

= Kill the DJ =

" Kill the DJ " is a song by American punk rock band Green Day . It was released as the second single from the band 's ninth studio album , ¡ Uno ! , on August 14 , 2012 . The song was recorded at Jingtowntown Studios from February 14 to June 26 , 2012 , and was released on the record labels Reprise Records and Warner Bros. A music video , directed by Samuel Bayer , was released on September 4 , 2012 .

The song takes influences from dance music , a departure for the band . " Kill the DJ " was compared to The Clash albums Sandinista ! (1980) and Combat Rock (1982) , as well as the output of the band The Rapture . " Kill the DJ " was based on " static and noise " ; it was an " imagery of waterboarding and torture straight into the dance club " . The song appeared on charts worldwide and received mixed reviews from critics .

= = Production and release = =

Green Day began to record material for the albums ¡ Uno ! , ¡ Dos ! and ¡ Tré ! on February 14 , 2012 . During the sessions , Mike Dirnt asked the frontman Billie Joe Armstrong to write a song with a " four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor " rhythm . After the release of " Oh Love " , the lead single from the album trilogy on July 16 , 2012 , the band revealed the artwork of " Kill the DJ " during a press release on July 30 , 2012 . The band performed the song eight days ahead of its release at a secret show held at the Echoplex on August 6 , 2012 .

BBC Radio 1 presenter Zane Lowe played the censored version of " Kill the DJ " on August 13 , 2012 . The next day , the single was made available on the iTunes Store . The song 's accompanying music video premiered on YouTube on September 4 , 2012 , to coincide with the release of the album trilogy 's third single " Let Yourself Go " on September 5 . A teaser was previously uploaded on the channel on August 29 , 2012 .

= = Theme and composition = =

" Kill the DJ " is a dance @-@ punk song that Armstrong states is close to " straight @-@ up dance music " with a " four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor " rhythm ; he compared the overall production of the song to The Clash 's 1980 album , Sandinista ! , Ian Dury 's " Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll " by and Tom Tom Club 's " Genius of Love " .

The band said that while producing the song , they attempted to find out " how to make dance music " without turning themselves into a dance act . Armstrong said it was the first time the band had written a dance song . Michael Roffman of Consequence of Sound compared the song with the works of The Rapture and The Clash 's 1982 album , Combat Rock ; he said it was " strictly for basement dancefloors everywhere " . According to Armstrong , the lyrics of " Kill the DJ " can be considered as " a sweeping political statement " rather than being interpreted as " a comment on electronic music figures " . He told Rolling Stone the song is about " static and noise ... Like this government cannot , will not , agree with itself . They refuse to make it work . Right , left ? it doesn 't matter . It blows your mind and pisses you off . It 's a song about being drunk , going through this chaos , feeling fucked up and all you want to do is get more drunk " .

Todd Martens of Los Angeles Times wrote that the word DJ in " Kill the DJ " does not signify a real DJ but another figure . He compared " Kill the DJ " to " The Static Age " , a song on Green Day 's album 21st Century Breakdown (2009) , which was " a foaming @-@ at @-@ the @-@ mouth guitar rant that everyone 's pundits , politicians , celebrities ' should stop babbling and shut up " . He added , " [Kill the DJ] drops some cursory nods to war and religion in the opening bars , but soon brings the imagery of waterboarding and torture straight into the dance club " .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Kill the DJ " was directed by Green Day 's longtime

collaborator Samuel Bayer , who previously directed the clip for the band 's previous single , " Oh Love " , and all the videos for their album American Idiot (2004) . The band announced the release of the clip with a teaser video which was uploaded to their YouTube channel on August 29 , 2012 . The teaser video featured several scenes from the video and a brief sample of the ending of the track . The full video premiered on September 4 , 2012 . The video starts with a black @-@ and @-@ white clip of the band riding motorcycles through a desert and finding their way into a nightclub . The band members walk through the club while others dance . As they perform in the club , two young women fight and some bottles are broken . Near the end , both women have a " bloodbath " ; they are depicted with blood on their faces and clothes while they continue to dance .

= = Critical reception = =

" Kill the DJ " was included in Zane Lowe 's Hottest Tracks of 2012 ; it finished second , while " Calling (Lose My Mind) " by Sebastian Ingrosso and Alesso came first . Jack Brad , writing for Hive Magazine , said the song was a " fun and funky " track showcasing a different musical direction for the band . He also said it encompassed a " catchy melody and ... infectious chorus " that proves the band was capable of experimenting with new musical styles on every new production , citing Warning (2000) and Nimrod (1997) as examples . David Renshaw from Gigwise said " Kill the DJ " ' s music video was not as violent as previous clips by the band ; he said , " those who attended the band 's brilliant Reading Festival set in August will testify " that things can get more violent than scenes in the video .

David Greenwald of Billboard magazine described " Kill the DJ " as a " profanity @-@ laced and Clash @-@ channeling " track . Zara Golden of VH1 said of the video , " The hit is only a symbolic one , though , and the only real violence to be had here is a slaying guitar riff . Rather , this is an assault against the dubbed @-@ out sound that seems to be dominating today ' s air waves , Green Day ' s own and only pretend bloody dubstep demolition . " Todd Martens of Los Angeles Times , criticizing the single , said , " It 's all played rather straight . ' I 'll pick up what 's left in the club , ' Armstrong sings suspiciously , and the video released Tuesday doesn 't do much to present the song as a statement " . Alex Young , writing for Consequence of Sound said the opening clips of the band driving motorbikes were irrelevant . Young said , " There 's also a random scene of the band riding dirt bikes through the desert , which doesn 't really make sense in the context of the video but seems like a good way to spend an excess video budget " .

= = Chart positions = =