

Genres of the 2010s and 2020s: A Guide

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(note: this guide is not 100% perfect, criticism of this guide is of course allowed, as i want the guide to be the best it can be, if there's any albums you want added, let me know in the comments. If there's any incorrect information, please do correct me in the comments of this guide. :D)

Intro{to be changed}

If you spend any time online, you might've seen takes such as “There's no new genres in the past 20-30 years”. Contrary to that belief, there have been a number of genres, big, small and niche that have been created sometime during the 2010s, and even now with 2020s, with the emergence of rage beats and drift phonk. Genres that were popular during the 2010s (such as K-pop, reggaeton, and dubstep) won't be counted, only genres that were created/emerged during the 2010s will make this list.

Here are the guide of genres that were created during the 2010s:

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Hyperpop

Created: early 2010s

Hyperpop, is a genre of pop/electronic that originated in the United Kingdom. Hyperpop is a maximalist and exaggerated take on pop music, with avant-garde sensibilities. While hyperpop takes from pop music, it has elements of electronic, hip-hop and dance music. The origins of hyperpop are usually credited to A. G Cook and his label PC Music. Hyperpop usually features brash and pitch shifted synth melodies, hip-hop/trap drums, Auto-Tune vocals, and references to 2000s or 2010s culture or internet culture.

Hyperpop would then gain newfound popularity with the Spotify playlist of the same name, featuring artists such as 100 geecs and AG Cook himself. Around the COVID-19 pandemic hyperpop would gain more popularity on apps like TikTok.

Around 2021, people began questioning if hyperpop was dead. Charli XCX, another hyperpop artist tweeted: “rip hyperpop? Discuss”. Glaive state that he and ericdoa would work on killing the genre, but would later say that hyperpop would never die.

Essential Hyperpop artists:

- SOPHIE
- Charli XCX
- AG Cook
- 100 geecs
- Slayyyter
- Dorian Electra

Essential Hyperpop Albums:

- 1000 geecs- 100 geecs
- Pop 2- Charli XCX
- OIL OF EVERY PEARLS UN-INSIDES- SOPHIE
- PC Music Volume One- Various Artists
- Fanfare- Dorian Electra

Digicore

Created: mid-2010s

Digicore is a microgenre of hyperpop. The word was adopted by teenage musicians in the communication app, Discord, to separate themselves from the existing hyperpop scene. Digicore artists pull from a wide-variety of genres. Digicore pulls from more genres than hyperpop, and

sonically is more distorted and features video game sounds. Digicore artist Dalton would make a Discord server called “Loser’s Club”, this server would feature a lot of the popular artists in the digicore community, such as glaive, quinn and Angelus.

Essential Digicore artists:

- ericdoa
- glaive
- Jane Remover
- twikipedia
- Midwxst
- funeral

Essential Digicore albums

- chronic- twikipedia
- Frailty- Jane Remover
- COA- ericdoa
- cypress grove- glaive
- better luck next time.- midwxst
- eviscerated- funeral

Cloud Rap

Created: 2010

Cloud rap is a subgenre of hip-hop music that originated from Atlanta, cloud rap is characterized by the hazy, ethereal, dream-like production. Cloud rap combines elements of chillwave, lo-fi, and trap. Cloud rap also samples from vocals that have a dreamlike quality, lyrics revolve around love, sex, drugs, self-reflection and alienation. The lo-fi production and ethereal elements of cloud rap appear as early as 2001, from Cloudead's self-titled album.

Rapper Lil B and Clams Casino have been credited for coming up with the term, and have been pioneering the genre through their collaborations. The genre gained more mainstream attention thanks to A\$AP Rocky's debut mixtape "Live. Love. ASAP".

Essential Artists:

- Lil B
- Clams Casino
- A\$AP Rocky
- Yung Lean
- Spaceghostpurpp

- Bladee
- Black Kray

Essential Albums:

- 6 Kiss- Lil B
- Live.Love.ASAP- A\$AP Rocky
- Unknown Death 2003- Yung Lean
- Eversince- Bladee
- 32 Levels- Clams Casino
- Crack Cloud\$ Over Arts Kitchen- Black Kray

Alternative R&B

Created: 2010/2011

Alternative R&B (also known as PBR&B) is a genre of R&B that is stylistically different to contemporary R&B, alternative R&B has elements of hip-hop, chillwave and electronic.

This genre came to prominence in the 2010s with artists such as Frank Ocean, SZA, The Weeknd, PartyNextDoor and Bryson Tiller, the term of PBR&B came from a tweet in 2011 by Eric Harvey, who is a writer for Sound of the City.

PBR is the abbreviation of Pabst Blue Ribbon, a beer brand that was associated with hipsters. Other terms like “noir&b” have also been used to describe alternative R&B, but have been criticized for “pigeon-holding” artists into hipster subculture.

Essential Alternative R&B Artists:

- Frank Ocean
- SZA
- The Weeknd
- FKA twigs
- Sampha
- Jai Paul

Essential Alternative R&B Albums:

- Blonde- Frank Ocean
- LP1- FKA twigs
- House of Balloons-The Weeknd
- Process- Sampha
- Leak 4-13(Bait Ones)- Jai Paul
- CTRL- SZA

Drill

Created: early 2010s

Drill is a subgenre of hip-hop that originated in the 2010s, in the city of Chicago. Drill is known for its dark sound and its explicit and violent lyrics, drawing similarities to lyrical content of gangsta rap. Drill music is often associated with crime. Drill would progressively become more mainstream due to the success of artists like Chief Keef, Lil Durk and G Herbo.

