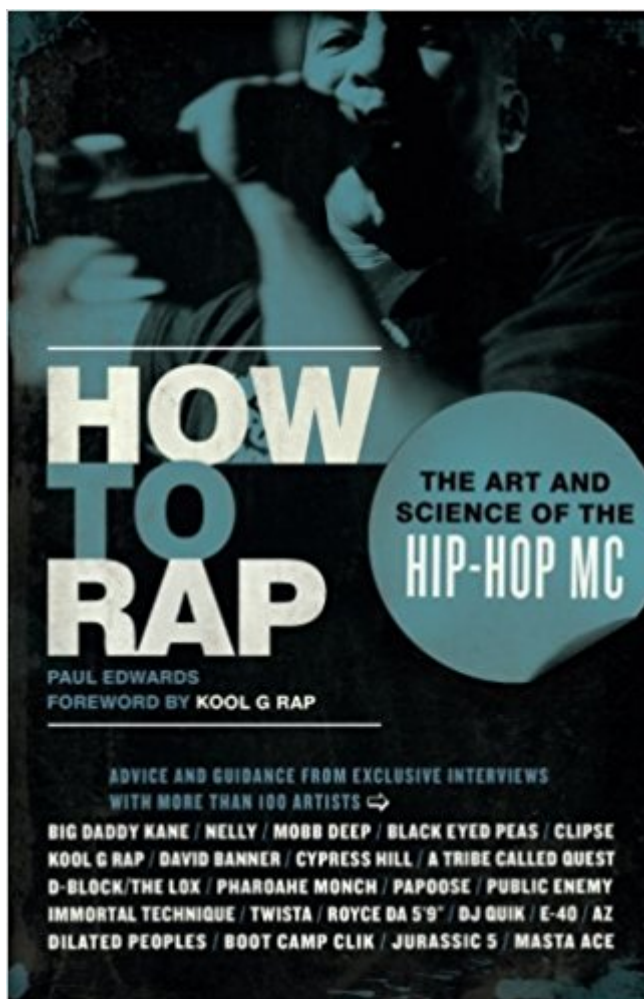


The book was found

How To Rap: The Art And Science Of The Hip-Hop MC



Synopsis

Clipse, Cypress Hill, Nelly, Public Enemy, Remy Ma, Schoolly D, A Tribe Called Quest, will.i.am; these are just some of the acclaimed artists offering tips and advice in this compelling how-to. Delivering countless candid and exclusive first-person insights from interviews with more than one hundred of the most innovative artists, author Paul Edwards examines the dynamics of rap from every region and in every form--mainstream and underground, current and classic; and covers everything from content and flow to rhythm and delivery. A first-of-its-kind guide, *How to Rap* provides a wealth of insight and rapping lore that will benefit beginners and pros alike.

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Customer Reviews

"How to Rap is classic in an art that is just coming into a definition of itself. Everyone who wants to go to the next level needs this book, it's the inside and outside of the trade." --Nikki Giovanni, poet and one of Oprah Winfrey's 25 Living Legends "How to Rap marks a cultural coming-of-age for hip-hop -- the first comprehensive poetics of this new literary form" -- Dana Gioia, poet and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts "Filled with real tools and overflowing with inspiration... a good read even for nonartists interested in learning more about hip-hop creativity, personalities, and history, this offers insights into music and poetry... highly recommended" -- Library Journal "The most incredible feature of How to Rap are bar notational charts that can be used to form your rhyme, flow, and more" -- On Wax Magazine "Wanna learn how to be a super

MC? In *How to Rap* over 100 rappers have offered their insight on the artform for aspiring wordsmiths" -- XXL Magazine

