

FLIPPENDO!

Paris, France

OT05: What attracted you to chiptune music?

FL: I started making music at a very young age. First with the electric guitar, then with computers. Whenever I made a track in a DAW, I always included chiptune / fakebit elements. In 2022, I was working on an EP and did exactly that, but I was tired of using the same old plugins and synths to reproduce the sound of a chip. I was already listening to a lot of different genres and I already liked chiptune, but I'd never really wanted to make it myself before that. My first console was a Game Boy, so I looked for ways to make music on it and discovered LSDJ. I realized that several of my favorite chiptune artists were using it, so I did my best to speedrun all the tutorials I could find on the subject. After a few days, I was convinced and decided to order a Game Boy and a cartridge. Making music on handheld consoles is really the best, the sound design in LSDJ is great fun, you can make music from anywhere and it's something I've been looking for for years!

OT05: Does Paris have much of a chiptune scene?

FL: It sure does, but I'm not really involved. It's not because I don't want to, it's just that I barely know people who are in the scene in France, apart from Pouale, with whom I have the pleasure of chatting and exchanging ideas from time to time. I'm pretty new to the scene, and my friends are not really into chiptune, so it makes it hard to find events that I could go to with them. I only have a vague idea on how to make live shows with Game Boys, I'd love to try it myself. Maybe this year?

OT05: Chiptune as a genre encompasses a broad spectrum of musical styles. Do you feel that it's important to maintain a particular type of sound or style as a chiptune artist?

FL: I really don't, and I hope my music doesn't sound the same in a few years' time! Even though I'm pigeonholed as a chiptune EDM producer, EDM is by far the genre I listen to the least on a daily basis, but it's incredibly fun to make!

Personally, I love it when artists take unexpected turns. You can really hear when an artist is having fun exploring

Mitch Murder, for example, has been doing it lately, Dubmood comes to mind as well. I definitely want to explore more musical styles myself. As for people saying that this or that isn't "real chiptune" or even "real music", I couldn't care less. You should make music for yourself because it's fun, and get people on board who are willing to join you.

OT05: You credit Gamechangermods in Brooklyn for your modified Game Boy. How important would you say modifications are to original consoles in chiptune music creation?

FL: It really isn't! Unless you're doing circuit bending or adding pitch mods to a console, you can pretty much do anything you want with the good old gray brick you had as a kid! I use the 3x overclocking feature that is built in LSDJ natively, so I don't need to modify the Game Boy other than "quality of life" upgrades, like backlit screens or line-out for cleaner sound. Modding Game Boys is fun though, customizing them to your own tastes is very satisfying!