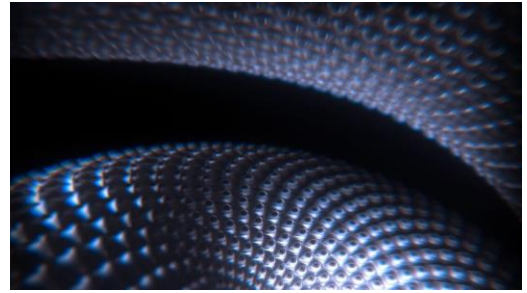


# CUSTOMSFORGE'S

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Issue #10 – Special Tool Edition

### ABOUT US

CustomsForge is a website created in 2014 by the Rocksmith community to make their own songs, communicate more easily and enjoy the game all together

Currently we are approaching more than 38,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 295,000 members.

We welcome thousands more each month

### WELCOME

Welcome to CustomsForge's monthly newsletter, where you can find the latest news about CF and Rocksmith 2014 Remastered.

#### More to it

**Some people say it's all done.** That there is no more original music. Everything is the same. The same 4/4 beats, the same riffs, the same bass lines... Those people clearly have not listened to some progressive metal. What would they say if they listened to the insane guitar in Metropolis? Or to the polyrhythms of Schism? In music, as in life, there is always more to it than it seems.

#### **Progressive metal songs**

Mastodon – The Czar

Opeth – Ghost of Perdition

Tool – Schism

Between the Buried and Me – White Walls

Dream Theater – Metropolis Part 1: The Miracle and The Sleeper

Hail the Sun – Eight-Ball, Coroner's Pocket

Pain of Salvation – Water

Animals as Leaders – CAFO

Porcupine Tree – Arriving Somewhere But Not Here

Ne Obliviscaris – And Plague Flowers The Kaleidoscope

Leprous – He Will Kill Again

Gojira – Flying Whales

Haken – Cockroach King

Meshuggah – Bleed

Periphery – Ragnarok

The Contortionist – Godspeed

The Mars Volta – Cicatriz Esp

At The Drive-In – Sleepwalk Capsules

X Japan – Art of Life

Karnivool – Eidolon

Disillusion – ...and the Mirror Cracked

Ayreon – Amazing Flight

Agalloch – In the Shadow of Our Pale Companion

Symphony X – The Accolade

Opeth – Blackwater Park



Rocksmith 2014 Remastered logo



Tool's new album: *Fear Inoculum*

## Sacred

## Geometry

**I**t was a lazy Thursday. I got home from school and sat on my sofa to relax a little bit. I saw in the news that a band called Tool had released their new album *10,000 days*. I had no idea who they were, as I was four years old and they weren't very famous in Spain, but that album cover fascinated me, with its infinite faces and dark palette. To this day, Tool still fascinates its followers by releasing an album after a decade of silence from the band. Today we have a look at Tool's history and present.

### Chapter 1: The Founders

7<sup>th</sup> of April 1964. 15<sup>th</sup> January 1965. 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1961. 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1967. Those are the dates in which **Maynard James Keenan, Adam Jones, Danny Carey, and Paul D'Amour** were born. These are the people that would later form Tool, but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

*"Tool is exactly what it sounds like: It's a big dick. It's a wrench. We are your tool; use us as a catalyst in your process of finding out whatever it is you need to find out, or whatever it is you're trying to achieve."*

### Chapter 1.1: Maynard James Keenan



Maynard, baptized as James Herbert Keenan, was born in Akron, Ohio, and his parents were Judith Mary and Michael Lauren Keenan. His parents divorced when he was 4 years old and he stayed with his mother and his father moved to Michigan. For the next twelve years, he would only see him once a year. His mother remarried but this led to him living in an intolerant household where his creativity and intelligence were suffocated. **When he was 11, his mother suffered a paralyzing cerebral aneurysm** This is an event that has inspired him in many songs such as *Wings for Marie (Pt 1)*. Some years later, his mother convinced him to live with his father in Scottville and Maynard has said that it was "the best move [he] ever made".

Inspired by Bill Murray's performance in the movie *Stripes*, **he joined the army in 1981 with the intention of having the G.I. Bill fund his dream of attending art school.** He was distinguished in basic and advanced training but declined an appointment to West Coast to pursue a music career. It was at this time that he adopted the sobriquet "Maynard", which came from a fictional character he had created in high school.

