

DJ Format and the Amber Rooms were both new experiences for me. I'm more likely to listen to video game soundtracks than leave my room where 'fresh rhythms' threaten to broaden my aural horizons. The Amber Rooms bill board promised a mix of hip hop and jazz (fine so far). The venue was quite friendly, very brown and, I felt, under-appreciated. Sadly, a headache-inducing strobe light was overused. DJ Format didn't give much of a personal performance per se; he was engrossed in his set so I suppose it would be churlish to complain. At first, the appreciative crowd lapped up a selection of funky jazz, none of which I recognised but all of which sounded 'groovy'. I felt that the party only really started, however, when he 'threw down' some 'dope' old-school hip hop sometime around midnight. He impressed me with his 'def' scratching and seamless set. I will almost certainly get some of DJ Format's albums or compilations. He has a few tracks on Myspace if you, too, want to sample the 'freshness'.