Recording the Beatles
BY KEVIN RYAN AND BRIAN KEHEW
[Curvebender/Recording the Beatles.com]
$100

Here, There and Everywhere: My Life Recording the Music of the Beatles
BY GEOFF EMERICK AND HOWARD MASSEY
[Gotham Books]
Hardcover: $26

of the mop-tops at play, a diagram that describes the physical positioning of the band members and gear, or a revelatory explanation of a key effect or technique, from hand-spooled flanging to isolation screens to reverse-tape effects.

Engineer Geoff Emerick's affectionate Beatles memoir provides both a charming and technically elucidating peek into Abbey Road, by way of anecdotes and recreated dialogue that have the effect of bringing the musty halls of the great facility to life. Emerick's straightforward, surprisingly honest recollections—including how he configured the band and used baffles to rein in the acoustics of the larger Studio One for the recording of the "Sgt. Pepper's" reprise—are fascinating and sometimes revelatory stories. There's plenty to learn—even about "mistakes" like mic leakage and extraneous noise that was often left in the original takes—and plenty to simply sit back and enjoy. For those of us who love any opportunity to visit "Beatleland," but would prefer a studio-inclined perspective, Emerick's account is the ideal insider guide. —JAMES ROTOND