He studied art at *Kendall College of Art and Design* and started working in interior design. **He began playing for some bands like *TexA. N. S* and composed an early version of *Sober*.**

By Dardo

Editor: Unleashed2k

August 2019

He also became friends with Tom Morello, Brad Wilk, and Zach de la Rocha. In fact, he almost became *Rage Against the Machine's* singer.

Without getting yet into his role in Tool, it should be mentioned that **he has been part of other groups such as *A Perfect Circle* which began in 1999, and has a lot of solo work under the name *Puscifer*.** Puscifer was originally a Mr. Show skit formed with Adam Jones but since then has become a manifestation of Keenan's "creative subconscious".

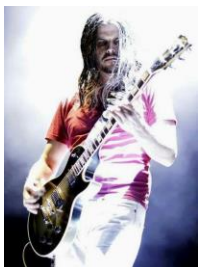
**What most people probably don't know is that he also has a career as an actor and a stand-up comedian.** His latest role was in *Comedy Bang! Bang!* (May 2015) and has interpreted characters as varied as Charles Mason and Satan.

He also has a Winery, which is a family business and has named some wines after his deceased family members.

**His lyrics are known for trying to connect with the listener on a personal level, to allow them to transcend their own problems.** He also speaks about themes such as violence, hypocrisy and incorporates psychological elements like the Eid and the Ego.

He tends to sing without facing the public, in the shadows of the stage as he has a hard time processing the emotions of the songs and he feels more comfortable in the shadows. He is quite reclusive in his personal life and has worked with many charities.

### Chapter 1.2: Adam Jones



He was born in Park Ridge, Illinois and grew up in Libertyville. **He began playing the violin up to his second year of high school when he changed it for the acoustic bass while he played in an orchestra.** He also became the bass player for the band *Electric Sheep*, where he became friends with Tom Morello. The band was quite

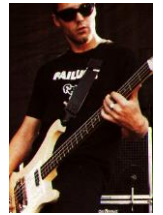
unpopular and after breaking up, he picked up the guitar. He never had any guitar lessons and learned by ear.

**His style is known for not using any particular guitar technique and instead combining a lot of them.** For example, in 10,000 days he used a lot of triplets as well as chiming arpeggios and off-beat rhythm patterns.

If you have ever wondered why a lot of Tool's music videos have humanoid looking creatures that look like clay figures it's because they **are** clay figures. They are made with stop-motion and he directed every single Tool video clip ever made. He has worked in makeup and set design in movies such as *Predator 2*, *Jurassic Park* and *Ghostbusters II*.

### Chapter 1.3: Paul D'Amour

Born in Spokane, Washington, **he was originally a guitar player and was convinced to join Tool thanks to Adam Jones.**



They met in Los Angeles knew each other because they both wanted to join the movie industry. He plays the bass with a pick and aggressively. He left Tool in 1995 because he wanted to play guitar instead of bass.

After that, he has played in bands such as Replica, Lesser Key and recently has become Ministry's new bass player.

### Chapter 1.4: Justin Chancellor



Born in London, **he originally was in the band Peach and they were Tool's support in the early 1990s in England.** In 1995 he moved to the United States and joined Tool full time. Taking Paul's place, he tried his best to recreate the original tone using a MusicMan Stingray. It worked okay but it was still lacking the mid-range punch when recording. After a recommendation from Greg Edwards of Failure, he tried a Wal Bass (British Made). That led to the creation of the signature sound you hear today. However, it is speculation for the new album he has switched to Warwick.

**Chapter 1.5: Danny Carey**

Born in Lawrence, Kansas is the drummer for Tool and started playing drums when he was ten.

**Jazz has played a large role in his drumming style as well as Sacred Geometry**, which ascribes sacred meanings to certain geometric shapes and constructions such as the unicursal hexagram. He has applied these patterns to his way of drumming, which in turn make his style fluent and complex, which can be seen in his polyrhythms and the fact he regularly plays drum solos with his feet as practice.

He has also stated that when he is playing to an odd time signature, he tries to drum to the "feel" of the song and establish general "inner pulse" for the given time signature instead of fully counting it out.



To him, **drumming has a similar purpose to occult rituals** with purposes varying from spiritual exploration to "a gateway [which] summoned a daemon he has contained...that has been delivering short parables similar to passages within *The Book of Lies*".

