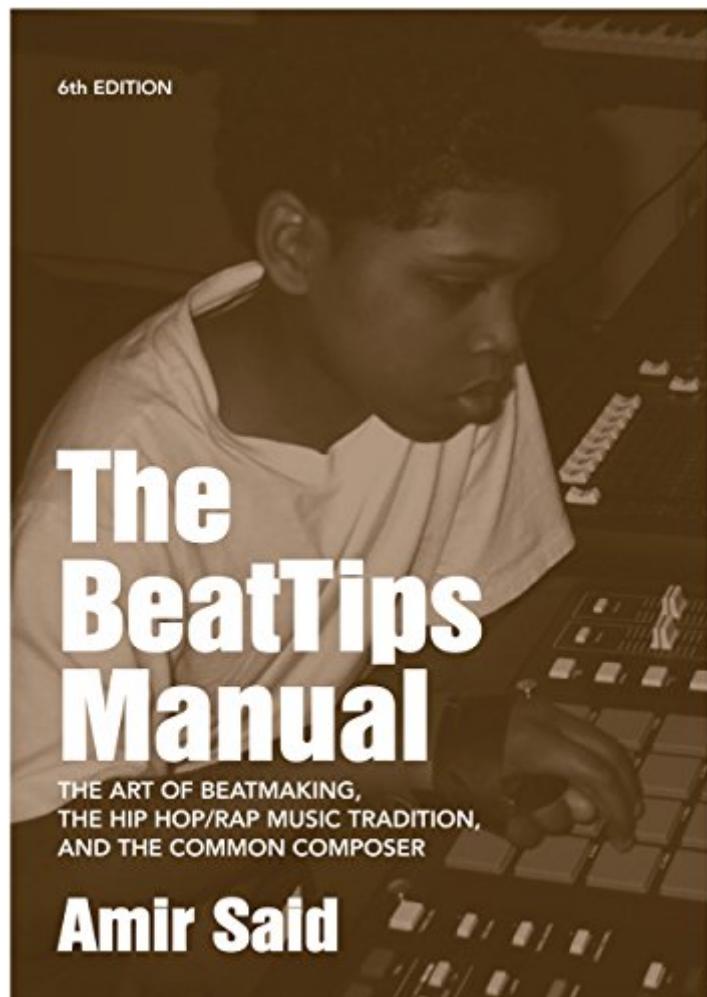


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# The BeatTips Manual: The Art Of Beatmaking, The Hip Hop/Rap Music Tradition, And The Common Composer



## **Synopsis**

Beatmaking is a rich and very meticulous art-craft. It contains a number of unique methods and practices, each potentially more complex and challenging than the other. The BeatTips Manual breaks down the complexity of beatmaking and hip hop/rap production, and erases all of the myth and mystery. The BeatTips Manual is brilliantly divided into five primary parts, including: an absolutely stunning History part, an extensively detailed and robust Instruction part, a Music Theory part, a Business part, and an explosive Interviews part, which includes exclusive shop-talk with DJ Premier, DJ Toomp, 9th Wonder, Marley Marl and more. Indeed, The BeatTips Manual is meticulously comprehensive and sharply informative. Through a highly detailed analysis of the origins of beatmaking as well as its key aesthetics, principles, predilections, nuances, and priorities, Amir Said (Sa id) offers a magnificent level of "understanding." Moreover, he convincingly argues that not only is beatmaking a legitimate music compositional process, but that beatmakers (hip hop producers) are the common composers of our time. An incredibly revealing look at the beatmaking musical process, and one of the most fascinating studies of hip hop culture and the hip hop/rap music tradition to ever be recorded, The BeatTips Manual is a groundbreaking work. Incomparable in both scope and size, this book deciphers many untold nuances of the art of beatmaking. Destined to serve as the standard text for hip hop production education, The BeatTips Manual is also certain to be one of the leading studies of hip hop culture. Extremely accessible and intensely thought-provoking, The BeatTips Manual is the answer for anyone interested in improving their beatmaking knowledge and understanding of hip hop/rap music and the encompassing hip hop culture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The most interesting part of the book is the section on the "South Bronx Disaster" in which Said sets the context for the beginnings of rap and makes me want to read "A Plague Upon Your Houses" which he refers to in his book. The interviews are interesting as well. The book is wordy and repetitive and needs a good editor to prune and streamline the book, which feels padded to justify the high price tag. The book appears to be a self published labor of love, but that isn't enough to make a book useful. If you're considering purchasing this book to as a technical manual to learn how to make beats, chop and process samples, this book won't be much help. Videos or manuals for your specific piece of gear will do this. If you want to learn about samplers and drum machines Vintagesynthexplorer's website will have much more useful information: photos, technical data, famous users and links to sound and video. If you want to learn how to make beats by reading a book "The Breakbeat Bible" will be much more hands on useful. The technical side of beat making is vague and abstract as described in the book. There aren't illustrations or photos and no step by step explanations of how to use the gear. The bottom line is I don't see someone learning how to make beats from reading this book due to the lack of specifics and details. I already know how to do this and just skimmed over the book, which frankly most people will find boring and unhelpful.

