Ruby Jane

01

Vinyl collection as a teenager, parents jukebox

First gig 3:45 terrible

I was not ready to juggle my set for a packed dancefloor

Jumpstart pitch

Counting beats (suggestion from mentor)

Feel the nature of the rhythm

Funk hard to beatmatch

Four-four easier to beatmatch

Hip hop instrumentals (looped = not erratic like an organic song)

I was very proud- I loved vinyl so much. And I was one of the later bloomers when it came to switching to digital. I really resisted it. And I talked shit about Serato and I'd, you know I'd say things like: 'You're playing in your own city, you can bring a crate!' you know, but then I realized that, you know, the world is changing, everything's getting digital...

02

Digital: so much new music, awesome remixes, compete with digital DJs in terms of selection

Serato loop function, cue points

Parallel waveforms (horizontal or vertical)

Doesn’t use it for beatmatching

Sync button story

Rock a party, make it sound good

Appreciate radio DJing (no pressure to get a bunch of drunk people dancing)

I had a guy at a party one time come over to me and he's like "Oh, you're using Serato, not a lot of people use that." And I actually didn't even bring my turntables, I was just using my laptop that day, 'cause it was like a house party. So I was like I'll take the opportunity to just practice playing through my laptop and just using hot keys, like commands. Because if you're in a bind and there's no CDJs or jogwheels or, you know, it's good practice I guess, to be flexible that way. I only just learned how to use CDJs. Not even CDJs with CDs, like I have done that, but using Serato with CDJs, I learned how to do that, finally. But um, anyway he came up to me, he's like "where's your sync button?" and I was like "what do you mean?" he's like "Well how do you lock the pitches so that both tracks are beatmatched?" I'm like "I'm doing it manually." He's like "WHAT?!" (laughs) He didn't know that people did that. I think he was more like a musician who sorta just would play like- would DJ at house parties and stuff, kinda like a bedroom DJ, you know? I think he was just, he was a producer. But he couldn't believe that I was actually.... I'm like "I'm old school, guy". #00:06:05-9#

And the funny thing is I didn't even know that it existed. So he didn't know that it didn't exist, and I didn't know that it was possible to have that.

03

Digging: blogs, connecting the dots (connections between artists)

Records: dusty basement, nothing’s organized

Not so many places in montreal anymore

Spending less money on records, but loves 45s

1000 records (without 45s)

Planning a purge

Minimize collection to favorites

Digital collection: not so well organized

categorized by styles of dance (main folders)

prepare for wefunk jam: don’t wanna play the same songs, play stuff she’s never played before

Serato crate: “tonight” (“tonight early” & “tonight”)

Loose collection of tracks (not necessarily albums)

iTunes on shuffle

figure out how many gigs of music

nick -> patch to download from blogs

ruby’s boyfriend went through nick’s downloaded stuff, ruby too

nick: you think he’s doing his homework, but he’s cheating cuz he’s smart

making cider together, listening on shuffle

04

Laptop: always stone-faced, even before laptop

Looking at mixer

But when she’s only using laptop

Controller

Vinyl: no conversations with people so much

Question of familiarity with records

Not a lot of compromises (programming)

Happy to play current soulful stuff

Not full-time job

Requests from girls even when radio friendly music is playing

Funk & hip hop scene in germany

Yeah. I have a bad habit. It was like this always from the beginning and I actually had someone call me on it even recently. Like I was in New Orleans and my friend who listens to Wefunk - I met him over online - and then last year when we went we hung out with him and then this year as well and so we'd become friends. And he saw me DJ for the first time, he's like "yeah, you're really good, but you're such a stone face!" Cuz I guess I'm concentrating and I'm thinking and I'm like "okay, what am I gonna play next?" I don't really look like I'm enjoying myself (laughs). So yeah, when I've had enough to drink and it's like "wooooo! party time!" having a good time, yeah I usually don't have such a straight face, but I have a bad habit of like pursing up my lips and kind of focusing inward and not, I do look at the audience but I'm observing them like critically to see if they're responding to the music and I think that the laptop probably doesn't help to that extent. #00:01:25-9#

I might spend too much time like staring at- you know what if anything I'm just looking- I actually don't look that much at the laptop, I spend more time looking at the mixer, ummm (pauses), just thinking. #00:01:44-4#

Yeah, exactly, I don't think that the laptop really... But that said, if I'm not playing on turntables and i'm playing internally on my laptop: yeah! It detracts from my experience from the audience because I'm like this all the time. you know? whereas with the turntables you're- it's physical and... and I'm jogging the track with a turntable and... I don't need to be staring at the screen to do that. Whereas when you're playing internally you constantly have your hands either on the keyboard or using a controller or whatever, so...

05

Instagram guy

Female issue: likes different music , softer (but doesn’t wanna be stereotypical)

Try to play for the ladies

DJs deck hogs

Maybe more likely to be booked for novelty factor

Was part of a female DJ collective

06

Nothing in feminine gender that should be keeping you from DJing

Can of worms

Women love music, more likely to dance

Pay your dues

A couple of years until she felt like a DJ

Sound quality of files

Record digging: poker face, secret places

My friend Mary, she's a DJ, she's kind of not very active anymore, but she really taught me how to dig. We would go to the fleamarket and you'd move fast, you know, you'd just really dig through and it helped to be able to listen. Sometimes she would bring a portable turntable so we could listen to the records. My friend Ilya did that as well. But the trick was if you found a gem, like in a dusty bin, you didn't get excited about it. You had to have a pokerface. Because if you were like "oh my god I can't believe I found this!" then the clerk or the owner would see how excited you were and jack the price up. #00:08:44-1#

So that was one thing. And then there's digging spots in the city. Secret places where there's- you know, it was dirt cheap and you had to dig. And you tried to keep that a secret from other DJs in the city. So there's this one spot that was always a secret. It's no longer. It doesn't exist anymore. But like, I didn't even tell my boyfriend when I first started dating him. Cuz it was a secret. I was sworn to secrecy by my friend Mary.

07

Warm sound of records

No skips, but dustiness and scratchiness

“records are supposed to be played”

Cleaning records4

Advice for future generations: learn to beatmatch without technology

Not a good dj through math, but body & feeling

Understand nature of rhythms internally

**Back in the day when I had that- my friend tell me "count out the beats" I was like "how is math gonna get me to be a good DJ", you know? It's not like I can count it and then compute as I'm mixing that this is faster than the other. It's not gonna work for me that way. I can't be counting and thinking about the beat at the same time. Maybe my brain doesn't work that way. But if I moved my hips I could tell that one song was off-beat, you know? Like taking the time to feel it in my body. It's something that's internal. And relying on software to beatmatch doesn’t always help you understand the nature of the rhythms. Understand it internally.**

**Interview: advice for future generations**

**You have to learn how to beatmatch without the technology, and use your ears and your body to feel the beat. This skill allows you to be more flexible. After all (?) you have know your tracks well and understand the nature of the rhythms.**

08

Übergang von 07: usb key vs. vinyl: vibrator vs boyfriend

Records: like the cover art, a person’s work of art

You have to learn how to beatmatch without the technology, and use your ears and your body to feel the beat. This skill allows you to be more flexible. You have to know your tracks well and understand the nature of the rhythms.