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Counting on Census Controversy

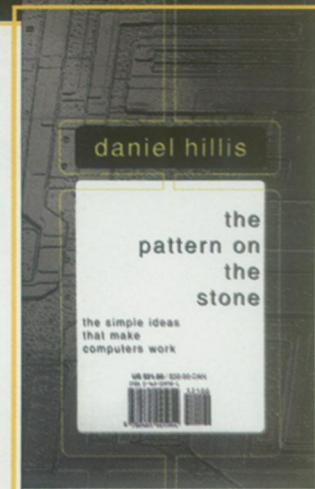
Most people are baffled by how computers work and assume that they will never understand them...what they don't

realize, and what Daniel Hillis' short book brilliantly demonstrates...is that computers' seemingly complex operations can be broken down into a few simple parts that perform the same simple procedures over and over again. Computer wizard Hillis offers an easy-to-follow explanation of how data are processed. He makes the operations of a computer seem as straightforward as those of a bicycle.

Avoiding technobabble or discussions of advanced hardware, the lucid explanations and colorful anecdotes in *The Pattern on the Stone* go straight to the heart of what computers really do. Hillis proceeds from an outline of basic logic to clear descriptions of programming languages, algorithms, and memory. He then takes readers in simple steps up to the most exciting developments in computing today—quantum computing, parallel computing, neural networks, and self-organizing systems.

Written clearly and succinctly, *The Pattern on the Stone* is an indispensable guide to understanding the workings of that most ubiquitous and important of machines: the computer.

—from Basic Books



Basic Books, 1998, 164 pages
5 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$21.00

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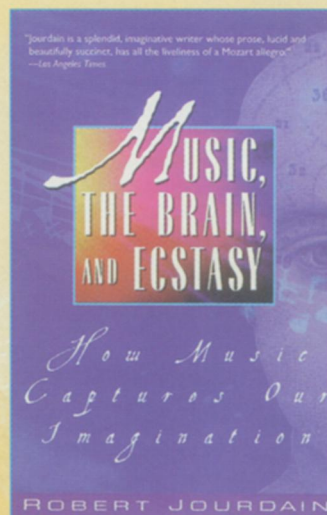
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What makes a distant oboe's wail beautiful? Why do some kinds of music lift us to ecstasy, but not others? How can music make sense to an ear and brain evolved for detecting the approaching lion or tracking the unsuspecting gazelle? Lyrically interweaving discoveries from science, psychology, music theory, paleontology, and philosophy, Robert Jourdain brilliantly examines why music speaks to us in ways that words cannot, and why we form such powerful connections to it.

In clear, understandable language, Jourdain expertly guides the reader through a continuum of musical experience: sound, tone, melody, harmony, rhythm, composition, performance, listening, understanding—and finally to ecstasy. Along the way, a fascinating cast of characters brings Jourdain's narrative to vivid life: idiots savants who absorb whole pieces on a single hearing, composers who hallucinate entire compositions, a psychic who claims to take dictation from long-dead composers, and victims of brain damage who can move only when they hear music. Here is a book that will entertain, inform, and stimulate everyone who loves music—and make them think about their favorite song in startling new ways. —from Avon



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Avon, 1997, 377 pages, 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$12.50