



Artist: Nelman
Title: Straight Ahead EP

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Straight Ahead EP from Nelman is essentially about minimal sound signatures. The title track is the most complex and uses a rich palette of minimal grooves to build up a tapestry of sound that is broad, deep and strong. Contrastingly Broken Details utilises simplicity as its strength and implements a singular synth motif to unique effect. In a similar vein Genesis also uses a primal minimal phrase to convey its message, albeit in a different structure with a different inclination from Broken Details. Aside from his minimal work Nelman is still pressing all the buttons on his hard techno sound and promises he is working on some serious new sonic weapons for the rest of 2013.

Straight Ahead ▶

A smooth minimal creeper that starts life with a dominating tight, crisp snare slap that seems almost out of place and slightly disturbing. Yet as the story unfolds things slowly start to make sense and a new order of sound is established. The smooth way this number breaks down in the midsection and then sneakily rebuilds is a testimony to general overall inherent quality here. Ringing rides and plenty of other percussive energies all find their perfect home in what could be described as a jigsaw puzzle of percussive minimal grooves. Throughout Nelman constantly employs a variety of obscure yet rich sounds from what seems to be a limitless audio vocabulary.



Broken Details ▶

More minimal tech beats with an off-beat feel. This time the bass seems to find an unusual sitting place against the main groove with creates a funky feel. But all this is kind of “laid to one side” by the thumping bass drum that comes crashing in. Nelman employs an 80s sci-fi lazer gun type sound to take proceedings up to the next level, while a strange type of variety is created by pitching down the lazer sound and then raising it up again. Simple ideas that are executed well to induce big impact.

Genesis ▶

This is all about the minimal vibes! Check the little plucky ping pong noise that slowly but surely moves into a more and more dominating position, until, yes, there it is, centre stage, doing its thing! Then boom, the kick thumps down and Mr Ping Pong is evicted into the background again. Nelman employs expert tactical noise manoeuvres to produce high class sonic techno weaponry.

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