"How useful, amid the rain-forest-worrying deluge of books written on hip-hop theory and culture, that Paul Edwards has taken a straightforward, reasoned and informed approach to discussing the actual mechanics of rapping. *How To Rap* looks at that art form by unknotting its components--content, style, delivery and, most intriguingly, its spatial alliance with music and beats--and uses practical examples for context and analysis. Aspiring MCs will benefit most, but there are insights and observations that will appeal to anyone with an interest in hip-hop's development." -- Alex Ogg, author, *The Hip Hop Years*, *The Men Behind Def Jam*, *Rap Lyrics*

"A clever breakdown of the art form of hip-hop rhymes, for anyone who is into the art of incredible raps. It's about time someone actually recognized this powerful music for its artistic ingenuity." -- Speech, *Arrested Development*

"A complete guide to the art and craft of the MC, anyone who's serious about becoming a rapper should read this first. Proof positive that rap is more than just talking over music - a vital and vibrant expose of a much misunderstood art form." -- Hip-Hop Connection

"If only this book had existed back in the day, I might not have become a university professor. For now, though, I'll have to settle for hanging out with my academic pals Eazy A, Chuck Ph.D., and Dr. GRE--and curling up with a copy of *How To Rap*. Watch out world, this crazy ass-prof [associate professor] is coming straight outta college." -- Kembrew McLeod, professor, critic (*Rolling Stone*, *The Village Voice*, *Spin*, *Mojo*), author (*Freedom of Expression*®), documentary filmmaker

"Want to be a true emcee? Then pick up this book before picking up a microphone. Never before has the artform been broken down so well." -- dubcnn.com (no. 1 news and interview site for West Coast hip-hop, including regular interviews with major rappers such as Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube)

"Paul Edwards's new book *How to Rap* brings a fresh approach to hip-hop lyricism that's remarkable for its depth of practical detail. What's in a namecheck? What are the pros and cons of certain metrical or rhetorical forms? What are the most common structures in hip-hop's history? With numerous examples and analyses of the hip-hop greats of the past, Edwards offers both an immensely practical introduction for would-be rappers, as well as the first detailed poetics of 'the pulse of the rhyme flow' in hip-hop. This is a foundational text." -- Russell Potter, Ph.D., author of *Spectacular Vernaculars*

"*How to Rap* is an excellent, revealing read on the insights to the technical workings of rap music. I had no idea what I did was so scientific and complicated or the literary value of it. As a scholar and an educator, I highly recommend this book to any rap fans or people interested in the technical aspects of music and poetry." -- Mighty Casey, popular underground rapper

"A must-have guide for anyone who ever wanted to understand the blood, sweat, and tears that can go into the art of MCing. The book lets those in the

dark understand the craft of MCing as close as possible. • DJ Rasta Root, Smokin' Needles Records (DJs and produces for the likes of A Tribe Called Quest's Phife Dawg, with whom he runs Smokin' Needles Records)

Paul Edwards holds a master's degree in postmodernism, literature, and contemporary culture from University of London and has done extensive research on rappers and their creative processes, musical theories, and lyrics. Kool G Rap is one of the most influential MCs of all time, with Eminem, Jay-Z, Big Pun, R.A. the Rugged Man, and many others citing him among their influences. Frequently on 'greatest MCs of all time' lists, he has appeared on tracks with numerous artists, including Eminem, Nas, AZ, Mobb Deep, Busta Rhymes, Big L, Ghostface Killah, and Canibus.

