



BIT SHIFTER

Brooklyn, NY

OT05: I particularly enjoy when chiptunes feature lyrics, vocals, or voice synthesis. Do you have a favored way to include words in your chip music?

BS: Almost all of my stuff is instrumental, but every now and then I'll do a track where I'm singing. Usually a cover of a song I like & want to "try on." But I've done one or two originals with vocals too. With covers, you've got a preexisting template which makes it straightforward, although there's always room for creative reinterpretation. With originals obviously you're starting from scratch, so there are more challenges. In terms of a favorite way to do it — I guess there are pros and cons to each. I find doing originals more creatively satisfying, but sometimes the temptation to do a particular cover song can be irresistible, and it's fun to find ways to put your own spin on a song you like. These aren't the only two ways a person can put lyrics / vocals into a song of course, but they're the only ones I'm any good at.

OT05: Do you have any programs that you like to use alongside Nanoloop or LSDj?

BS: Not really. I think every track I've done has been either nanoloop alone, or LSDJ alone. I've done dual-Game-Boy synced tracks with two copies of nanoloop or LSDJ, but I don't think I've ever incorporated any other programs.

OT05: In your history with Game Boys as an instrument, are there any modifications that you've found you will always add, likewise are there any that you would never add again?

BS: So far I've only really ever worked with the same two unmodified, off-the-shelf DMGs. At one point I thought I'd dip my toe into the waters of Game Boy mods, which ended up being a bad experience. A modded DMG I bought had a power irregularity (introduced by the mod) that ended up crashing it, and corrupting an LSDJ song I was working on. I recognize it was an isolated thing, but all the same it soured me on the idea of mods for a while. That was a long time ago now, and I know some of the mods that people are doing nowadays seem fantastic. Might splash out for a DMG with an IPS display someday. Don't think I'm gonna modify my two performance Game Boys though. They've been reliable, trustworthy tools that have been with me a long time. I like those two how they are.

OT05: Are your consoles exclusively instruments or do you ever play any video games? If you do, what are some titles you enjoy?

BS: My DMGs are mostly instruments. I've owned other consoles for gaming — Nintendo DS, Game Boy Micro, etc. — but never really got fully immersed in games. Off the top of my head some games I've enjoyed on those platforms: Castlevania: Dawn Of Sorrow; Gunstar Super Heroes; Metroid Fusion, a few others. I did recently pick up a Nintendo Switch (obviously I'm not what you'd call an "early adopter") and have been really enjoying Sea Of Stars. Absolutely incredible music by Eric W. Brown, who chipmusic folks might know better as Rainbowdragoneyes.



Photo Submitted by: Evan HobbsGoblin

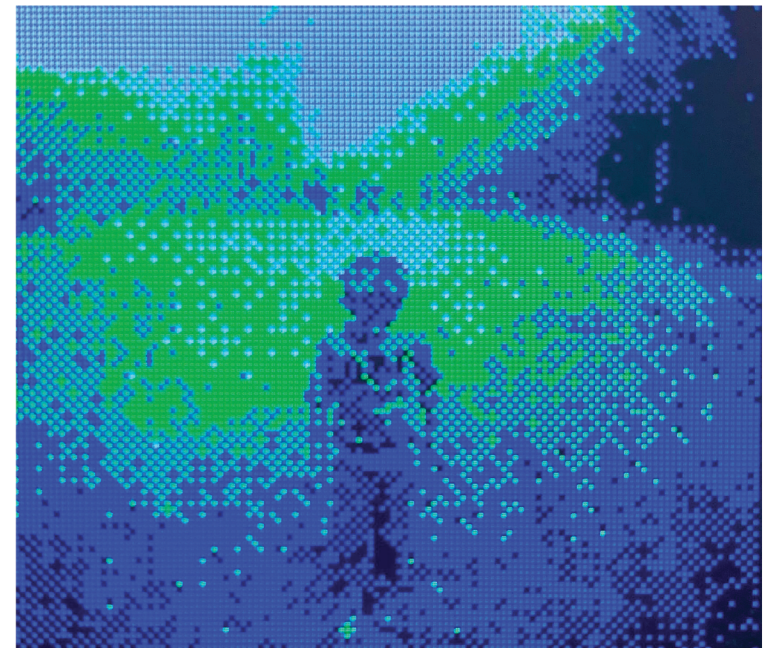


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