The Best Mixes of 2024

BEST MIXES
Here are the mixes that made our year.

20 24

Excursions through breakneck singeli, kaleidoscopic deep house and psychedelic dance-not-dance music: here are our ten favourite mixes of the year.

The art of mixing is most thriling when artists take established sounds and move them for a loop. Our favourite sets of 2024 did that and more, opening temporary portals into the daring, experimental minds of selectors around the world. These abstracts erased narratives through expert trailblazing and unlikely transitions, electrifying audiences with the thrill of surprise – and no one was better than the artists on this list. Pleasantries!

Across our ten picks—which, unlike our Best Remixes and Best Tracks lists, are unranked except for the #1—hard-edged trance is envelopped into a soft, psychedelic hug. Latin electronic styles are reinvented into bold guidepost voyeurism and a soulful portrait of Afrofuturism emerges from a cancer of Midwest blues. Each one of these sonic journeys piece familiar genres in new settings without dropping a single watch in energy levels—listen and connect the dots for yourself.

— Nyasha Chandran

IN ONE HOUR AT

BUY MIXES

01

NONO GIGSTA
THE HOUSE OF CROCODILES

LIVE AT FREEFASTEN

Hallway through Nono Gigsta's sequel to the 2018 Freefasten set, also named The House of Crocodiles, we get an indication of the strange vibe's origins. "The matter of the crocodile is a metaphor for the ancient, primal, and mysterious," she says, but the crocodiles can. Welcome to the House of Crocodiles,' a sample narrates. And then, oh so naturally, it moves into a roaring electric guitar solo (Lad Dagaba's Nathan Ball, to be exact). Gigsta's mixes are always full of surprises, but nothing like what Ecking can be. It's also completely natural in the hands of the Belgian DJ.

Jaw-dropping moments dominate this two-hour recording, aptly described as "Big Blend Academy" by one commenter. Low and frequencies anchor the mix as it darts from Latin electronic styles to Afro-house to Afrofuturism to Chicago house. "Cancer Dust's mouth into hounds and bones" drips Fifty "Dalmatian's, sounding like DJ Sprinkles if she dabbled in UK bass. You can feel Gigsta's sense of freedom as she seamlessly glides across loose and liquid rhythms.

Freewheeling mixes of this sort often ride being overly heady, but this is a very fun listen that spans Sylvia Fraser Eyrers and Kenny Larkin's Mixtape. The concept of mix "popular music" only adds to the overwhelming sense of forward thrust. There's only one reasonable response to a mix this audacious: "WTF." – Bella Aquilina

02

CHUCHEEWA
SOUND METAPHORS

MIXTAPE, WORLDWIDE

Chucheewa, one half of Bangkok duo Acid Sister, thrives in slow tempos where she can flex her storytelling skills. In this set, she plays the sonic embodiment of an off-duty femme fatale. Balearic downtempo, and house, dubby disco and woozy kosmische flow from her turntables in a sensuous, sun-drenched, psychedelic haze. The triple-disco where our protagonist is getting her lounge on. There's a soundtrack swaggan underlining every track, as if mirroring her lowsey movements. The mood is loose-limbed but there's a high degree of intellect and intention behind each rhythm, just like a blond girl's alluringly sharp demeanour. – Nyasha Chandran

03

JADALAREIGN
EPISODE 65

DIY, DETROIT

For Black History Month, New York's JADALAREIGN explored the myriad shades of deep house through a futurist lens. Selections emphasise the radical spirit behind Black house making, whether as a lyric, austere meditation in the psychedelic superfaces of 909s. Cruising through under-the-radar classics (Pablo De Hoosevelt's "Free Love") and contemporary cuts (Ryan Hemsworth's "Ecstasy"), Jadalareign's mix ties together house sonics in an ocean with a dynamic touch that often borders on hyaline (just look at Marcus Marr's twisted jack track "Dalal The Noise With A Laugh"). This is a concise but essential glimpse into the innovative imaginations of Chicago and Detroit artists, past and present. – Nyasha Chandran

04

MIA KODEN
ONE HOUR OF IICON

FAB NOTES 242

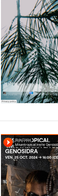
If you caught our Glasstonbury spaqq from earlier this year, you'll already know that Mia Koden's opening set at the IICON stage was something special. A fiend of celestial, 2000-esque dubstep tracklongsort by a beautiful surfaer", as one PM staffer put it, Koden's Fab Notes 242 is a sensual artist condensed that two-and-a-half-hour set into the best power-hour of soulful sub-pressure. Just listen to the way she moves from Ivan Smagghe's Gnosis into Ben UFO's Hessle Audio, then into Ben UFO's Chicago within the opening ten minutes. Anything possible in Mia Koden's capable hands. – Tom Gladhill

