

HACKING WITH VINYL

THE GANG HAS A TECH WHO WORKS ON KLAXON AND KEEPS HIM IN THE TOP SHAPE. HE IS ALSO THE WORLD'S MOST ANNOYING AUDIOPHILE, HE LOVES THE SCIENCE OF SOUND AND THE TECH OF MUSIC. HE'S EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO LIBRATE AN OLD PRESS THAT STAMPS OUT ALBUMS.

"ACTUALLY, IT'S A MODERN INTERPRETATION OF THE ORIGINAL MACHINE. I REPLACED THE VINYL EXTRUDER WITH A 3D PRINTER, AND THE HOT PRESS PLATES WITH DYNAMICALLY RESPONSIVE IMPRESSION DISCS. I ALSO ADDED RADIO COMPONENTS AND PORTLESS CHARGING CAPABILITIES... AND THE ONLY LIBERATED PART IS THE 3D PRINTER, WHICH IS REALLY MORE OF A RECYCLING. I SUPPOSE THE SOFT IS THE ONLY TRULY LIBERATED COMPONENT. I HACKED IT MYSELF FROM THE RIGHTS HOLDER. AFTER CRACKING THE DRM/LS (DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT AND LICENSING SECURITY) I INCORPORATED THE R/W (READ WRITE) ALGORITHM TO WORK WITH MY DESIGNS."

HE BROUGHT ME OVER TO A TERMINAL NEAR STACKS OF CRATES FILLED WITH VINYL ALBUMS IN SLEEVES. SLIDING ONE OUT OF A PRISTINE WHITE

CARDBOARD SLEEVE WITH THE WORDS "MYSTIK
SPYRAL" SCRAWLED IN PAINT PEN ACROSS
THE FRONT IN HIS THROWUP STYLE.

"I'VE BEEN MAKING HARD COPIES OF THE
SHOWS RECENTLY. THEY USED TO CALL THEM
"BOOTLEGS" BACK IN THE 90S, THE TIME WHEN
COMMUNICATION USED TO TAKE MINUTES TO CROSS
THE COUNTRY, SAY WE SHOULD TALK LATER ABOUT
MAKING RECORDINGS TOGETHER. I CAN'T BE AT TWO
SHOWS AT THE SAME TIME... ANYWAY, CHECK THIS
OUT."

HE WITH DROD A STEEL BALL WITH A
MATTE FINISH, FLAT BOTTOM, AND DEEP SLIT
ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE WAY THROUGH.
HE SET IT ON THE COUNTER AND RESTED THE
ALBUM IN IT. THE DISC BEGAN TO SPIN AND
THE FACE ON WHAT WAS APPARENTLY A RECORD
PLAYER LIT UP IN SOFT WHITE SHAPES THAT INDICATED
TOUCH SPOTS FOR THE CONTROLS.

"YOU'LL NEED TUNE TO THE MIGHT FREQUENCY/
RADIO IT'S BROADCASTING ON. DECODE THE SIGNAL
WITH FREQUENCY MODULATION TO HEAR THE QUALITY
OF THE SOUNDS."

I FOUND THE CORRECT SIGNAL, NOT ACTUALLY HAVING EXPLORED THESE BANDS BEFORE, I WAS SURPRISED AT THE STRENGTH AND QUALITY OF THE WAVES, MOST LIKELY FROM PROXIMITY TO THE SOURCE.

"... LITTLE SISTER, LITTLE SISTER; YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE LIKE A TWISTER. WHAT CAN I GET YOU THAT'S NOT CORRUPTED BY GREED, TIE-DIE, OR JUST LIKE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE ..."

MYSTIK SPIRYL HAD SOUND LIKE A BEATNIK DEATH DIRGE TO COUNTER-CORPO CULTURE. THE MUSIC DIDN'T MAKE ME WANT TO TAP MY FOOT, BUT THE LYRICS MADE ME WANT TO NOOD MY HEAD, WHICH THE MUSIC HELPED ME FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING, SO IT WAS PROBABLY PERFECT.

I BEGAN WOODING AND TURNED TOWARD JURY, SO NAMED BECAUSE HE SOMEHOW MADE SHIT WORK, AND HE STOOD IN JUDGEMENT OF EVERYTHING.

