

Electronica vs. Hip Hop

What makes your soul move? Well for me its Electronica and Hip Hop. These two genres are the main choice of disk jockeys around the world because it gets people to dance. No other genre can give the energy or lifestyle that Electronica and Hip Hop creates. Although these music styles are so different, they also share many similarities.

Electronica all started with the death of disco. All over the globe people started experimenting with different sounds created by electronic tools. This experimentation gave Electronica a sense of intelligence over all of the other genres of music expressed after the disco era. Underground clubs in New York, London, and Detroit began playing new types of Electronic music that soon went global and has quickly fragmented into an infinite number of styles and subgenres.

Sub-genres of Electronica can be defined mainly by their speed or measured in beats per minute. Songs with a lower bpm tend to be less repetitive than songs with a higher bpm. Usually a disk jockey will choose a song with a high bpm to keep his audiences attention. These songs would classify under a House, Trance, Techno, and Breakbeat sub-genres. Slow bpm Electronica is more of a listening experience. This is much like the Ambient, Intelligent, Trip Hop, and Downbeat sub-genres. One element used by Electronica's sub-genres is sampling.

Sampling is the process of recording digital sound into memory. In other words, songs of the Electronica genre sample parts other songs from different genres. This is the creation of the Remix. Remixes are great ways for an Electronica disk jockey to gain attention and recognition from his or hers audience by making their mix better than the original. This is all made possible by certain tools used by Electronica disk jockeys.

The sampler, which is obviously used to record pieces of songs to be played back in a song, is a common tool. Turntables are a great tool for mixing songs together or just to play music by means of a long-playing phonograph record or an LP. They are highly used by disk jockeys when they are playing live. The most powerful and widely used Electronic tool is the computer. By using the computer, a disk jockey can recreate any sound, instrument, or song all in a real time environment. The computer has brought Electronica music to a whole new level.

Hip Hop, or rap music began as a largely black, inner-city phenomenon of the late '70s and early '80s. It was originally a strictly live idiom, performed at clubs and parties. This way of playing music was a great way to bring great energy to its audience on a personal level.

Through the disk jockeys in Jamaica with accompaniment by their vocalists, Hip Hop began to evolve into growing culture of rhythmic phrases and chants over and between bass heavy dub LPs. Hip Hop used this same style but often rhymed over funk and disco beats and breaks, a technique developed by DJ Kool Herc in the mid '70s. Hip Hop also established the DJ innovations of cutting, back spinning and scratching using a turntable, largely through the work of Grand Master Flash. These founding fathers of Hip Hop created the precedent for Hip Hop artists of the world today.

Hip Hop was known for crossing over into different genres of music like Rock and Electronica. The first occurrence of mixing rock and rap together was Run DMC's remix of Aerosmith's song "Walk this way". Also, by mixing high bpm Breakbeat with Hip Hop vocalists created Drum and Bass, a sub-genre of Electronica. This experimentation gave a new idea to Hip Hop artists to calibrate with different music styles.

Electronica and Hip Hop have two totally different sounds. They are composed differently and most of the time Hip Hop uses more of an analog feel as opposed to

Electronica's digital feel. Electronica and Hip Hop use the same idea of sampling and calibrating with other genres to make new and interesting sounds. Even though each genre has their unique sound, Electronica and Hip Hop were both created in the same way. They might not have come from the same place, but both these genres originated from the live underground scene feeding off their fans' energy and support.