



Hans Nieswandt

Hans Is Playing House

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- 7. Werle & Stankowski:** Cologne (Monkey Station Remix) 5:41
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- 15. Planetakis:** Pogo mit Hans *
(*VINYL ONLY BONUS!)

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Hans Nieswandt – the Jack of Clubs around the world – has completed countless remixes throughout his life. Our CD/LP "Hans Is Playing House" is the first collection of remixes that he has done for his favorite artists, compiled and annotated by Nieswandt himself. Browsing the track list, Nieswandt confesses:

Looking at this collection of remixes I did for some of my favorite artists, I realized: all I can do is disco (and house – but that's basically the same to me). Remixing, for me, essentially means making disco versions of songs. Whatever the song, I discofy it, I house it up. It's especially fun to "do it" with a song that never knew it could be disco in the first place. Maybe that's why I've remixed so many songs with sophisticated German lyrics lately – there's a global shortage of that type of disco. What the world needs now is more disco with smart German text. So, in all humbleness, that's the kind of disco I'm delivering here. Welcome to my haus!

Knarf Rellöm Trinity – "Hans Is Playing House"

Originally titled "LCD Is Playing At My House", the song name-drops everybody who is allowed to play at Knarf's house. I felt quite honored to find myself among the chosen few, alongside people like Dizzy Gillespie and Stereo Total, so I jumped at the opportunity to cut it all up and make a signature tune for myself out of it!

Eric D. Clark – "The DJ Song" (Reggae Version)

The only reggae mix I ever did, and what a pleasure to do it for my best man EDC! There are actually three more house mixes I did of this raw and pure expression from the mind of a true DJ, and this reggae version is really just a house mix in disguise – the snare is on the 3 instead on the 2 and 4, if you know what I mean – that's all. You can mix it into any disco set, trust me.

Jens Friebe – "Körper" (Remix)

I liked his earlier albums, when he was more electronic. When he went more rock, musically, I was happy to use the complex lyrics of "Körper", simplify them and put them on top of an easy, poppy disco beat. Like editing a novel down to a headline.

Die Zimmermänner – "Mama Baby Joe" (Boogie Mix)

Ages ago, I played guitar in a band in Hamburg, and this song was actually part of our repertoire. The band had been started by former members of Die Zimmermänner, and when they reunited a few years ago, they picked up that song again. When they asked me to choose a song for a remix, the decision was really easy!

Monochrom – "Ebay The Force" (Disco Version)

This song is not really by a band or anything – Monochrom is an art magazine and a bunch of Situationist art activists based in Vienna. But they have this tendency to gravitate towards pop music, so they made a compilation with songs created by freaks from within their circles. Originally, this is more like a protest folk song sung in the Austrian dialect with no disco leanings at all, but I changed all that, of course. Now it's an incredibly strange disco track.



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Die Zukunft – “Die Zukunft als Party” (Die-Zukunft-als-Hans-Nieswandt-Remix)

A new project by the legendary Knarf Rellöm and the splendid singer/songwriter Bernadette LaHengst. The original album version of “Die Zukunft als Party” is a nice disco song in itself, so I turned it more towards old-school house with a swing quantization, skippy snare rolls and a very cheap synth saxophone hook, as they liked it back in the days and as they like it again today.

Werle & Stankowski – “Cologne” (Monkey Station Remix)

Great duo from, of course, my city of Cologne, which has unfortunately now been disassembled – the duo, not the city (yet). When they asked me to do this mix I was running a really pumping, monthly underground house night with my mate Uh-Young Kim called Monkey Station. So that was the kind of ape-crazy-spirit that I had in mind when I was doing the mix.

JaJönigJa – “Wie ich den Edit verfluche” (Disco Edit of “Wie ich die Bank verfluche”)

Probably the best German band, definitely the most underrated. “Wie ich die Bank verfluche” is an old song that I loved for years, but only recently realized that you can easily count 123 beats per minute in a standard 4/4 pattern to this otherwise drumless beauty. So what I did was just to put a simple dance beat or two under it, did some trimming and shaving and there you have it: a brand new outfit for your next paranoid visit to the bank!

Universal Gonzalez – “Verkaufen” (Dance Edit)

Another great and underrated band from Hamburg. “Verkaufen” is a compelling song about relationships, about splitting up and facing the consequences, like selling the house you never moved into in the first place. Again, it's a matter of counting, musically at least. When you flip the rhythm of this slow ballad, it becomes an uptempo, noisy jazz house number!

Eisen – “Besonders” (Club Mix) (*Supermusic*, 2000)

A follow-up-project to the well-known band M.Walking On The Water, Eisen never made it really that far, though they had great potential. Originally, “Besonders” is much more downtempo, and you could have done a hip hop mix much more easily. But I opted for disco, of course, because that's the only thing I can do.

Barbara Morgenstern – “Deine Geschichte” (Disco Version)

One of my favorite German artists, I was really happy when Barbara gave me permission to make a disco version of “Deine Geschichte“. Her own music is so much more artistic and sophisticated than mine, but I love using her deep lyrics in their full glory on top of my shallow disco grooves.

Mittekill – “Wasser oder Wodka” (Disco Mix)

Adding choir voices by pitch-shifting the lead vocal was my trip for a few weeks, as can be heard in this mix for the discopunx Mittekil. “Wasser oder Wodka” also flips the message of the song from a crystal clear question to a more nebulous statement: “Der Beat ist der Hocker” – “The beat is the stool”. Now think about that!

Decomposed Subsonic – “Blaue Löwen” (HNO House Mix)

I worked a lot with Hartmut Wessling's Decomposed Subsonic and Mathias Schaffhäuser's Ware Records, mixing stuff at Hartmut's Xtreme Sound studios, and releasing an album and various remixes on Mathias' label. Hartmut is such a perfectionist in sound design and mix control that you wouldn't believe it. Remixing him, I used a lot of his original sounds so he wouldn't have any reason to complain about my punkish disorderliness. Turned out to be a wise and crisp decision!

Festland – “Sirenen” (Disco Mix)

Another favorite band of mine, Festland from Essen, also doesn't get the attention they deserve. Though they're actually really good musicians, their heads are constantly in the DJ booth or programming, because that's another part of their personality! The hardest thing about remixing them was picking the track, because every one of their tracks would have made a good one. I finally went for the sirens (not the air raid ones, but the Greek mythological ones) and their great habit of luring people into “drowning in a rush of tones”, approaching the issue with a subtle italo house flavor.