I'm currently in the second section of this book and so far I love it! I read it every day on the train. The information in the first section alone about the history of djing and beatmaking makes this book worth the purchase. Section 2 works better if you're actually using some form of EMPI/groove box/production software as you read to help conceptualize what the author is talking about. Overall it's a well researched book that any hip hop scholar should have in their library.

This book taught me everything. I thought I knew my Hip Hop history and the art of beatmaking until I read this book. Amir Sa'id brilliantly articulates the ins and outs of the Hip Hop genre and

thoroughly explains the traditions and reasons why artists sample and program beats. The BeatTips Manual also helped me find my identity as a beatmaker and made it easier to articulate my ideas to my collaborators. Everything from sampled based beats to midi programming and everything in between, this book breaks it all down and simplifies it for us all. I recommend this book to anyone that is interested in beatmaking or producing music or for veterans that might be looking to take their skills to another level. I've read The BeatTips Manual twice now and I often refer to it when I'm looking for inspiration or an explanation for a technique I heard a producer do that I'm trying to understand and utilize. This book should be a must for any musical artist in the 21st century. Thank you Amir.

Reading this book is brutal. There is some good information in it, but in general it is so verbose that I can't bring myself to read it for more than five minutes or so. It is in serious need of an editor, who I'm sure could shave 100 pages off of it. I say only some good information, but I may not be the target audience for this book. I have been a producer, DJ, and rapper for just about 30 years, so it may be more beneficial to folks newer to the game.

Great read. Never written a review for anything but, if you're a hip-hop/electronic music producer, especially sample-based, this book is an incredible resource. As much as I wanted to skip the History section, go straight to the Techniques and backtrack, I'm glad I didn't. Really inspiring to revisit (in vivid detail) the circumstances that birthed this music we love, and to see how far it's come (for better or worse) from that. Of course I skipped ahead to read the Interviews with Marley, Preem, 9th, etc...but honestly I don't read that often and I'm prone to skimming. Don't skim through this. I actually ended up taking notes as I read through (for the 2nd time). If your goal is to become a more complete producer and augment your knowledge of the craft, I recommend this book highly. And I don't even like books-Cam

If there were a nuclear war and all that was left was a recording studio and a copy of this book, the survivors could make a pretty banging album in a few months. Said covers extensively and clearly, why things are the way they are (e.g., why producers use certain effects on their drums) and goes into the technical details of how to achieve these effects, details which are applicable to any particular and proper piece of equipment. The reader will learn the structure a hip hop song, the drum framework that makes up the architecture of most beats, and the methods and motives behind sampling, irrespective of how these techniques are achieved. The author puts hip hop in

perspective through a studious examination of historical trends that is never dry or academic. But, make no mistake, this book will school you, and the reader will come out with an appreciation of form, technique, history, and a confidence to move forward as a beatmaker, since they will have an appreciation for the tradition they are working in. This book could help a future producer, or a professor planning a class. It was written with a real passion for the subject, and is far from either a disinterested manual or a dry history of a late 20th century art form. That's what makes it so winning, the author's conviction. He believes in his subject so much that the reader can't help but be caught up in his enthusiasm. For the price, this is a serious bargain, and the Kindle edition is very high quality. This book as a whole will definitely be recognized as a work of seminal importance in hip hop studies. The BeatTips manual is a master class. Take it.

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