



Long gone are the nights when mmm-cha, mmm-cha, mmm-cha was the lone techno beat heard in crowded, cavernous clubs across the city. When weekend nights meant Lansdowne Street and Top 40 dance music. And when sometimes you wondered whether you should've just stayed home to play Trivial Pursuit. × Today, Boston boasts a collection of both new and established über-DJs, inhabiting areas like Central and Union squares and feeding their art to a music crowd that's hungry for something different. Performers themselves, they take familiar standbys and mix them with the obscure or inane, and they're steadily building a fan base in the process. Here's a look at some of Boston's most creative spinners.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Head to Mass. Ave.'s Enormous Room on a Monday night and experience the same warm, lounge-y atmosphere it offers on the weekends, but without hordes of barflies. A hole in the brick wall leads to the DJ booth and the heart of Beat Research, offering experimental party music from jungle to dubstep to hip-hop.

Since creating Beat Research in 2004, duo DJ Flack (aka Antony Flackett) and DJ C (aka Jake Trussell) have been traveling and reaching out to music lovers with eclectic taste from New York to Prague. This month marks their third anniversary at the spot above Central Kitchen.

On any given Beat Research night, Flack, of Jamaica Plain, plays familiar pop music and combines it with something more esoteric. For example, he might take the instrumental portion of Kanye West's "Gold Digger" and play it at a fast 45 revolutions per minute. On top of that, he might add a slowed-down "dubby"—a bass-heavy, Jamaican-influenced beat—by Montreal producer Ghislain Poirier.

"Ask a DJ what style they play and they'll say jungle, trance or house," explains C, of Somerville. "We wanted to open it up and introduce people to new styles through the familiar." Blends at Beat Research can range from "Where's Your Head At?" by Basement Jaxx to an instrumental version of Mary J. Blige's "A Family Affair" to Bounti Killa's "Mad Love" before the night is through. One of C's most popular remixes is of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" called "Billy Jungle."

"We've been into the idea of multigenre [blends] since the '90s, but it's just now that the whole genre is becoming popular," says Flack. "We'll play super-poppy stuff everyone knows over a track no one has heard." He says Beat Research isn't a lecture about the coolest music in the world; instead it's a way to