

## **GREEN NOISE**

**John Richards**

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjqm3ABmAuU>. Accessed 17/12/21

### **Abstract**

During the pandemic, a microchip shortage emerged, and headlines such as “Chip Wars’: US, China and the Battle for Semiconductor Supremacy” and “The Chip Wars of the 21st Century” hit the news. Although a full-blown crisis was averted, the shortage sent a warning signal around the globe about chip production and our dependency on such technologies. What if production stopped or materials for manufacturing chips became scarce or deplete? The chip crisis came knocking on my door when I recently tried to order a chip for an instrument to discover there was a two-year backorder! As a DIY electronic musician, I’ve started questioning whether I can carry on making stuff in the same way I was ten years ago. I’ve also asked the rhetorical question: How many oscillators does a musician need to create a piece of electronic music? And do I need to be more critical of what I make and how I make things? With the ever-growing range of sound-making products, can there be such a thing as ethical electronic music or an ethical music technology? The material properties of the microchip are considered as well as the microchips’ symbolic value of power. The politics of making and critical making, low-level electronics and issues relating to originality and authenticity, working with limitations and the Lévi-Strauss’ bricoleur are also discussed.

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