**Chapter 2: The past**

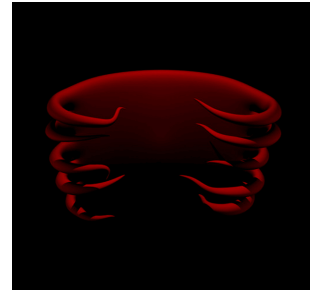
**During the 1980s, all members of the band moved to Los Angeles.** Keenan and Jones met through a mutual friend. Jones was so impressed by Keenan's singing that he convinced him into making their own band. They started jamming and looking for a bass player and a drummer. D'Amour was introduced to the band through a mutual friend with Jones and Carey "felt kinda bad for them" because he lived above Keenan and could see that none of the invited musicians were coming to their jamming sessions.

Maynard has defined the purpose of the band as: "*Tool is exactly what it sounds like: It's a big dick. It's a wrench. ... we are ... your tool; use us as a catalyst in your process of finding out whatever it is you need to find out, or whatever it is you're trying to achieve.*"



Two years passed and the band was finally approached by record companies. **They signed with Zoo Entertainment and released Opiate.** It featured the six heaviest song they had written and both the EP and tours that followed were well received.

**A year later**, when grunge was at its height, **the band released Undertow.** Songs that had been not included in the previous release for not being so heavy were here and **the band started having problems around this time.**



In May 1993, they were scheduled to play at the Garden Pavilion in Hollywood but learned right before the show started that the venue belonged to the Church of Scientology, which was perceived as a clash with "the band's ethics about how a person should not follow a belief system that constricts their development as a human being." Keenan "spent most of the show baa-ing like a sheep at the audience."

**Tool has always had problems with censorship.** For example, Walmart sold their first LP with censored album art. Not only that, their video clip for their song *Prison Sex* was removed entirely by MTV because it was considered too graphic and obscene by the company and many other journalists.

But not everything was bad news, in fact, thanks to Bill Hicks' introducing the band in many concerts and *Sober* becoming a hit single in 1994, the album got certified platinum in 1995.

The very same year, Paul D'Amour left the band for Justin Chancellor and they started recording their second album: *Ænima*.



**Depending on how you look at it, *Ænima* was when the band really explored what they could do as a band or when they established themselves as a well-grounded art-rock group.**

By Dardo

Editor: Unleashed2k

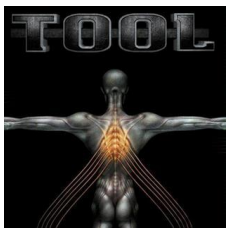
August 2019

The album was dedicated to their friend Bill Hicks, who had passed away two years prior to its release. The first single, *Stinkfist* gained limited air time on the radio and had its video-clip name changed to "Track No.1" due to offensive connotations and even had its lyrics altered.

Things were good for quite some time. **They won Grammys, headlined tours and festivals such as Lollapalooza and received critical acclaim**, as well as *Aenima* becoming Tool's best-selling record to date.

But nothing lasts forever and **a legal battle began the same year when Volcano Entertainment—the successor of Tool's by-then defunct label Zoo Entertainment—alleged contract violations by Tool and filed a lawsuit.** According to Volcano, Tool had violated their contract when the band looked at offers from other record labels. Afterward, Tool filed a countersuit stating that Volcano had failed to use a renewal option in their contract and the parties settled out of court. **In December 1998 Tool agreed to a new contract, a three-record joint venture deal.** In 2000, the band dismissed their long-time manager Ted Gardner, who then sued the band over his commission on this lucrative agreement.

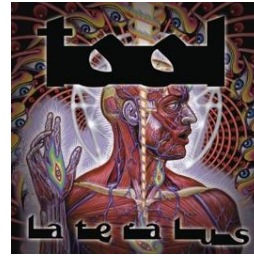
These events interfered heavily with the making of the next album and the band decided to take a break to work in other projects. For example, Maynard formed A Perfect Circle and Jones joined The Melvins' Buzz Osborne.



In 2000, the **Salival** box set (CD/VHS or CD/DVD) was released. The CD contained one new original track, a cover of Led Zeppelin's "No Quarter", a live version of Peach's "You Lied", and revised versions of old songs.