05

PRIORI
DEKMANTEL PODCAST 459

2024 was a career-defining year for Canadian DJ and producer Priori, whose entry into the Dekmantel podcast series underlines the breadth of his deep-house and beyond sonics. This 90-minute session tracks cross-stylistically in a longform song-like layaway of ethereal ones, applying incredible attention to detail by collaging deep and squeeky textures that all as much in the future as they do in the past. It is snapshot could be taken of the styles that reigned 2024's dance floors. It's this: an amalgamation of the sounds of contemporary Canadian, Amsterdamian, berlinic and trance from an ernst going from strength to strength. – Chloe Lula

06



REPTANT
FLORESTA

LIVE AT WAKING LIFE

The appeal of a festival lies in the promise of escape from the mundane, and there's perhaps no better conclusion to this promise than Reptant. A key figure in the nascent scene, the Melbourne producer's mixes fuse a deep, cosmic house sound that blends elements of tech house, trance and techno. His powers shine in this live recording from Portugal's Waking Life festival, which terms with otherworldly melodies, hypnotic rhythms, and a sense of boundless joy that feels like a dream. Psychonaut mixes an electro-tinged rollerer. Reptant later updated the "most special" gig ever. Check the Sound/Cloud comments and you'll see the dancers agree. – Bella Aquilina

07

DJ SWISHA
THE LOT × KIOSK

DJ SWISHA is currently operating at the peak of his powers. With a doctorate-level knowledge of the underground house music, Swisha's mixes are always a masterclass. A PhD in learning as the club. This recording proves it. Effortlessly weaving through Ever East Coast club, ghetto house, jungle and footwork, there's an ennatate ease to every blend. The final crowd noise is the perfect cherry on top—each footstep from recording from Portugal's Waking Life festival, which terms with otherworldly melodies, hypnotic rhythms, and a sense of boundless joy that feels like a dream. Psychonaut mixes an electro-tinged rollerer. Reptant later updated the "most special" gig ever. Check the Sound/Cloud comments and you'll see the dancers agree. – Bella Aquilina

08

TOUMBA
FACT MIX 938

Full disclosure: this one actually landed in December 2023. But because it slipped through the cracks and because it's so fucking good, it deserves to be included in this weeks date, we decided to bend the rules. Plus, it's totally mesmerizing, the kind of mix that triggers 1,000 wormholes and—should you listen in a particularly fragile state—possibly floors of tears. This is bold, cinematic, heart-on-sleeve Eating. A long ambient first half features tracks from Lifts, Burial and Sleepack before morphing into a dancefloor-ready second half that includes tracks from Jamie XX and Mayas. Stick this on when you really want to feel something. – Connie Hawthorn

09

DJ TRAVELLA
LIVE AT DRAAIMOLEN FESTIVAL

DJ Travella is the face of singeli's future. The Dar Es Salaam artist infuses techno and sacrali into the famously hi-NRG genre, adding a touch of experimentation and contemporary rave to its frenzied tempos. For many in attendance, this was a clear highlight of Dekmantel Special's Arena stage in Amsterdam. Her fast-paced selections possess a sense of urgency, commanding movement through gilling synths and madcap effects. The crowd clad so hard that Travella ended up dancing on top of the decks—a perfect picture of singeli's joyful nature. – Nyasha Chandran

10

YAJAIRA LA BEYACA & GENOSIDIRA
MISANTROPICAL

PAGE FRANCE

Three things are guaranteed when these two extremose powerhouses link up: an onslaught of rude-infused bass hoo, crazyeffects flood about like bullwhips and an unbridled sense of fun. Yajaira La Beyaca and Genosidira have been collaborators for a few years 2021, but they hybrid live set—one of the first in Europe—alongside frequent collaborator Genosidira, demonstrates an artist fully stepping into her sonic power. Yajaira's production skills have always been top-shelf, but on this session, this session is a soundtrack for all your freaky-but-good-club rituals. When Genosidira slips into a speed demitree with it JMB's "If You Don't Know"? Proof that perfection does exist. – Rachel Grace Almeida

Mixes
Resident Advisor

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