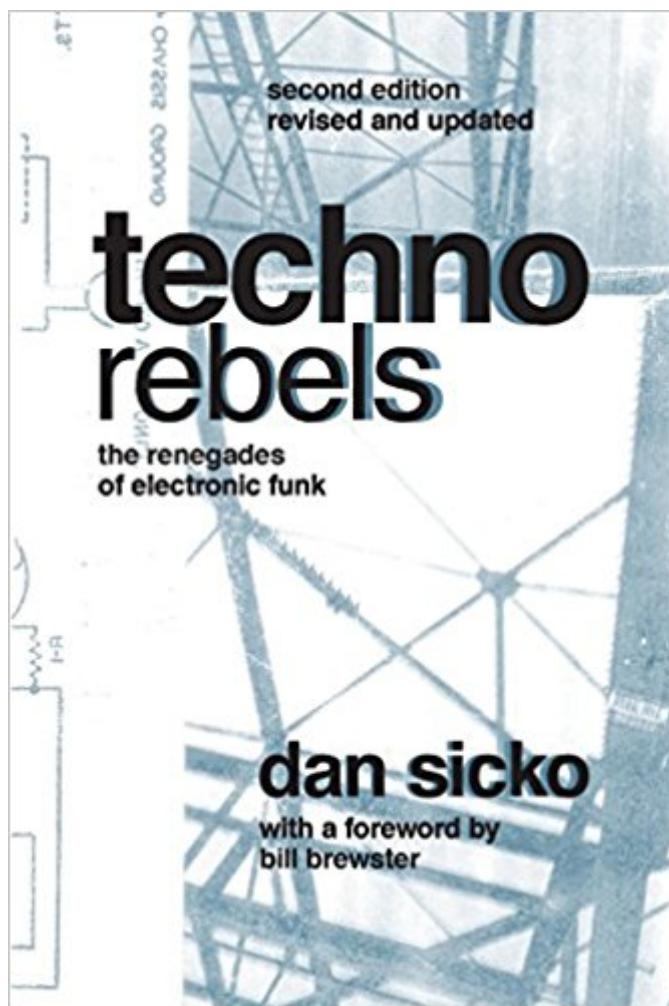


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# Techno Rebels: The Renegades Of Electronic Funk (Painted Turtle)



## Synopsis

When it was originally published in 1999, *Techno Rebels* became the definitive text on a hard-to-define but vital genre of music. Author Dan Sicko demystified techno's characteristics, influences, and origins and argued that although techno enjoyed its most widespread popularity in Europe, its birthplace and most important incubator was Detroit. In this revised and updated edition, Sicko expands on Detroit's role in the birth of techno and takes readers on an insider's tour of techno's past, present, and future in an enjoyable account filled with firsthand anecdotes, interviews, and artist profiles. *Techno Rebels* begins by examining the underground 1980s party scene in Detroit, where DJs and producers like the Electrifying Mojo, Ken Collier, The Wizard, and Richard Davis were experimenting with music that was a world apart from anything happening in New York or Los Angeles. He details the early days of the "Belleville Three"-Juan Atkins, Derrick May, and Kevin Saunderson-who created the Detroit techno sound and became famous abroad as the sound spread to the UK and Europe. In this revised edition, Sicko delves deeper into the Detroit story, detailing the evolution of the artists and scene into the mid-1990s, and looks to nearby Ann Arbor to consider topics like the Electrifying Mojo's beginnings, the role of radio station WCBN, and the emergence of record label Ghostly International. Sicko concludes by investigating how Detroit techno functions today after the contrived electronica boom of the late 1990s, through the original artists, new sounds, and Detroit's annual electronic music festival. Ultimately, Sicko argues that techno is rooted in the "collective dreaming" of the city of Detroit-as if its originators wanted to preserve what was great about the city-its machines and its deep soul roots. *Techno Rebels* gives a thorough picture of the music itself and the trailblazing musicians behind it and is a must-read for all fans of techno, popular music, and contemporary culture.

## Book Information

Series: Painted Turtle

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Painted Turtle; 2 edition (April 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814334385

ISBN-13: 978-0814334386

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #782,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > MIDI, Mixers, etc. #2002 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Music #2504 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

## Customer Reviews

An updated, expanded history of techno music with special attention to its roots in Detroit.

Dan Sicko has written for numerous publications, including Rolling Stone, Wired, and Urb, and is a creative director with a Detroit-area advertising agency.

Dan Sicko deserves credit here for being the first person to attempt to put together a definitive history of techno as a musical genre. Being from Detroit, his strength is his encyclopedic knowledge of the evolution of the techno scene in the Motor City. Although the ultimate relevance of some of the early material about dance parties and such is never adequately explained, Sicko reveals the early development of Detroit techno skillfully and thoroughly. For some other aspects of the history of techno, perhaps a second book by someone else will be necessary. For one thing, once Sicko reaches the point in his narrative where techno becomes a "world-wide" phenomenon, his survey of its proliferation and evolution is sketchy at best, and misleading and partial at worst. With the exception of some acknowledgment of the seventies techno-pop act Kraftwerk, he shortchanges throughout the significant contributions by Germans (e.g., no mention of Sven Vath, Paul van Dyk, or Oliver Lieb, and in his discussion of current and future directions in techno, including offshoots into new musical genres, some unknown artists (undoubtedly of Sicko's acquaintance) are featured prominently, whereas important styles such as trance and progressive house are ignored completely. He also has difficulty conveying what the music is actually like. I realize that expressing the essence of one artistic medium in terms of another is difficult, but someone who has never heard techno would finish the book with no clearer idea of what "techno" actually is than when he or she started. Exactly what techno fans "listen for" in this music and the role that techno plays within their lives/subculture are also important, but never discussed adequately. Still, Sicko is a pioneer here, and deserves credit for what he accomplished in this first attempt at a "history of techno."

At times this book reads like a thesis, but Sicko does his best to present a lot of information in an easy-to-follow and cohesive manner as possible. No matter how familiar the reader is with the

Detroit (and beyond) Techno scene, I would suspect he or she will discover at least some new insights herein. Congrats to Sicko - he's done a terrific job!

They don't make em' like this anymore.

Great Read!

Amazing recap of the history of Detroit Techno music.

10/10.

Meh. Most of this info you already know. The Bellville Three, Atkins, May and Mills ignting the techno flame etc...I was alittle dissapointed..the book was thinner than I had hoped.

this is a must read for anyone in generation X/y and anyone who really cares about music and subgenres that made a difference.

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