

SITE REVIEWS

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SPECIAL FEATURE

A Guide to Drum & Bass and Techno Music Sites Rave culture fans have a home on the Net.

By Andrew Graham

Techno music's real home is in Europe, where massive festivals (100,000 people each in Paris and Berlin this year) dwarf the American rave scene. But fans of ambient music of all kinds can find

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what they want—on the Internet. It's a given: sometimes the only thing to do is turn up the music and dance. Here's *Steamtunnels* guide to some useful music web sites.

Liquidskymusic (liquidskymusic.com) is the premier drum & bass label. Liquidsky's artists include 1.8.7 (one of the earliest techno females), DJ Soul Slinger and DJ Wally. They've also released the two compilations, *This Is Home Entertainment* and *This Is Jungle Sky*. They've got downloadable MP3 tracks and handy reviews. Liquidsky also sells clothes, if you need to import the lower East Side look to your campus.

Astralwerks (astralwerks.com) is a site with hair on its chest. It's loaded with information, links and music, plus a handy pop-up/pull-down menu to go straight to your favorite Astralwerks artist—Fatboy Slim, Chemical Brothers or Photek News. It's loaded: Acres of reading material about which acts are doing what, and what bands are where. And the High Fidelity section has the latest high-tech action—streaming audio and video, live broadcasts and other goodies. The only slack thing about this site: no discography.

"In-depth" is the best description for Electronicmusic (electronicmusic.com). It's got reviews of albums, shows and even books, but more intriguingly, reviews of both hardware and software for the creation and production of electronic music. The "Print" section is loaded with articles on electronic music, including biographies of artists, selective discographies, bibliographies and other nuts-and-bolts info. Fans interested in the

connection between, say, Moby and Danny Elfman, are encouraged to explore.

Warprecords (warprecords.com) is home to electronica monsters like Squarepusher Autechre, Red Snapper, Seefeel and Aphex Twin, and some non-household names like Broadcast, Plaid, and

my personal favorite, Disjecta. Geared more towards selling records than label history, the Discography section is fairly mundane. If you're interested in one of the label's big names you can read an Artist Biography (warning: the Aphex Twin/Richard D. James bio is shamefully self-aggrandizing), but for lesser known artists there's nothing.

Hyperreal (hyperreal.org) and Pulpfiction (pulpfiction.com) are rave culture sites with (among many things) lots of music. Hyperreal has an interesting back catalog of reviews from three older techno music mags: *Reverb*, *Late Train* and *EST*.

They also have a cool mix of artists: The Orb, Susumo Yokota (a.k.a. EBI) and Orbital, and affiliations with great old-school labels like Axiom.

Pulpfiction has specific guides to techno culture in Seattle, San Francisco, Detroit and New York. The classifieds are a big help to any DJs in those cities.

Techno sites spring up every day. At *sonicgroove* (sonicgroove.com) you can buy music and see loads of charts. *Ravehouse* (ravehousetech.about.com) is a huge site with links and info on lots of artists. Like many About sites it has too much irrelevant info, but the tour listings are useful. And Kinetik Records (kinetikrecords.com) is another useful site. •

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CULTURE

CultureConnect Cultureconnect.com/webcams

See the world from your computer, or take a virtual tour of just about anywhere.

Cultureconnect links you to web cams scattered across the globe, from Australia to Antarctica. Select which continent you'd like to visit, then choose from the list of camera locations that pop up. *EDionne*

Content: A Usability: A-

STUDENT RESOURCES

FinAid finaid.org

An excellent first stop on the search for money, FinAid demystifies loans from the PLUS to the Perkins and helps you find custom-made scholarships, whether you're a multiracial DAR or the county clog-dancing champ. It also clues you in to which scholarships are scams, decodes application forms and gives you ideas for finding money that may never have occurred to you.

CDavenport

Content: A Usability: A-

Terraserver terraserver.com

It's the earth. Pictures of it. From the air. Maps, satellite images and aerial photography of just about anywhere on the surface you'd like to see, with abundant zoom-in, zoom-out technology, plus the option to buy a print of an image that you get "just-right." Its self-professed highlight? Full, detailed aerial close-ups of every part of alien touch-down spot Area 51. *CDavenport*

Content: A Usability: B+

