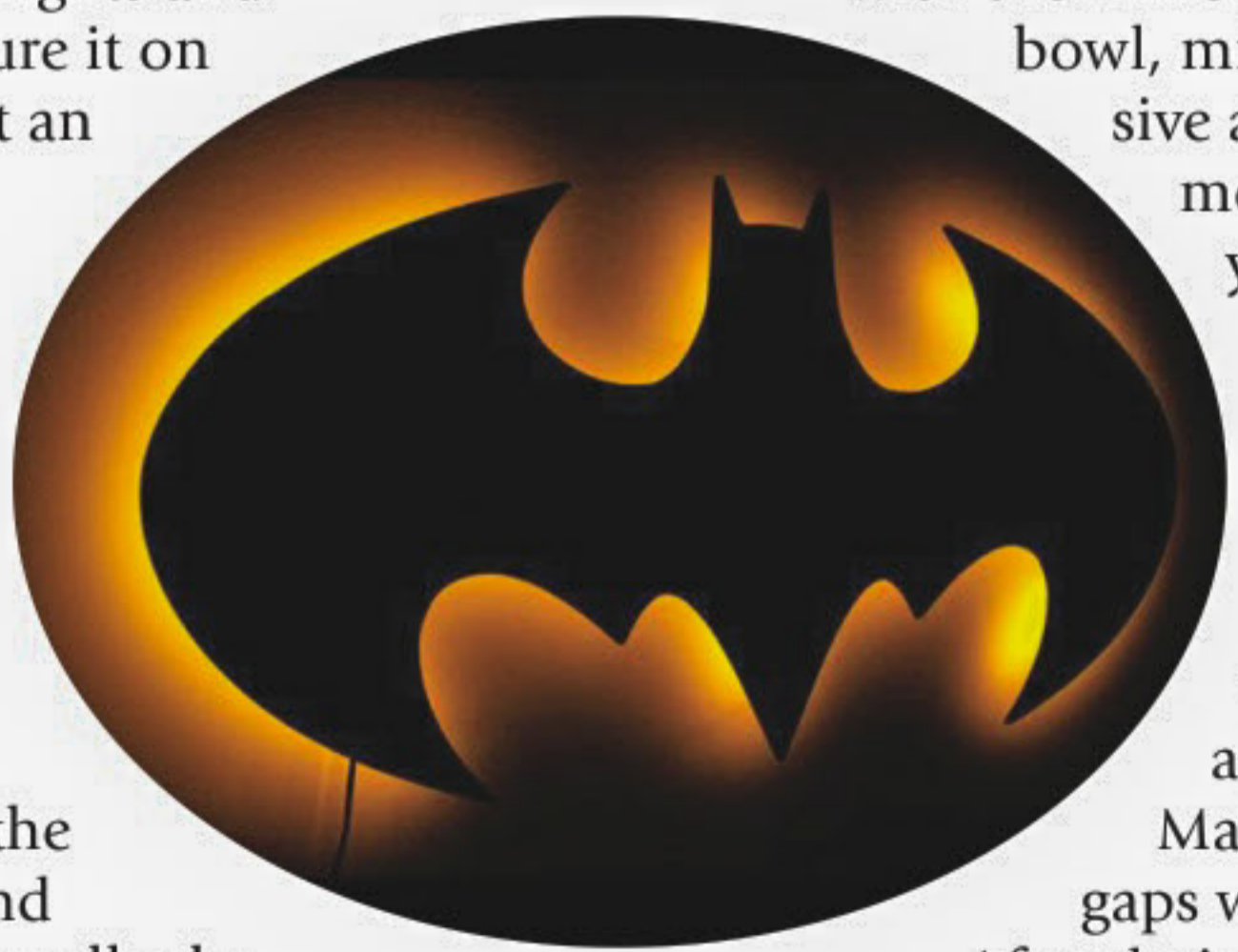**TRASH TO TREASURE**
BY LABIBA MUSTABINA

ILLUMINATE!

Sometimes all you need to brighten up a monotonous space is the right kind of illumination. Sure, the market is abuzz with evermore elegant lighting fixtures but where's the character in that? Here are some awesome ways you could light up your space and uplift your mood at the same time.

THE BAT LIGHT

How would you feel to have the silent guardian, the Dark Knight watching over you? For this, all you would need to do is get a box of string lights, better known as *morich baati* locally. You can purchase them at local hardware shops or at shops specialising in electric fixtures. Next, get a big piece of cardboard, depending on the size you want your bat light to be. Google your favourite version of the symbol and roughly sketch it onto the cardboard using a pencil. Cut the template out and this is going to be the base of your prototype. Paint the cardboard with multiple coats of black spray paint. Bring out the string lights and using duct tape, secure it on the cardboard about an inch from the edge. Then, for the back support cut a tissue roll into half and symmetrically hot glue those on to the cardboard on each of the wings. Then, use aluminium wire to tie the supports together and hang on the wall – totally the room decor you deserve.