**In January 2001, Tool announced a new album, *Systema Encéphale***, along with a 12-song tracklist containing titles such as *Riverchrist*, *Numbereft*, *Encephatalis*, *Musick*, and *Coeliacus*. File-sharing networks were flooded with bogus files with these names. The band was very critical of them and Keenan said in an interview: *"I think there are a lot of other industries out there that might deserve being destroyed. The ones who get hurt by MP3s are not so much*

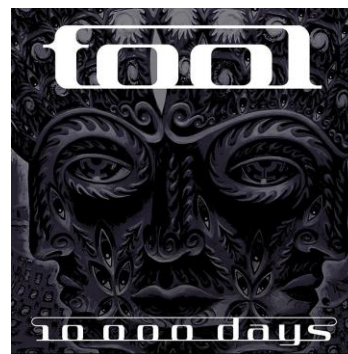
*companies or the business, but the artists, people who are trying to write songs."*



**The album was in fact called *Lateralus* and became a worldwide success, as it pushed Tool toward new levels of art-rock and progressive rock.** They received their second Grammy for their live performance of *Schism* reached No.1 on the U.S. Billboard 200 albums chart in its debut week.

The end of the 2002 tour made it look as if another hiatus was on its way and that was partially true. They had another break but the members worked on other projects and their official web page got updated with splash art and interviews, as well as the *"Maynard has found Jesus"* April Fool's joke.

At this point, 15 years had passed since the band started playing in the local bars of LA and they had gained a cult following. Around 2006 speculation about Tool's new album title began as the fans knew something was coming. When the band announced the name of the album most people thought it was a hoax, but a week later this rumor was proven false when a leaked copy of it was distributed through filesharing networks a week before its release.



**10,000 days are 27 years, which is the total amount of time that Maynard's mother suffered since a paralyzing cerebral aneurysm changed her life forever.** This is quite a personal album and that is backed by the

fact there is a two-part track called *Wings for Marie*. The first track is about how he feels about his mother becoming bound to her wheel-chair and the second one is rather an acceptance of her death, claiming that she deserves to enter heaven for everything she has gone through on Earth. Maynard has stated repeatedly that he regrets putting so much of his private life into this album: **"I think probably the stupidest thing I could have done on 10,000 Days was put myself out there as much as I did with the tracks**

*I'll never make that mistake again. It just took too much out of me – too much emotionally, mentally, physically – all those manifestations. Those songs were exploited and misconstrued, people were flippant and dismissive. I won't be doing that anymore. And technically, 'Wings' is very difficult to pull off. If anyone of us is off, it falls apart and makes that thing tragic, and that's not a good song for me to have fall apart. It's just too personal."*

**It should also be stated that it's also the number of days Saturn takes to go around the sun. Maynard considers this important as** *"That's the time in your twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth year when you have presented the opportunity to transform from whatever your hang-ups were before to let the light of knowledge and experience lighten your load, so to speak and let go of old patterns and embrace a new life. It's kind of the story of Noah, and the belly of the whale [Noah built the Ark; Jonah was swallowed by the whale]. **You sink or swim at that point. And a lot of people don't make it.** Hendrix didn't, Janis Joplin didn't, John Bonham. Kurt Cobain didn't quite make it past his Saturn Return. For me, starting to recognize those patterns, it was very important to start constructing songs that chronicled that process, hoping that my gift back would be to share that path and hope that I could help somebody get past that spot."*

Commercially speaking, it was a huge success and they were awarded the third Grammy for the *Best Recording Package* category. In contrast, it wasn't very well received critically but time has proven that it's the most refined the group has ever been up to this point.



**4869 days** or 13 years, 3 months, 29 days **will have passed between the release of 10,000 days and Fear Inoculum.** Needless to say, there is a lot of hype and for good reasons. None of *Tool's* members have seemed to lose their edge, albeit they have become inevitably older. The track they have already released has a very traditional sounding *Tool* style to it. Having said that, we probably won't get an album that sounds very similar to their already extensive discography, as they have played more songs live. They are called *Descending* and *Invincible*. They are not especially strange nor

different but they feel much more creative from their other catalog of older songs. If you want to play *Fear Inoculum's* single, you can already find a lot of tabs made within hours of its release or download the CDLC we have, which some would say has the most accurate tab of them all.

There is another reason there's so much hype as well. **All their discography has become available in streaming platforms except for Salival. This is a huge change for them since they have always been against these platforms**

as they pay extremely little money to the artists and significantly reduce their chances of making a living out of their work. For those out there who are debating to listen to any leaks I highly suggest you to:

### Be Patient.

It is worth the wait.

