

How long have you been making music?

About 16 years now. I got my first guitar from a pawn shop when I was 16, after hearing Joe Satriani playing on the Burton snowboard video "Board With The World". I spent the first 2-3 years just teaching myself to play, and learning music theory from whatever books my friends in college would let me borrow. My first real guitar pre-amp was a ADA MP-2, which was one of the first midi preamps for guitar, so very early on I involved in that side of things as part of making music.

What brought you to electronic music?

Mostly industrial music, I went from Steve Vai and Joe Satriani to Ministry, Haujobb, and most importantly Skinny Puppy. After awhile I was spending more time making my guitar NOT sound like a guitar, so eventually I bought a Korg X2 workstation. A couple years later, I got into the rave scene and it was really the Roland mc505 when it first came out that got me into what most people think of as Electronic Music.

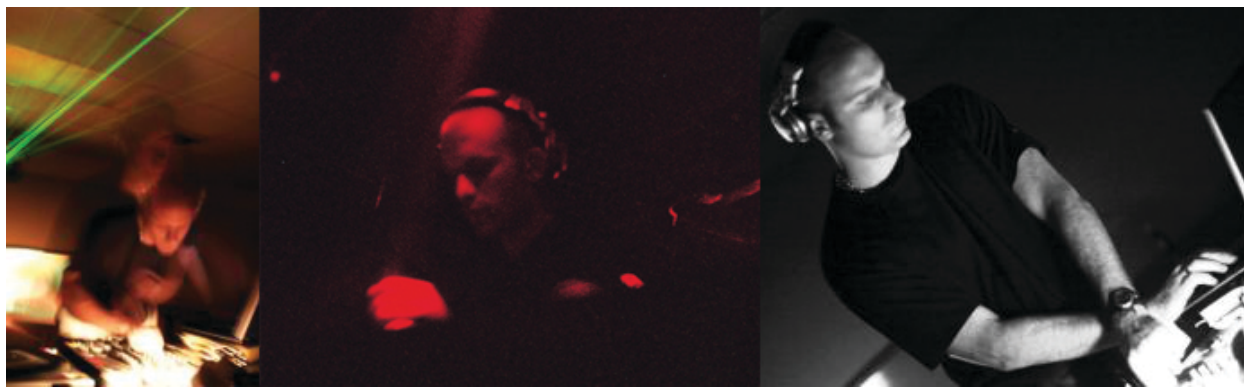
I just loved the fact that I could make a sound that had never been heard before, and at the same time influence the type of effect it had on someone's mood. And that little box was perfect for playing live, so I got a taste of that early on.

What inspires you to compose?

Probably my biggest influence is nature. It sounds like a hippy thing to say, but I've always been an outdoors person, I like to get out in the woods and think, and I get a lot of ideas from being in that type of environment. But it can be many other things too, from having a fun weekend hanging out with my wife, to a good skateboard session on the mini with my friends. I also like distance running and mountain biking, I find I get a lot of ideas once I get into the zone of running or biking for miles and miles beyond what most people consider sane. :)

What do you find compelling about Elektron gear?

The interface is first and foremost for me. Don't get me wrong, they sound great, but I love the way Elektron rethought the way it's user's interact with the box to make music. Simple, but deep. Things like all the copy and paste functions work the same no matter what you're trying to copy, how the save process always defaults to the last save location, things like that. I enjoy that I'm able to take care of all the constant BS housekeeping that goes with making electronic music, with very little thought. It's easy to quickly save things without losing your train of thought or worrying you're saving somewhere you don't want to be.



What are your plans for the future?

CD, CD, and CD. Been spending pretty much all of 2007 working on a new CD, which is why I haven't released any new tracks in so long. I've been extremely busy trying out new software tools, and working on this project, but I'm still hoping to have this released this fall or early winter. It's coming along great though, definitely the best music I've written, and I even have one song that's more or less dedicated to showing off the Elektron MD-UW.

Name one thing you wish was different about your Elektron gear, what's highest on your wishlist?

I wish that the patterns were longer, I'd really have liked to see 8 bar patterns in the MD, instead of 2. It does force you to work a bit different as it is now, but that would be icing on the cake for me. Oh, and some sort of function that let you mix and match patterns on the fly, to aid in moving from one song to the next while using it live. People who have used Roland's Megamix, or Emu's XMIX know exactly what I'm talking about. :)

Random Thought?

Just wanted to thank Elektron for making such a fun bit of gear. Been thinking about adding a Monomachine to my arsenal lately, and putting together an entire live set based on just those two. :) We'll see though, I'm always changing my mind about what music projects to tackle. One more reminder, I have a collection of Machinedrum Tips and Tricks people can get here:

http://tarekith.com/as..._tipsandtricksv105.htm

Kit list:

- 15" MacBook Pro 2.16GHz, core2duo
- MOTU Ultralite
- Ableton Live 6
- Elektron Machinedrum UW & TM-1

- Tama, techstar 206+tam500 analogue drumsynths
- Novation SL37
- Kenton Killamix mini
- Ibanez S540FMTT Guitar
- Allen & Heath Xone62
- Line 6 Pod XT
- TB303
- Mackie HR824's
- Korg ER-1
- Edirol PCR-m1

Tarekith:

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Music :

- MD-UW Song #1: Sworls
- MD-UW Song #2: From the Rooftops
- MD-UW Song #3: Playing with Forces