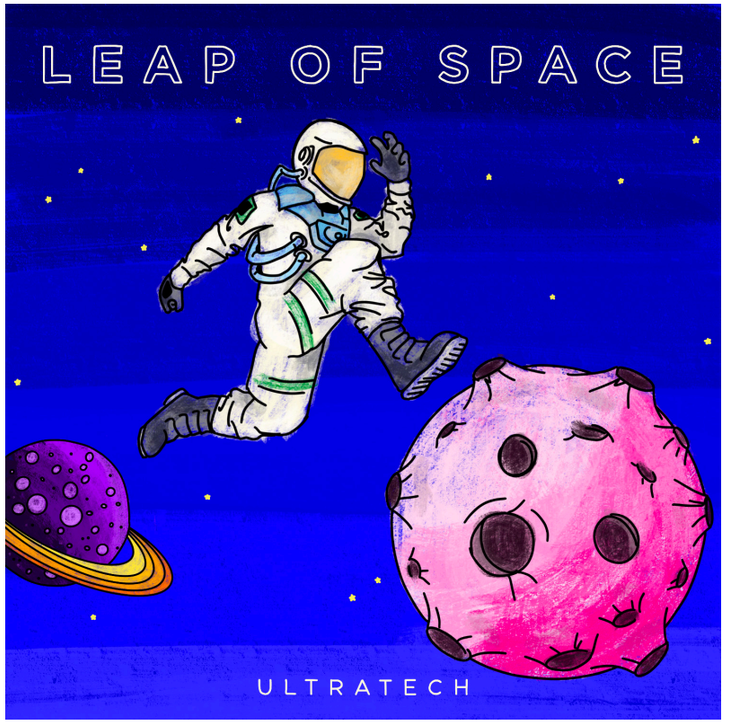
CHILL WILL - ULTRATECH

https://on.soundcloud.com/HdkVp91uUPvepeVd8

Co-wrote and produced this instrumental track for the breakout album of Ultratech, an up-and-coming EDM artist. This track started with original stems and grew into a harmonic challenge.



ROLE

- Music Producer
- Audio Engineer
- Recording Engineer
- Mixing/Mastering Engineer

TEAM

- DJ/Beat Maker
- Bassist
- Keyboardist

GOAL

Produce a complete track building on the original sounds, drum beats, and melodies provided by an EDM artist, while staying true to the emotion of the initial recordings.

RESULTS

- **500+ Spotify listeners** within 3 months
- **10+** playlists

PROCESS

Composition
- Started with fresh, unstructured sounds brought by a new EDM artist. It was a challenge to begin with little and then fill in the gaps, working the innovative sounds into a complete track including verse and chorus sections.
- Provided harmonic instrumentation, chord progressions, arrangement, and a melodic hook.

Record
- Original sounds received as a Logic file with MIDI stems and instrumentation; additional synth instrumentation selected from **Alchemy** recorded as MIDI in **Logic Pro X** using **AKAI MPK 261.**
- Added a drum loop from the Logic's EDM library. Chose a simple, steady beat to syncopate with the bass.
- Bass guitar was recorded with a **Shure SM57** placed 2" and off-center from the speaker cone. Also captured with direct injection through **Apogee Duet** with minor phase adjustment.

Edit
- Arranged stems and cleaning up MIDI notes without quantizing to preserve the natural feel.
- Selected best bass takes for each section based on syncopation and feel.
- Arranged into verse and chorus sections, deliberately omitting a bridge in order to maintain a stable, relaxed vibe.

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Composition
- Play on the syncopation between a modified threes over twos groove and the steady dance beat, all built on an oscillating synth arpeggiator.

Production
- Blend original, intentionally-unedited stems with refined production to give the track a polished feel while maintaining the unique vision of an emerging artist.
- Create a relaxed, chill vibe by combining real and synthetic instrumentation in the groove-centric composition.

Mix
- Adjusted mix of the mic'd and DI'd bass track combination for the fattest sound.
- Deliberately applied **EQ** prior to **compression** to give warmth and enhance the real instrumentation within the mostly MIDI recording.
- Added EQ to boost the kick around 300 Hz and reduced the bass at 300 Hz to reduce mud and boominess.
- Added an **LPF** to the drum loop and bass around 5 kHz where the filter began to take effect to free up the high end of the spectrum. Added an LPF to the bass at 3 kHz, above the snap to make space in the spectrum.
- Added compression to the bass to control dynamics and enhance breathing, and to synths to smooth out some of the natural variance in velocities of the notes and amplitude.
- Adjusted stereo panning to give instruments their own space.
- Balanced levels after applying filters, keeping VU out of yellow.

Master
- Used the EQ to tame transients and specific frequencies, careful to not alter the overall sound.
- Applied compression to even out the amplitude throughout the song and give it a pop finish. Used a sharp knee, a ratio of 5.0:1 with a fast attack, slow release, a relatively low threshold, and some makeup gain.
- Reviewed on a variety of sound systems. Only minor adjustments were needed after review.
- Compared relative loudness to major releases on streaming services to ensure quality.