BOTTLED-UP SHINE

A bit of scavenging for the best looking glass bottles in town is required for this DIY. You can buy the regular glass bottles or for a few extra bucks get liquor bottles in shades of greens and browns. Next you're going to need a box of string lights and a pencil. Using the pencil, start guiding the LED lights one by one into the bottle. Once you've managed to stuff the bottle with enough lights, you can just leave it at that and switch the LED lights to witness the magical transformation of a quintessentially mundane glass bottle. You can kick this trick up another notch by wrapping the bottle in lacy fabric, sealing the ruffle at the top with a ribbon.

YARN LANTERNS

Wish you had some party lights at bay for last minute birthday surprises? Here you go. For this you'll need balloons, different colours of yarn, a box of LED string lights and loads of adhesive. For starters, (Warning: this step should be avoided by the faint of heart) you need to blow up a balloon to the size you want your party lights to be. Then, place the balloon securely atop a glass/bowl with the rim of a similar size. In a bowl, mix equal parts adhesive and water. Now the messy bit: drop your yarn in the glue mix bit by bit, making sure it's well coated and then using all your patience carefully wrap the yarn around the balloon. Make sure to leave gaps while wrapping. After drying the yarn overnight, pop the balloon. You'll be left with a spherical shell where one LED light from the string is to be fitted in. If you feel like the shell isn't hard enough, do not worry. Simply lather on another layer of adhesive mixed with a bit of water onto the shell. Make as many shells as you want and go crazy with different yarn colours. Plug the lights in, flip the switch and bathe in aura of your luminescent creation.

Labiba Mustabina is a biochemist in the making. A tree hugger, she also claims to be a closet artist. You can reach her at labiba.wish@gmail.com

APEIRUSS
New Faces, New Sounds

ARMAN R. KHAN

Genre: Electronic Dance Music, especially House, Electrohouse and Chillstep

Interesting things can happen when youngsters try out something new. So when music producers Samee Mahmud (22), Shafi Mahmud (20) and Adnan Shahid (22) came together and formed the group Apeiruss, they brought refreshing new sounds that their listeners found to love.

The electronic music group Apeiruss was formed in 2014. The name comes from the Greek word *apeirose*, which means infinity, and it signifies the trio's infinite zeal to make music. Apeiruss recently came to light with their track "Hold Me Down" featuring Bangladeshi Idol-famed Amid.

In a country where electronica is still in its early stages, how did these youngsters get involved? Well, Samee and Shafi are brothers who are massive fans of Linkin Park, whose rock music with electronic touch inspired them to try out something different than the regular rock scene of Bangladesh. They focused on learning more about different types of electronic music and started producing as well. Samee met Adnan and encouraged him to start pursuing electronic music production as well. When the trio finally felt they were ready after years of practice, they formed Apeiruss and released their debut track "Bijoyer Shopno" featuring Mehrab, Rinty & Borno during the ICC T20 World Cup 2014 in Bangladesh.

Everything went uphill from there. Turkish musician Don Donadoni stumbled upon Bijoyer Shopno. He took them to the owner of Electro (a sub-label of Incursion Music), Misha Ali, who was impressed by the talent of the young lads and signed them. Later, HTM Records approached and signed Apeiruss.

Besides their own musical endeavours, Apeiruss works on different projects. They are currently producing music for Tahsan's new album as well as that of Amid and Mehreen among various others.

In addition, these local boys are also making a name internationally. With the help of their manager Tanzil Rahman, Apeiruss got the opportunity to work with Indian music composers Amaal and Armaan Malik, and co-produced various tracks for Bollywood movies. Moreover, Apeiruss have worked with Sri Lankan artist Stephan Neera recently.

"Though we are working on various projects, our main vision is to go international. We want to represent Bangladesh in famous international EDM festivals and release international records with different artists," said Shafi.

The trio is quite active in live concerts in Dhaka as well. They performed at the Dhaka Comicon. I experienced them in Close Up Volt in 2014 and was mesmerised by their stage presence and fresh new sound. They are planning on touring India alongside frequent local shows.

Given their young age, the trio of Apeiruss has accomplished a lot already. In the saturated music scenario of Bangladesh, Apeiruss is one of the torchbearers of EDM. With more widespread acceptance of EDM in our country, Apeiruss will surely flourish.

To listen to Apeiruss's tracks, visit their SoundCloud at *www.soundcloud.com/Apeiruss* or like their fan page *www.facebook.com/apeiruss* for updates.

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