**Purchase the physical copy, buy merch and support the band.**

Stream the new song by [clicking here.](#)  
[Preorder/Presave](#)



## Ignition4 Preview

The screenshot shows the CustomsForge website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'SEARCH', 'FORUMS', 'CREATORS', 'TOOLS', 'DONATE', 'ADMIN', and 'DEV'. Below this is a search bar and a list of tools. A modal window is open over a tool page for 'Schium (2001)' by Mithlesh. The modal contains a note: 'This is a note that only staff can see. This CDLC has something something, and also something. Please note the creator is blah blah.' Below the note is a tuning diagram for Drop D and a section for 'Author's Notes' which says: 'The alt lead is the vocal melody with guitar riff to fill in the void. <B><B> Any feedback or even a simple thanks is always nice for everyone :D-/>'. The background shows a table of tools with columns for tuning, version, member, added, updated, DLs, parts, and platforms.

[Click here for the full-sized image](#)

## CustomsForge Future Plans

We're a few months away from an alpha build of Ignition4. The development team is excited to bring you a whole new experience with faster load times, new features, upgraded ignition experience, and a newly upgraded forum.

Our plan is to release Ignition4 with less new features than we originally planned so we can get this out to everyone as soon as possible. Once we are done with an internal staff test, we will be releasing an alpha test to Unleashed2k's Patreon \$5+ tier. After that, we will invite select members from the community. Once the main bugs are squashed, we will provide a beta test to the community. If everything goes to plan, we will start the migration process before the end of the year. This will require downtime during the upgrade process. Once it is complete the new website will be launched and we will focus on any bugs that are reported to us for the first few weeks. After that we will begin development on Ignition4.1 which will include more planned features that we originally wanted to implement in 4.0. Our donation goal may go above our normal development budget to pay for new services & plugins. With the new website we plan on overtime to reduce overall costs of the website and for it to load faster than it does now.

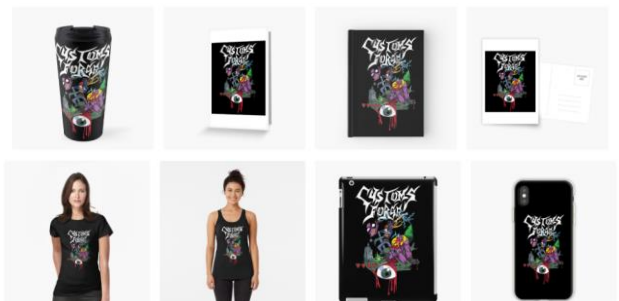
## New Store



To make it easier to see what merch we have to offer I've added a store!  
<https://customsforge.com/store>

You can find all of our products there and we hope to add products in the future including guitar accessories and more!

For worldwide shipping and other products, we offer RedBubble as an option.



We now ship officially on Amazon US, UK, and DE.



CustomsForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

### Meet us:

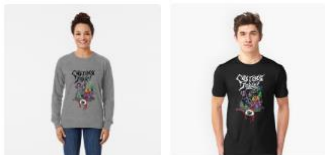
Twitter: @CustomsForge  
Facebook: CustomsForge  
Reddit: r/CustomsForge  
Patreon: CustomsForge  
Discord: <http://discord.gg/CF>  
[CustomsForge.com/Donate](http://CustomsForge.com/Donate)

Merch: [CustomsForge.com/Store](http://CustomsForge.com/Store)



Graphic T-Shirt

Lightweight Hoodie



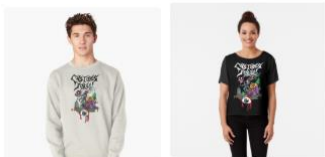
Lightweight Sweatshirt

Slim Fit T-Shirt



Baseball 3/4 Sleeve T-Shirt

V-Neck T-Shirt



Pullover Sweatshirt

Chiffon Top

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***Charter's tip of the month: "don't blindly trust tabs online. Looking at live videos and other people doing covers can be extremely interesting to double-check the tab"***

***– firekorn***

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### Website Updates

If you see a dead link, make sure to report it! Please remember that the website depends on donations so donate once in a while, any amount helps!

### Staff

We are looking for coders who know Laravel, PHP/MySQL, Databases/jQuery/JS/Bootstrap. Additionally, we are looking for moderators and a server admin. If you are suited for these positions then follow the link at the bottom of the page.

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*Thank you for reading CustomsForge's monthly newsletter. Keep on rockin'!*

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**WANT TO VOLUNTEER? APPLY TODAY:**

**<http://bit.ly/applytoCF>**

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