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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW: GTRONIC MAKES BEATS IN MOM'S BASEMENT

Kim Reyes • SEP 12, 2013

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GTRONIC (<http://djz.com/tag/gtronic>) is the musical project of Greg, a 27 year-old electronic producer from Antwerp, Belgium. He has managed to rise to the top of the electronic dance music world for his production style of raw, dirty bass lines.

With five EP releases through Steve Aoki's (<http://www.djz.com/dj/steve-aoki>) infamous record label Dim Mak Records (<http://djz.com/tag/dim-mak>), GTRONIC has managed to settle in to his career quite nicely. Growing up, Greg listened to heavier rock and metal artists like Limp Bizkit, AC/DC, and Iron Maiden, which helped provide starting foundation for discovering his own sound — "I think that's why I make these dirty bass lines and trashy sound. I just have this natural flow to go to distortion."

Greg began his career by DJing small parties with vinyl records, but left after two years to pursue his own musical endeavors.

"I DJ'd minimal tech house first, and it was more underground in the beginning of the dance scene," he says. "But after two years, I was tired of DJing because vinyl records were so expensive and I only played at small parties. That's when I started making music on the computer."

At that point, Greg had already accumulated some musical skill from playing the electric guitar.

"I got this musical feeling and thought I had a bigger purpose with my music talent than just DJing and playing records of someone else," he says. "I wanted to use my abilities in music production."

Greg started off by producing more techno-based music, and credits Boys Noize (<http://www.djz.com/dj/boys-noize/>) as a main inspiration of his, as well as Proxy (<http://www.dimmak.com/artist/proxy>), Digitalism (<http://www.djz.com/dj/digitalism/>), Justice (<http://www.djz.com/dj/justice/>), and the rest of the Ed Banger Records (<http://www.edbangerrecords.com/>) crew. His sound has evolved since then to what he describes as music with "gnar, gnar bass lines" and "dirty, heavy bass lines on a techno 4/4 beat."

The filthy basslines that GTRONIC refers to are indeed a signature style of his, since they are what got him noticed.

"I produced this track called 'Iron Man' and it got picked up by The Bloody Beetroots (<http://www.djz.com/dj/the-bloody-beetroots/>) when they started playing it in their sets," he recalls. "Then they contacted me, and got in touch with Steve Aoki about me."

After this initial spurt of fame, GTRONIC soon worked with Steve Aoki to establish a career on Dim Mak Records. "Steve emailed me and asked me if I had other stuff to release, and if I wanted to maybe release on Dim Mak. I was releasing EPs on the Belgium label Lektroluv (<http://www.lektroluv.be/>), but after releasing *Suckerpunch*, my first EP on Dim Mak in 2010, I've been releasing full-time through them."



GTRONIC

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic>)

GTRONIC - Sucker Punch

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic/gtronic-sucker-punch>)

0.00 | 5.19

GTRONIC's newest EP *Strobo* was just released on Sept 10, and marked the fifth EP of his career on Dim Mak Records. Greg explains that *Strobo* serves as a new milestone in his career because it sounds different from his previous work.

"My previous EPs were more of the old school, trashy electronic. After five years of making this kind of music, I wanted to do something else, with a little variation. I was more like, based on techno music, more 4/4 hard stuff, kind of electro."

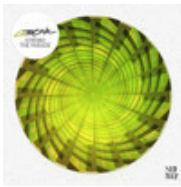
Greg explains the change by noting that he's been trying to figure out an alternate production sound. "Now I'm trying to find the right balance between a more open sound, like a nice, melodic touch that still has this dirty, heavy bass line attached to it."

"My music till now has been really heavy and dirty, and it makes my music more of a niche, like underground type music," he says. "I want to bring it more to the next level for a bigger crowd so I need to find a nice balance between the two."

GTRONIC strives to reach that balance through his release of *Strobo*, which contains two tracks: "Strobo" and "The Parade".

"'Strobo' is more like a combination between a dirty bass line and a nice, emotional melody. It's something else that I wanted to do, so that people don't see me only as this typical producer who makes tracks all the same. I just wanted to show people that I could do something else that has some nice melodies, and that I can put into a track."

"For my more diehard fans who want bass, I produced 'The Parade' because it's more techno," he says.



GTRONIC

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic>)

STROBO EP // DIM MAK Rec

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic/sets/strobo-ep-dim-mak-rec>)

0.00 | 9.23

Greg currently has another side project going on that's more hands on -- he's going forth with his dream of building his own music studio.

"I'm 27 and I still live with my sweet little mother and my sister," he admits. "For me, it's time to move out, and go with my dream to have my own apartment with a professional studio."

Around this time last year, Greg began to work on this project. He had saved up money over the years and took out a loan from the bank. An old two-story apartment with bricks as walls served as the foundation for his project, which would transform the first level into a music studio.

Fans can follow Greg's studio-building journey through a virtual diary (<http://www.gtronic.com/blog/>) on his website.

Currently, GTRONIC works in the basement garage of his house, but it's not an ideal room for music production. "I try to work on the acoustic treatment to make the room sound better, but it's not perfect."

Working from his mom's house hasn't been too unpleasant of an experience, since he feels he's learned a lot from it. Greg says that he has sold over 10,000 Euros worth of hardware equipment and musical instruments because he's learned that spending lots of money on equipment is pointless if you don't have a good sounding room.

"You just need a good computer, studio monitors, and a good sounding room. That's it."



GTRONIC

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic>)

The Proxy - Shut Up (GTRONIC rmx)

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic/the-proxy-shut-up-gtronic-rmx>)

0.00 | 3.52

His transition to equipment simplicity has taken some adjusting, though. "It's a big change because I've gone from all these toys to just a computer, but I'm really looking forward to it."

GTRONIC states that he dreams of working with Deadmau5

(<http://www.djz.com/dj/deadmau5>), Wolfgang Gartner

(<http://www.djz.com/dj/wolfgang-gartner>), and Boys Noize. "Those three are my all-time favorite producers because they're real producers — they know so much about technique and production, and that's what I want to do for the future."

When thinking about the future of his career, Greg says he might stop DJing one day to produce for other people because he remembers that he has to have a back-up plan. However, he insists on moving forward with his goals at this point in his career. "I want to develop GTRONIC to the next level to have a more successful story. That's my number one dream, of course."

Greg hopes that his release of *Strobo* would mark a new "experimental move to reach the U.S. market."

"The whole electro thing is blowing up in the U.S. I hope someday we can connect Europe and the U.S. with music, and that I can play more in the U.S."



GTRONIC

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic>)

GTRONIC - Sergeant Bass (Vocal Mix)

(128kbps)

(<http://soundcloud.com/gtronic/gtronic-sergeant-bass-vocal>)

0.00 | 5.05

Greg promises that future releases will take his sound in a different direction than what's found on his latest EP.

"I have a lot of new music and a new direction, but not the *Strobo* direction. That's just something else in my discography. The next EP will be exciting. I'm really excited to share my new music because it is a new era of GTRONIC, I think."

This new GTRONIC era that Greg is embarking in not only marks a strategic career move, but marks growth for the producer and provides hope for future success.

"After five years, I'm getting older and I grew out of this kind of music. I think you're young and you have a lot of frustrations from school and you wanna create this crazy music, but now I'm more experienced and have more producing skills and technique."

"I want to sound as clean, but as dirty as possible, like The Prodigy. It's really heavy and dirty, but so well produced. My new studio is going to be a big change for me, and I'm looking forward to being in a full-time recording environment."

Keep up with Greg's GTRONIC journey by following him on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GTRONIC>) and SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/gtronic>).

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