



Games That Destroy Your Friendships

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Good board and card games are fun. Friends are fun. However, on account of too much fun often being bad, the two should never be combined for your own good.

I took out Monopoly one fine evening during pre-pandemic times whilst having people over. The funny pointing of fingers and lots of “winners takers, loser haters” ensued whenever favourable plots were bought by someone. Slight tension started building up when the rent collection began. Quick angry glares from people indicating the remembrance of rent collection when hotels are built by them might seem like empty threats, but they quickly become reality, and you find yourself broke and having to sell your property in order to barely survive. All thoughts of this just being a game then goes straight out the window, and your friend is suddenly a friend no longer, but a thief, a traitor.

Sensing the impending danger to our friendship with one another and to my friends’ dismay, I halted Monopoly and suggested we play a different game instead. Little did I know; UNO wasn’t exactly helpful to my cause and we were once again pitted against each other. How can something so fun be so detrimental to friendships? Well, the plus two cards and plus four cards are personal attacks, the latter capable of ruining trust in one turn. The act of stacking plus two cards directing them towards one person is unforgivable. Whether or not this act is even an actual rule in the game can cause very heated arguments. Some of my friends ended up going to take walks outside with others to cool their temper.

Aware of my next bad decision, but having a lack of options, I then brought out Ludo. After initially laughing things off, tempers escalated at almost every roll of the dice, either because someone was losing a game piece, or because no new game piece was added. Never did I ever think it was possible to loath another individual’s progress so much, yet here I was hoping and praying for the worst possible dice roll for someone else. I was so consumed by the game that I lost track of my goal to keep our friendship intact, and actually let the game end. Once it did, the losing team marched out of the house in anger, while the winning team of my friends, except myself, left to go celebrate their win.

As I sat alone in the wreckage caused by board and card games, I realised just how dangerous a weapon they could be, capable of causing people you dislike to voluntarily leave. As for the damage I’d made to my friendships? My friends returned after celebrating our win. I’d also successfully gotten rid of those whom I am not too fond of.

Next? Snakes and ladders.

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GET STARTED WITH MUSIC PRODUCTION

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2020 was all about spending time at home, mostly due to the quarantine. With 2021 here, and the pandemic still not leaving, it’s likely most of us will continue to spend a lot of time indoors.

Social media has been flooded with people demonstrating some recreational activity they took up during quarantine. Whether it’s painting, journaling, podcasts, and so on. So, why not find a hobby of your own? And for this reason, I present to you music production.

Now, some of you might already be musically inclined, might even play an instrument, but are yet to discover the magic of music production. Others might have never tried their hand at music. Well, guess what? This is a hobby that anyone can participate in. Whether you’re a master of music theory or just someone who loves listening to some good tunes, music production is for everyone. Except maybe the tone deaf, but I digress.

So, what do you need to get started? Well, there’s quite a range of things, so let me divide them up into categories by how much you need to invest in them.

THE ZERO COST SETUP

If you really want to get started without investing any money, this is the route to go. You don’t need any fancy interface, amp or even studio monitor speakers. For this, all you’ll need is a laptop and a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) such as FL Studio, Ableton Live, Pro Tools, et cetera, and a pair of earphones.

Using loops — pre-recorded sound samples — and the built-in piano roll of a DAW, you can make music. It’s really that simple. To get used to the soft-

ware and how DAWs work in general, use YouTube to find tutorials. The channel named “In the Mix” has a great tutorial on FL Studio.

MID-TIER SETUP

Now, this setup is where you’ll get the most flexibility for your money. You won’t have to rely solely on loops or the digital piano roll, but you can instead input your own music through an interface or a USB MIDI device. It’s recommended that you have some musical knowledge or at least experiment with a DAW before investing.

Guitarists can choose to buy something like an iRig to connect directly to the computer. Otherwise, going with an interface like the Audient EVO 4 is a great option. The EVO 4 is the best bang for buck interface that you can possibly get. You can also just buy a USB MIDI piano, like the Alesis V Mini as your main input method. Additionally, purchase a pair of studio headphones like the Audio Technica ATH M-30x.

THE PROFESSIONAL HOME STUDIO

Take your budget, and set it on fire. Because that’s how desensitised you need to be to have a budget to invest in something like this. You can keep the same interface as in the previous category, but ideally you want to invest in something like a Focusrite Scarlett 2i4. Get studio monitor speakers like the Presonus Monitor Speakers and a high quality microphone like the Sennheiser E945.

So, what are you still doing here? Go download the copy of that DAW and get started.

Aaqib is still stuck in December 2019. Send him the details on how to make a time machine to aaqibhasib94@gmail.com



We can confirm the cat said, “It is time to make some music.”