Although Kool G. Rap is featured on the cover the book is mainly composed of excerpts from interviews of various rappers and observations from the other author (Paul Edwards) tying them together thematically. The order of topics and choice of quotes is not perfect, many quotes are repeated and often some concepts seem to have quotes thrown in simply to avoid having no 'sources' even though the quotes are not very interesting out of context. Many of the ideas covered could be considered basic or obvious to anyone except a person who just recently began listening to Hip Hop. The historical context of the Hip Hop movement and reference to many classic 'required listening' albums and artists are great, and the lists of various attributes of an MC are useful, if only to have a vocabulary to discuss things you have already noticed. The flow diagram method is interesting and reflects what many lyrically talented rappers like Rakim already do when writing. Unfortunately these diagrams are not easily resized for reading on a kindle or other small tablet so it can be a little bit difficult to follow some of the longer technical breakdowns if you are reading the electronic version. The book describes many techniques but is hesitant to give many rules or guidelines, especially because of conflicting advice from various interviews. Ultimately I would almost prefer to read or listen to the interviews themselves, especially because many of the rappers interviewed clearly express themselves through sound, intonation, and gestures which are lost in the quotations. There is also a lot of space devoted to the actual act of performing performing on stage and furthering your notoriety as an MC. This book might be better titled 'How MCs are made' Bottom line - If you are new to the genre, don't know where to start, or would like a fun read with a lot of great context for modern Hip Hop this is a great buy. It's definitely worth the money but beyond the flow diagrams most of the advice could be boiled down to ' Practice constantly, be

creative with your process, and listen to a lot of Hip Hop if you ever want to be an MC.

This book breaks down the science of rapping not by talking like a know-it-all, but speaking to different artists that have different presentation styles and work ethics. It explains that rap is more than just putting words together, but an artform. If you ever thought that Hip-Hop is nothing more than putting words that sounds great together, read this book. You'll come out of it with a better understanding of Hip-Hop/Rap a lot more. I recommend this book to anyone that wants to start rapping or current artist that needs inspiration. This book covers so much of the basis, that I re-read it for inspiration and ideas for structuring new songs.

This book offers great insight on various views and directions for artists beginning, artists to brush up on knowledge, and artists looking to put it all together. Now I'm not a professional but I would assume a professional would have little reason to buy a book like this unless they have not found them selves yet. This book is not a spoon feeder. It is more of a 4 COURSE meal. You choose at your own pace what you would like to eat and the order you would like to eat it. It offers great reference from many artists. Most are underground yet the important thing is that there are many avenues on the various components of rap. These are present. It doesn't give you worksheets, it instead provides views and points of views. These points of views are then perceived by the reader according to their understanding. The level of information is great depending on the ability of the reader to comprehend what is being read. Truthfully just about everything covered in this book was something I already knew or did, but the fact that it was neatly laid out and organized was the key. Some people have to have some peace of mind when they write which can be achieved by understanding direction and options. This book can give peace of mind to rappers that excel in writing. I have recommended it to my friends and have seen fast improvement. This is the definitive book on the subject.

This book contained very little content that one could easily assume with relative confidence. It was definitely nice to hear from the likes of Aesop and Talib Kweli, but even their quotes were rather simple and uninformative. If nothing else, this product was helpful in that it motivated me to freestyle a bit more (and for the price I feel wrong to even complain), but if you are looking for any "secrets" or such, do not hold your hopes too high.

Whether you're a fan of rap, love rapping yourself or just love music and the rhythm that goes with it

this book is for you. It took me from thinking of Lil Wayne as a great rapper to realizing how amazing guys like Nas, Rakim and Eminem (in his earlier days) really are if you understand the intricacies of their rhyming.

This book is an excellent starting point for anybody interested in writing their own rhymes (or anybody who wants a deeper, richer understanding and appreciation for hip-hop lyricism). The book is essentially a compilation of interviews from some of the most respected names in hip-hop, broken up and organized into subjects (delivery, rhyming, recording, etc.). It's an extremely informative piece of work, but it's also a ton of fun to read.

I found this book a joy to read and educational. I especially like the format of different mc's explaining their craft as it relates to rhyme structure. The structure of the book works well although I'll add that this book can be very technical at times. I admit I was expecting something different but now when I hear hip hop on the radio I actually can count bars!!

I am an aspiring femal hip hop artist and I am very into researching the background/roots of hiphop as well as what I can do to improve myself. It gives tips on everything from writing bars, to recording, to enunciation. I received it very quickly and it smells brand new and cripsy LOL. I am so eager to fully indulge. Go get it if you love music!

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