

= Flicker ( song ) =

" Flicker " is a song recorded by American electronic music producer Porter Robinson . It was released on July 28 , 2014 as the fourth single from his debut studio album Worlds ( 2014 ) . Robinson wrote , produced , and performed the track . Musically , the song contains elements of disco and hip @-@ hop , as well as sampling of soul music . Vocally , the song contains a text @-@ to @-@ speech voice incorrectly translating " never seen " Japanese song titles that have been chopped and screwed in a rap @-@ like style .

An official music video for the single premiered on August 14 , 2014 , and involves footage of Japan filtered with effects including those of 8 @-@ bit video games . The song was well @-@ received from critics , and was a hit on the American Dance / Electronic Songs chart .

= = Composition = =

With " Flicker " , one of Porter Robinson 's favorite songs of his debut studio album Worlds ( 2014 ) , he wanted to experiment with samples of soul music , which he became a fan of ever since he listened to his favorite album , Daft Punk 's second studio record Discovery ( 2001 ) . The result was a hip @-@ hop @-@ style instrumental that he felt was " incomplete " with only drums and the phased samples . He didn 't initially plan " Flicker " to be a track on Worlds until some time later when he was using a translation website to translate " song titles that would never be seen " incorrectly into Japanese , and then put the Japanese text into a text @-@ to @-@ speech program for it to be converted into a WAV file for him to " cut it into a rap " which he called a " charming little thing " . Finally , he composed the lead melody and chord progression .

Robinson described " Flicker " as more of a " journey " than a pop song , saying that it goes " to a lot of different places " structure @-@ wise . The text @-@ to @-@ speech speaker on the song says " Watashi wa choudo nani ga juuyou ka mitsukeyou toshite iru , ? translating to ? I ? m just trying to find what is important to me , ? which Robinson said was " nice , because it could have come out as something completely random . " The song also contains influences of disco , opening with a " summer @-@ y disco guitar " before moving into " hands @-@ in @-@ the @-@ air synth blasts " as a critic for Vice magazine described. and that the pitch shifting of the samples was influenced by the works of Jay Dilla . The song 's composition and arrangement was compared by Spin magazine 's Garrett Kamps to the works of Boards of Canada , while other listeners compared the track 's use of soul samples to that of " The Glory , " a track from Kanye West 's third album Graduation ( 2007 ) .

= = Release and promotion = =

" Flicker " premiered on July 28 , 2014 by Vogue magazine for streaming as World ' ' s fourth and final single . The song was initially planned to be the album 's second single after " Sea of Voices , " but Robinson replaced it with " Sad Machine " three days before its release . Robinson wanted Flicker to be the LP 's last single , given that it presented the record 's " cuter " aspect . Upon its release , it debuted at number 37 on the Billboard Dance / Electronic Songs chart in the United States on the issue week of August 16 , 2014 , later re @-@ appearing at its peak of number 34 on the week of August 30 .

A remix by Robinson 's friend Mat Zo , which he said was ? One of the best remixes I 've ever gotten in my life ? , was first heard at his performance at the Monstercat label showcase , and was released on September 9 , 2015 as a single off the official remix album for Worlds . The re @-@ cut was ranked number seven on Billboard 's " The 15 Best Dance / Electronic Remixes of 2015 , " Matt Medved writing that " What Mat Zo 's meandering revision of the Worlds fan @-@ favorite lacks in cohesion , it more than makes up in imagination . " An official animated music video for " Flicker " premiered on August 14 , 2014 . Lucas Villa described the video as " like seeing Japan on a train ride , " where " scenes of the area fly by with an abounding amount of digital alterations . " Footage of Japan in the video is filtered with " stunning visuals " and 8 @-@ bit video game effects . The

video was well received , with Villa calling it " as awe @-@ inspiring as the track itself . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Flicker " was very well @-@ received by critics . Elissa Stolman praised Robinson on the track for not being " overwhelmed by his influences , which seem to extend farther back into history than most producers in his field " , while joking that " it 's just a bit of a shame that disco is one of them . " In his mixed review of Worlds , Derek Staples of Consequence of Sound praised ? Flicker ? and ? Goodbye to a World ? for highlighting " Robinson ? s more intricate big room capabilities " in an album where " Robinson hides his former bass @-@ fueled self behind the album ? s sheen . " Allmusic journalist Andy Kellman said in his review of the album that " Flicker " , along with " Lionhearted " and " Years of War " " have sections muscular and bold enough to move large crowds " , while Las Vegas Weekly critic Mike Prevatt described the track 's hook as having an " emotional payoff . "

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =