

//by: Dani Deahl

## DJ Harry Aquarium Man

(Rong Music) DJ Harry is best known for a dubbed out sound complimented by live instrumentation to keep the pace rolling. "Aquarium Man" does just that, contrasting waves of pads with vocal snippets and a slightly distorted dub guitar. Three remixes are offered although they all fall in the same mellow and muted vein.

## Blewett & Clarke Fat, Horny & Strung Out

(Portent Records) Contrary to the pent-up feel of the title, this track washes with the feel of a midsummer beach at dusk. While a strummed guitar is the strong suit in certain areas, it lights up with the addition of a breezy male spoken vocal. The SX Edit falls short, losing the vocal almost entirely and replacing it with various synth lines.

## Wize Exhibition

(Ledge Music) French band Wize hit upon a niche when they fused the classic French house sound with more current hard disco elements, leading them to remix for some of the genre's hottest names. "Exhibition" is a perfect illustration of this concoction with a strong chord-driven cornerstone that carries a short but sweet vocal hook.

## Lavish Habits Clap Yo Feet

(Select Recordings) Texas has been churning out prime cuts as of late and Lavish Habits (Paul Paredes and Mike Constantino) is just one more reason to turn an ear to the Lone Star state. Playful lyrics ("want to drink you like a shot baby") bounce along with a dark '80s synth, creating an utterly sexual vibe sure to induce some serious get down. Diverse remixes channeling everything from Cajmere to Lil Louis round off this knockout performance.

## J Jay feat. L. Barnett In My Life

(SoulStar) Every part gives the impression of being perfectly planned, from the staccato bass line to the wavering pads. J Jay hit the mark as this precision creates a smooth sound, swimming with panned and muted keys that seem to mimic Barnett's hearty vocals. If the girlfriend is coming over tonight, go directly to putting this on your stereo. Thank me later.

## Scott K. vs. The O'Jays I Love Music

(BOXmusic) This is worth the buy simply for the amusing Chris Rock introduction featured on the A1. The rest of the platter is equally intriguing as the cocky lead-in, sounding innately live with drum and hat patterns that lean towards being band based. With an overly Seventies feel you could almost forget you were listening to a house track but a dramatic breakdown with a heavy low pass filter saves it from tipping over the edge.

## Robbie Rivera feat. Laura Vane One Eye Shut

(24/7) "One Eye Shut" comes with an amazing buffet of seven mixes, but only a few warrant being listed. The original treads a thin line between trance elements and house, displaying airy synths and a simple guttural bass line that was programmed for speaker stacks. Disco power duo Steve Angello & Sebastian Ingrassio present the most compelling remix with an extended thirty-two count bass and intermittent vocals that dramatically lighten its cadency.

## Chuck Love Frozen In Minneapolis

(Salted Music) Minneapolis based Chuck Love proves his ability to show his versatility while still maintaining a consistent thread in this EP's three distinct offerings. While "Spread The Love" is reminiscent of old school house with a grabbing melodic piano and electric guitar, "El Divorcee" goes syncopated with Latin infusion. Lastly, "Back In My Life" punches with a choppy understated b-line and alternating horn loops. This trio of solid productions suddenly makes Minneapolis seem a little warmer.



Guest Reviewer

# OLIVIER DESMET

Olivier came to San Francisco from Belgium with a stop in Chicago to run promotions for Afterhours Records and learn how to make tracks under the tutelage of Mazi. Today, he runs his own Amenti Music and produces slabs dropped by heavyweights Mark Farina, DJ Sneak and Fred Everything. He's the last DJ standing, playing the Sunday night Devotion at SF's notorious Endup afterhours. Keep your own party going that long and you might hear Desmet drop these gems.

## Brown & Steve Little- men Changing

(Aroma) Quality male vocal cut from these British lads on Raoul Belman's Aroma label. Aroma has established itself in the last few years as the premiere house label out of Belgium, with great releases from producers such as Swirl People, Troydon and Lance DeSardi. This is the Littlemen's first release for Raoul, and it's a belter. Side A oozes soul, with a great vocal performance and flawless arrangement. Head over to

side B for an equally tasty dub version, with tougher drums, syncopated bass, and brilliant synth parts. Hot!

## Jake Childs Bring It

(Offset Music) England's ever-reliable Offset imprint hooks up with Jake Childs for a quality two track EP. Jake's been getting some well-deserved props lately with excellent releases on Drop Music and his own Uniform label. His version of "Bring It" features nice Rhodes chords and a killer saxophone hook. Flip over for Jay- J's remix, with its trademark Moulton Studios sound: dope drum programming, live fretless bass and great musicality.

## Rick Viera, Daddy J, Beat Smugglers & Alland Byallo Donkey Punch

(Public Access) This is an obscure but wicked white label I received during the WMC in Miami. Not much info on this one, just four quality tracks, all in a Chicago jack meets West Coast house

vibe. If you see it, grab it, as I've been told it's extremely limited.

## DJ Heather Pictures Of You

(Black Cherry) This project has been a favorite of mine for over a year on CD, and it finally sees the light of day in vinyl format on Heather's new Black Cherry imprint. Great package featuring an all-star cast of producers including East Coast Boogiemmen, Swirl People, Natural Rhythm, and the Lawnchair Generals, with Heather providing the spoken vocal. All mixes are nice, with the Natural Rhythm and ECB versions being my favorites.

## Ken Of ECB

**Tales from the Junkyard** (Deep Funk) Ken Christensen doing his thing solo on this nice EP for LA's Deepfunk Records. "Be Who You Wanna Be" is a superb disco-flavored track reminiscent of Rob Mello's "Fantasize" on Classic. Flip over for "Dance Samba," a great latin workout. Ken will be touring the US soon, so make sure to catch him live when he hits your town!