

CHICAGO ELECTRONIC COMPILATION - (CD-R by Boxmedia)

As an introduction into the electronic music scene of Chicago this is a CD-R well worth taking notice of. Twelve bands/composers each present one track on this almost entirely filled disc. Black Dot Corporation are first with a subtle track consisting of high clicks 'n pops. It gradually builds up tension and then fades away. Well done. Koura are next, with a piece consisting of electro drones and pulses. Later on other sounds are added. Some noisier parts follow, but all structured very well within the whole track. Wheaton Research seem to get their sound sources from outside the computer (although that is almost impossible to tell nowadays...). A dark fluttering sound is the basis for their track, on top of which pulses and other sounds are added. In the end they take over, and a good end is made to the piece. Petra Klusmeyer does stuff with skipping CD's, but in such a subtle and elegant way, that this is not a problem at all (reminded me of Nachtplank actually, but even more subdued). A very fine piece. Ernst Long uses different sampled sounds and generous amounts of silence for his track. A quiet and concentrated piece ending with a 'blast' of noise. Coeurl is up next with a more or less collage like piece, followed by drony sounds. A little noisy, but not too much. A very atmospheric piece. Nautical Almanac are working their way through a stack of records and cut everything up pretty heavily every now and then. Very good sounds in an uncompromising mix. Anti-dynamical Relay start their track with distorted pulses, then add other distorted stuff. Drum machines and FX? Prerecorded sounds edited live? All of this? I wouldn't know, but it's got tension. Seafoam use only one sinewave, which is interrupted at irregular intervals and are panned in such a way that space becomes an altogether different experience. Flexible Products seem to be the odd one out on this compilation, with a track using a drum machine and some tones (!) to create a poppy track, which has been mixed in a very very wacky way. Very funny piece. Gunshop present a subdued track of noise and pulses, occasionally bursting out into the open, and later going to the max. Good tension. Last one is Aerospace Soundwise with a pretty quiet track with different sound sources combined very well. Another good one. All in all this is a very good production (just one minor note: the tracks are edited almost directly together, which makes listening harder than necessary). If you're considering looking into the electronic scene in Chicago, this a good way to start your homework. (MR)  
Adress: [www.boxmedia.com](http://www.boxmedia.com)