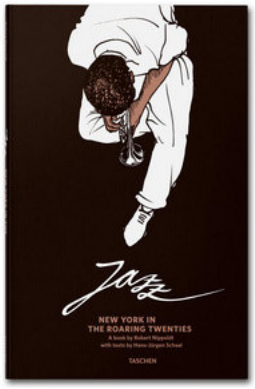
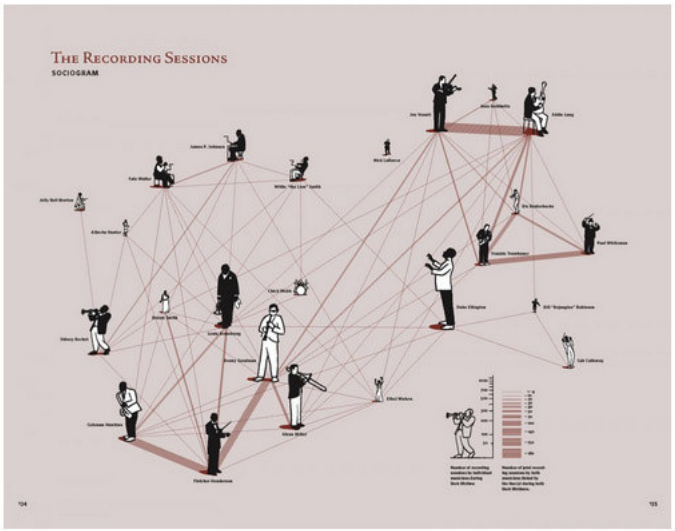
Taschen's Jazz: An Illustrated Portrait of New York in the Roaring Twenties

by Maria Popova

Band battles, brass classics, Cotton Club etiquette, and how to do the "double roll" like a pro.



"Jazz is the music of the body," Anaïs Nin wrote in her diary, *"...and the mystery of the withheld theme, known to jazz musicians alone, is like the mystery of our secret life."* From the fine folks of Taschen (♥) — who have given us such visual gems as the world's best infographics, the best illustrations from 130 years of Brothers Grimm, Harry Benson's luminous photos of The Beatles, and the history of menu design — comes ***Jazz. New York in the Roaring Twenties*** (*public library*), a remarkable time-capsule of Gotham's swinging golden age by music journalist **Hans-Jürgen Schaal**, edited and gloriously illustrated by German graphic designer, illustrator, and book artist Robert Nippoldt. The lavish large-format volume, which comes with a CD compilation of the era's most celebrated songs, covers iconic venues like the Cotton Club and the Roseland Ballroom, legendary recording sessions, and the epic "band battles" that dominated the club scene, among other curious and lesser-known facets of the Roaring Twenties.

But perhaps most delightful of all are the infographic-inspired maps and morphologies of the jazz scene and its geography, technology, and human topography: