



On January 5th 2008, The ECC competed against 11 other remixers in the [Crate Digger Death-Match](#). The Challenge: with only \$12 of materials, create at least 12 minutes of music in only 12 hours.

It was brutal. Only half of the competitors even managed to finish. For those that did, their music -- 6 songs of 2+ minutes each -- will be judged by 3 judges. Also, each competitor chose a "hit song" to be judged by a 4th judge... the public. (If it's not too late, please [visit the voting page](#) and vote for The ECC's track,

[**Boom-a-lakka-boom**](#)

) The results will be announced on January 14th.

Here are all six of The ECC's songs:

Read on for commentary and reax about being in the first ever Crate Digger Death-Match:

It started with a very important decision -- where to spend the \$12. Obviously, San Francisco is *not* the place to try to stretch \$12... I was certainly jonesing for the good ol' thrift days of Columbus... but, short of driving to perhaps Oakland, San Francisco it is. I picked the Community Thrift on Valencia, chosen because they (alone?) actually categorize their records. They also tend to have more 12" singles than usual; potentially helpful for drum loops or a capellas. However, 12"s are a risk, since you'll only get one track for the cost of a whole record. Keep in mind that the competition forbids pre-made drum loops or synths -- the music produced must be made from *only* your \$12 of materials.

Unfortunately, I wasn't the only one with this strategy. There was another competitor there when I arrived... and yet *another* competitor arrived before I left.

As well, it turned out that Community Thrift was charging \$1.50 a record -- pricey for a thrift store. I probably would have done better to go to Amoeba, or another record store with dollar records. Luckily the 45s were only 50 cents, so I focused on those. I tended to focus more on spoken word picks, since I can coax music out of spoken word, but not vice versa. Some selections were also made to meet the three "motifs", themes chosen to spices up the competition (they were: 80's, country and/or house, and something backwards). My final selections were:

