

PRESS RELEASE

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SOGAR | BASAL

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Basal is the debut full length recording from Sogar who appeared as the opening track on 12k/LINE's double cd compilation *Between Two Points* in early 2001.

Born in Nuremberg, living in Paris, Sogar's Jürgen Heckel manipulates accidental sound into gentle and brittle melodic textures with arrangements using guitars as well as mixing desks, amplifiers and cables as instruments. The sounds are then further processed and treated in software into light hisses, crackles and granular melodic passages rich and insectile-like swarms of life exploring the extremes of spatial oscillations.

Basal is both calming and engaging, as well as a challenging foray into the future of microscopic music. Ardent fans of 12k's shuttle358 releases will definitely appreciate this exciting new work.

[DE:BUG, GERMANY]

Heckel concentrates on the balance between pads, bell-like octave chimes and bleepy gurgling and rustling, runs everything into itself, lets odd digital splashes run softly into an ocean of FM-synthesis only to send the last remaining sound particles back off on point-guard duty. A night like this can last for ever. Surprises appear up to the last minute, if not because Heckel closes the album with his guitar, which no-one expected. People will be talking about this one for a while. The format of a winner!

[FAQT, US]

Jurgen Heckel, the flesh to Sogar's shadow, twists the six-string, as well as odd non-musical objects and found-sound, behind baffles, effects, and intense processing on his debut, "Basal". Unashamedly bound to the glitch genre, Heckel finds freedom in such constraints by taking the structural route less travelled: the thrumming static on "L2" mimics insistant tribal beats, before being overwhelmed by the soft hail of a thousand satellite signals. "Dek Here" reflects the single-tone studies of Microstoria into a diffused rainbow of feedback and a stuck organ note that would make LaMonte Young nostalgic, while "Blun" stacks beat fragments, crackling with electricity, into a House framework that makes SND sound like Daft Punk! The most fascinating thing about "Basal", though, is that it's vibrant, microscopic beauty was captured live. Top that, Popp!

[ALTERNATIVE PRESS, US]

jurgen heckel's melodies (or the traces of them) spiral out from a still center, sparking and peeling into the air like the cries of digital baby mice. sure, the tracks blend together, but no more than expected in such an unobtrusive, self-effacing genre. those who can spot beauty in the rust patterns on a steel plate, or in a decade's worth of random impact scuffs on a diner counter, will find sounds here of a profoundly pleasing nature.

[VITAL WEEKLY, THE NETHERLANDS]

Quite ambient atmospheres here, but don't be fooled. This has not much to do with ambient music as you may know it, but it extends the ambient music to the clicks and cuts movement, without having the 4/4 beats or the digital coldness found amongst some of those. Sogar is a less hectic Oval and a less poppy Stephan Mathieu, and a more coherent Shuttle358. Sogar found himself a nice spot among the best with a clear own sound. Great discovery of a new artist by a likewise great label.

[GROOVES, US]

It's impressive enough, especially the way in which "Dek Here" builds its quietly contemplative buzzes to a subtle, layered climax. Elsewhere, wire surges and humming drones add to the somewhat melancholic feel. Austere and serious, but that be expected on this label. Certainly a worthwhile addition to the 12k roster.