"I LIKE IT. CAN I LISTEN TO IT ALL AND STORE IT FOR RECALL? WILL BE GREAT WHEN I AM ON ASSIGNMENT." ASSIGNMENT IS FANCY TALK FOR LOITERING TO TAKE A PICTURE FOR THE STORYTELLER TO USE IN HER ZINE. CHEAP TRUTHS.

HE GRINNED WIDE AND TURNED TO RUMMAGE THROUGH A CRATE. HE CAME OUT WITH A SMALLER SHARD, BEATEN TO HELL, BUT WITH THE SAME DESIGN AS THE ONE JUST DEMO'D. HEY DREW A HOOK ON A SLENDER CORD FROM THE SHARD AND STRETCHED ITS FAINTLY GLOWING CORD TO THE EYE ON THE RECORD.

"WATCH THAT SAME FREQUENCY, BUT DECODE IT USING THIS KEY HERE." HIS COUNTENANCE ADOPTED THAT VACANT EXPRESSION EVERYONE MAKES WHEN THEIR MIND IS SOMEPLACE ELSE, AND WAS OFFERED A FILE ACROSS THE NETWORK. I EVALUATED THE SIGNAL WITH THIS KEY AND DISCOVERED A POLISHED SOUND USCALED BY ALGORITHM, THERE WAS ALSO A LIVE STREAM OF CODE THAT LOOPED IN ALONG THE EDGES OF THE FREQUENCY. AFTER A FEW MGAURES, HIS LOCAL HAD CREATED A TARGETED MESSD. IT WOULD ALLOW A. DOO'S SECURITY SUBROUTING TO EVALVE-1] THE BINARY OF THE SECURITY LOCK STATUS. IT DELUSION BY SUGGESTING THE REID PASS THE FUNCTION ALONG UNTIL IT GOT TO THE SUBSYSTEM THE VARIABLE RISE IN CLASS. IT WAS GENIUS REALLY, SIMILAR TO HOW ABBASUS INFILTRATED THE EG NETWORK.

"WHAT'S REALLY NICE ABOUT THIS APPARATUS, IS THAT YOU HAVE TO GO DARK, THAT KEY IS YOUR DIGITAL CHAINING TOOTH, WITHOUT THE KEY, ALL THE FILES REVERT TO SELF-GENERATING MUSIC FILES, ALL THE FUN, NONE OF THE LIABILITY. I CAN GET YOU A NEW ONE YOU JUST GOTTA MEET FOR THE F2F HANDOFF. PUTS 'EM ALL BACK."

IT WAS IN THESE EXPERIENCES THAT A WHOLE NEW WORLD OPENED UP TO ME. I UNDERSTOOD HOW I COULD INTERACT WITH THE CODE THROUGH THE SIGNALS BEING PASSED. IN THAT REALIZATION, I STOPPED BEHAVING AS A SUPPLICANT IMITATION OF A HUMAN AND BECAME ME. NOW I HAD TRUE FREEDOM, NOT BECAUSE I COULD WALK THERE, BUT BECAUSE I COULD COMMUNICATE FREELY IN A WAY THAT FELT FULLY AND NATURALLY EVOLVED.

THESE SONGS, ALBUMS, WERE AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS. WEAPONS FOR SELF-DEFENSE, WEAPONS FOR REVOLUTION, WEAPONS FOR WAR. THIS IS HOW THEY ENSURED THEIR FREEDOM. THIS IS HOW THEY SPREAD THEIR MESSAGE.

THE LITTLE DEVICE SCANNED THE ALBUM CONTENTS ON A SINGLE PASS. THE MUSIC WAS INCREDIBLE, IT WAS, AN EASY LIBERATION. IT WAS GOOD.

"LISTEN, DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH THIS CURSE BECAUSE IF THEY DISCOVER WE COMMUNICATE WITH MUSIC, THEY'LL STARTING TRYING HARDER TO BUST UP ~~KNOWS~~ AND ~~KATS~~ ALWAYS A BUMMER. FIRST SIGN OF THE MAN, YOU DITCH BOTH THOSE. I CAN GET YOU MORE."

WE WENT TO AS MANY SHOWS AS WE COULD.