

QUICKIES

Cut Snake

Want It All EP

Desert Hearts Records

7.5

Australia's former duo Cut Snake is now under the sole reins of Leigh Sedley, whose tech-house sound is melodic, bouncy and very fun indeed. Three diverse club bangers that will fire up the party without fail.

Guido Schneider

Micro Vocal

Enough! Music Ltd

8.5

Guido supplies an ultra-groovy set of detailed tech-house tracks on a minimal tip. A highly infectious pair of deep, twisted and expertly mixed rollers, so you can feel every little nuance if played loud enough. Saucy.

Jos & Eli

Odyssey (Finnebassen Remix)

Eklektisch

9.0

'Odyssey' is a track that'll define a moment in time during your summer. A far cry from Jos & Eli's attentive original, Finnebassen drops most of the mid-range percussion and drum arrangement but fills the space with an unholy amount of synthetic wizardry.

BLOND:ISH

ABRACADABRA RECORDS



- 01. BLOND:ISH 'Cheek On'** *ABRACADABRA Records*
"If you wanna laugh, dance and be taken on a journey all at the same time, this is the first release on our label ABRACADABRA."
- 02. CHAIM 'Love Rehab'** *Bpitch Control*
"Villa party, boat party, beach party, after-party, sunrise, sunset... this classic always works. It just makes everyone smile."
- 03. SOBEK 'Jewel Of The Night'** *ABRACADABRA Records*
"Infectious background vocals with a really energetic backing track make this record a go-to in our recent sets. We signed it to our new ABRACADABRA label — out later this summer."
- 04. BLOND:ISH & SANTIAGO GARCIA 'Away From Here'** *Exit Strategy*
"This is a solid track we made with Santiago Garcia, a budding producer from Argentina."
- 05. KINTAR & DELUM 'Sophie'** *BeatFreak Recordings*
"This track is ethnic peak-time stuff. We recommend using it to bring some dynamic emotion back into the crowd."
- 06. AZIMUTE 'The Secret'** *Cocoon Recordings*
"Really love this one: sounds like a classic reinvented record. Unexpected, from the sound of their last few techno releases."
- 07. DJEBALI 'Reputation'** *Nardik Net Records*
"We always love to throw a classic track into the mix. This is one that never gets old; always brings a smile from a dark club to Burning Man."
- 08. BLOND:ISH 'Mouth'** *Warung Recordings*
"We wanted to make a track to play in a warehouse that was politely perverted and chunky. This is it."
- 09. SAINT GERMAIN 'Rose Rouge (Unofficial BLOND:ISH Edit)'** *Unreleased*
"A bomb for those moments you wanna hit it home. Check our Bandcamp for the free download."
- 10. NHAR 'Moonhole'** *Perspectiv Records*
"Vocals that stick in your head for days — it's the kind of track that makes you bring your weirdo dance moves out of nowhere."

Argy

The Way Of Kings EP

Play It Say It

9.0

An in-form Argy follows up on his recent EP on Cuttin' Headz with the majestic 'The Way Of Kings' on Seth Troxler's high-grade Play It Say It. His eponymous opener is an enchanting, rugged technoid stew, which sets the tone before he turns to an Amazonian rhythm on 'Los Animales'. Its tripped-out melding of drums and repeated "come again" vocals are countered by wild, intergalactic synths. Argy rounds off this fast-paced package with the hella catchy 'Move Like A Panther' (featuring Elbee Bad). Don't just stand there, move!

Alex Kennon

Misdeed EP (Ninetoes Remix)

Oblack

8.0

Oblack gives Alex Kennon the reins for an infectious, deep and tribal teched-out EP. 'Misdeed' features mid-range percussion that underpins a vocal-licked affair; it's both groovy and trippy when reaching the mid-section. Ninetoes reconstructs 'Misdeed' into a high-functioning tool, with a squelching bass and upright, minimal drum arrangement. Meanwhile, Kennon and Romanian talent Just2 collaborate for the clever, upfront bass assault 'Like This'. It's a wide, grumbling roller that will get all tech heads nodding.

Archie Hamilton

Mercury Rising EP

Fuse London

9.0

The mercury may very well be rising for Archie's career, but his signature style of tech-house has been firmly in the red for the last 12 months. 'Right Hook' epitomises Archie's sound: intricate drums, never over-cooked; a solid hook, in this case, the muted organ-like stab; and his acidic bass roll. Archie follows with the soothing 'Mercury' and 'Limbo', two sides of the same coin, with the former complementing the sunset and the latter helping you through the sunrise.

Leon & Shaf Huse

Can't Truss EP

Sola Records

7.0

Heavy on the groove, hefty on the bass, deft sampling and exquisite layering are what give 'Can't Truss' a tasty edge. It's high-octane stuff, with boundless percussive energy and relentless bass movement on both this and the B-side 'Once Again', though the similarity to Shaf's own 'Get



Laylla Dane

Tropical Dar EP

All Inn Records

9.5

You'll struggle to find a better debut this year than the Bulgarian-born, Berlin-based Laylla Dane's 'Tropical Dar'. She has a truly technical sound that feels proto-tech-house on the trippy, percussive 'Swirl'; atmospheric, technoid, deep but agile on 'Menta'; and darker, lost in reverie on 'Tropical Dar' itself, before label co-head Polarize serves up a driving, acid-tinged roller on his Re-Ishmael edit. All in all, this is sheer class.

Em Up (Superfett)' beat on the B is apparent.

XtetiQsoul

Better Places feat Ay J (Martin Landsky Remix)

Afrocentric Records

8.5

'Better Places' from rising Durban-based talent XtetiQsoul is an emotional Afrobeat vocal house bomb, with soothing harmonies from Ay J. Martin Landsky's remix contains much of the original's soul energy and Ay J's vocal lines, but he adds a pounding beat and bass rumble to carry the track into the breakdown, and allows it to rebuild the story with the kind of brooding tension that will delight peak-time dancefloors.

Thodoris Triantafillou

Species EP

Chapter 24 Records

8.0

After the impact he made on Chapter 24's recent 'Seven Stories: Comedia' VA with 'Avrio', Greek producer Thodoris delivers a bold three-track EP titled 'Species'. Opening with the percussive trip 'Hornbill', Triantafillou develops a trio of tense themes, with the Afro-rhythmic 'Elephants' playful to begin with, before emotive synths take things into a darker area. Thodoris wraps the EP up in captivating fashion, raising the stakes with more pace and hard-working synth layering on 'Capybara'.

K'Alexi Shelby

Dark Smiles Vol 1 EP (feat Tony Loveless)

Tuskegee Music

8.5

Percussive, soulful, deep and above all, fun: Tuskegee's latest release comes from Chicago legend K-Alexi Shelby. The package is heavily rhythm-focused and bold from the outset with the snare-filled opener, 'Cherry K Moon', while K-Alexi delivers deep vocal textures on tracks 'Dark Smile' and 'Run With Jackals'. Shelby and Loveless then collaborate and set temperatures racing with 'Anal Probe's' show-stealing TR-909 percussion, and they gracefully complete the package with the spacious tool 'Fly Shit'.

Seff

Needle To The Groove (James Solace Remix)

Hottrax

9.5

Want to be heard? Make an impact. Seff's hardy, tech-no-house hybrid 'Needle To The Groove' certainly has plenty. It's big and chunky, but for all the gusto it possesses a gentle, melancholic undertone that gives it some broader appeal. However, James Solace's (Burnski) remix delivers an epic twist on the original, with emotive air-like strings, haunting, distant vocal effects and a progressive, driving feel that harks back to the Ibiza golden era. The impact here is a very different kind, but an impact all the same.