

The Chemical Brothers "Surrender" (Virgin)

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Don't be deterred by the boring first single "Hey Boy Hey Girl"; it's the worst track on this excellent album. The Chemicals have moved away from the big drum sound that overbore much of their huge selling "Dig Your Own Hole" album, and have produced a house stormer. They tread a

brilliant middle line between infectious grooves and genuine weirdness. The tracks are split between made-for-dance-floor, like the totally wicked "Music:Response", and vocal collaborations such as "Asleep from the Day" with Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval, and this make the release an interesting listening album. Both sides of the album are pulled together in the ripping "Out of Control" featuring New Order's Bernard Sumner and Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie. Also check out the slow but damn funky "Orange Wedge" and the deep house grinder "Got Glint?". These guys are good.

Kruder Dorfmeister "The K & D Sessions" (K7)

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This intoxicating mix of dub, hip hop and drum and bass manages to push boundaries yet remain acceptable because of the consummate skill of these musician-producer-DJ's. K & D did most of the remixes here themselves, including new looks at well known tracks like "Heroes" for Roni

Size and "Bug Powder Dust" for the Bomb the Bass. They have a feel for a wide range of music, from the moving vocals of "Useless" by Depeche Mode, to the gangsta attitude of Aphrodelic's "Rollin' on Chrome". Across the two disks, the team also manages great tempo change ups (something very hard to pull off as DJ's), with the jazzy drum and bass of Count Basic's "Gotta Jazz" yielding to the more trippy chill out of the Sofa Surfer's "Sofa Rockers" which in turn inspired me to leave it on repeat.

Jamiroquai "Synchronized" (Sony)

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The space cowboy has added flashes of disco into this release to keep his funk based sound contemporary. Single "Canned Heat" has the vintage violin stabs and

classic electric piano of the full studio 54 sound, and also get the back room treatment from the Stylistic's inspired "Soul Education". Generally speaking, clever arrangements such as that in "Planet Home" maintain interest in tracks which essentially lack a little impact via raw funk or melody. That said, this has been a successful commercial blend for this funkster in the past and will not disappoint existing fans.

Various "Groovy Vol.3" (IRMA)

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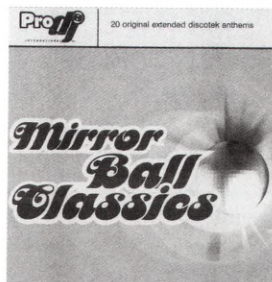
This is a collection of relatively rare old jazz and soul connected by a general 'good vibe' thread. Be it pumped up, like Luis Enriquez's "Hello Quincey" to the loungey moments of Billy Paul's "Clear Day", this is music with heart. The tracks were mostly recorded

in the early seventies, and make interesting listening because there is no obvious connection except 'the vibe'. We hear the latin jazz of Cal Tjader in "Mambero" followed by Ester Phillips' deep south juke-joint anthem "Black Eyed Blues". As the lady says, "just let it shine."

Retro Review

Mirror Ball Classics (ProDJ)

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This is what I call Hard Disco: two disks of original tracks from the era when people danced all night to this stuff, and this set hasn't been filtered through any sugary FOX FM selective memory. Plenty of these tracks hit 140 beats per minute, which means they are up there with

the Prodigy for tempo. All the tracks are in a similar vein, ranging from early electro sounds such as Whitehorse's "Laidback", to the power disco style like La Flavour's "Mandolay" and into the embryonic house of Georgio Moroder's "Chase". The gentlest groove on the release is "Fly too High" by Janis Ian, which translates well onto contemporary deep house or garage dance floors, but that is as chilled out as this release gets.

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- # Struck Out
- ## Bear own costs
- ### Part/Party Costs
- #### Solicitor/Client Costs
- ##### Wrote the judgment myself