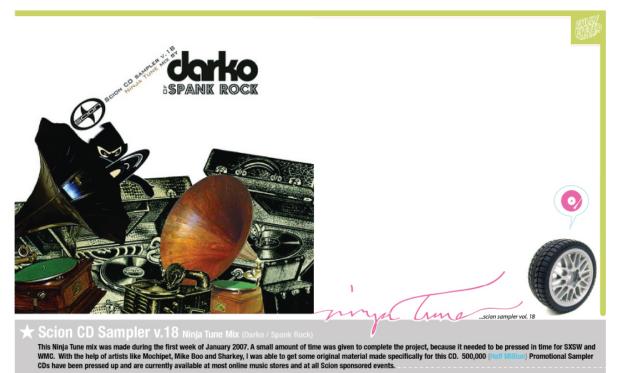
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RE:UP MUSIC REVIEW Various Artist Scion CD Sampler v.18 Ninja Tune Mix by Darko of Spank Rock

Ronnie Darko is not the MC of Spank Rock. He is not one of the original two producers either. But he's hardly fourth string and flexes his DJing and production skills well beyond the required quota to make this mix, as they say "banging". Hard to screw up the opportunity of raiding the Ninja Tune catalog and he by no means does, paying homage to the founding Ninjas (Coldcut and DJ Food), the seasoned Ninjas (Amon Tobin, The Herbaliser and Kid Koala), the sophomore Ninjas (Bonobo and Blockhead; both who's often scrutinized production efforts have already aged like fine wine), and the Big Dada camp (TTC, Roots Manuva and naturally Spank Rock). Darko also takes the opportunity to showcase Ninja Tune's latest offshoot, Counter Records, a sublabel that will focus on rock-oriented artists, and Pop Levi's "Sugar Assault Me Now (Part 2)" is an exciting introduction. In today's short attention span and Serato world, merely segueing a catalog of songs from a label's vault isn't going to herald your compliments and Darko knows this; almost every one of the 15 tracks are mashed-up by two



or three other Ninja songs, but the mix is by no means hastier than it needs to be. Standouts include Hexstatic's "Chase Me" vs. Blockhead's "The Art of Walking" and Mr. Scruff's forever chunky & cheeky "Get a Move On" getting slammed by Spank Rock's "What It Look Like". Darko either grew up on a steady diet of Ninja Tune, or crammed like hell to get the proper essence and balance of old versus new. Fans of Spank Rock who have never heard of Ninja Tune will certainly eat up this non-stop adrenaline rush. Fans of Ninja Tune who are impartial to Spank Rock will be blown away at the connections between the techno crunk of TTC and Amon Tobin's quirky madness. What can I say, Ninja Tune is a great label, and Scion is a great company to commission Darko to concoct something as fresh as this. How do you get one? Order something from TurntableLab.com and you'll get a complimentary copy, or attend your local Scion sponsored event this summer for free scoopage.

-Beau Lamontagne



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