Drill would spread outside of Chicago, with different regional scenes arising. The 2010s also saw an emergence of Brooklyn Drill, with artists like Pop Smoke, Fivio Foreign and Bobby Shmurda leading the wave of Brooklyn Drill, this eventually spread to UK drill around late 2010s.

Sonically, Drill music has many similarities to trap music, Drill's BPM is usually faster than trap, and usually features bells, cymbal crash, and synth brass, along with 808 slides.

Essential Drill artists:

- Chief Keef
- Pop Smoke

- King Von
- Lil Durk
- G Herbo

Essential Drill albums:

- Finally Rich- Chief Keef
- Meet The Woo- Pop Smoke
- Remember My Name- Lil Durk
- Welcome To O'Block- King Von
- Back from the Dead- Chief Keef

Brooklyn Drill

Brooklyn drill is a regional subgenre of drill music that originated in Brooklyn, New York.

Brooklyn drill gained popularity in 2014 with the song “Hot N***a”, by rapper Bobby Shmurda. The subgenre would regain popularity with songs from Pop Smoke, such as “Dior” and “Welcome to the Party”

Brooklyn Drill combines elements of drill and trap.

Characteristics of Brooklyn drill include distorted 808s, and 808 slides.

Essential Artists:

- Pop Smoke
- Fivio Foreign
- Lil Tjay
- Sheff G
- 22Gz

Essential Brooklyn drill albums:

- Meet the Woo 2- Pop Smoke
- True 2 Myself- Lil Tjay
- B.I.B.LE- Fivio Foreign
- One and Only- Sheff G
- Growth & Development- 22Gz

UK Drill

Created: Early 2010s

UK drill is a subgenre of drill music that originated in the South London district from Brixton. UK Drill embraces Chicago drill's aesthetic and combines it with road rap, which is a style of gangsta rap.

UK Drill has a different production style than Chicago drill beats. UK drill takes influence from British genres like grime and UK garage. UK drill is faster than Chicago drill, with the BPM's usually being from 138-151 beats per minute. UK drill beats use a 3+3+2 polyrhythm and hi hat pattern. The lyrics of UK drill is often set apart from Chicago and Brooklyn drill due to its use of British slang and intricate lyrical flows.

Essential UK drill artists:

- Central Cee
- Digga D
- AJ Tracey
- Dave
- Harlem Spartans

Essential UK drill albums:

- Noughty by Nature- Digga D
- 23- Central Cee
- Flu Game- AJ Tracey
- Psychodrama- Dave

Tropical House

Created: 2010s

Tropical House is a subgenre of house music and Tropical music. Tropical House was popularized by artists like Robin Schulz, Felix Jaehn, Seeb and Kygo.

Tropical house takes elements of deep house, tropical music and dancehall, Tropical house features a four-on-the-floor beat, with a tempo of 100-120. Instrumentation includes tropical instruments such as, trumpets, marimbas, flutes, bongos and steel pans. Tropical house doesn't have many drops or build ups from other EDM genres.

Around 2014-2015, many popular tropical house songs would be released, with team ups of producers like Robin Schulz and Kygo. Artists like Justin Bieber and Little Mix would make their own tropical house songs as well. Ed Sheeran's hit song "Shape of You" incorporates elements of Tropical house.

Essential Tropical house artists:

- Kygo
- Jonas Blue
- Felix Jaehn

- Robin Schulz
- Seeb
- Sam Feldt

Essential Tropical house songs:

- Cheerleader(Felix Jaehn remix)- OMI
- Waves(Robin Schulz remix) Mr. Probz
- What Do You Mean?- Justin Bieber
- Show Me Love- Sam Feldt
- Firestone- Kygo

Neoperreo

Created: Late 2010s

Neoperreo is a subgenre of reggaeton music that was created around the late 2010s in Latin America.

Neoperreo is characterized by a darker sound compared to mainstream reggaeton, the genre has also been characterized by its strong presence of queer and female artists, and sex-positive lyrics. The name was created by artist Tomasa del Real, who is a pioneer of the genre.

Neoperreo takes elements of electronic music genres such as hyperpop and witch house. Albums from artists like Arca and Rosalia take influence from Neoperreo.

Essential Neoperreo artists:

- Tomasa del Real
- Ms Nina
- Isabella Lovestory
- TECH GRL
- La Favi

Essential Neoperreo albums:

- Bellaca del Ano- Tomasa del Real
- TDR- Tomasa del Real
- MOTOMAMI- Rosalia
- Amor Hardcore- Isabella Lovestory
- Perreando Por Fuera, Llorando Por Dentro- Ms Nina

Vaporwave

Created: 2015

Vaporwave is a subgenre of electronic music that became well-known in 2015. It is defined by slowed down samples of

jazz music, or elevator music from the 80s or 90s. Visually, Vaporwave incorporates Internet aesthetics of the 90's, glitch art, anime and 3D images. Vaporwave takes elements of chillwave, hypnagogic pop, chopped and screwed, and lounge music.

Vaporwave started as an ironic and satirical take of chillwave, consumerism, capitalism and technoculture. The style was pioneered by artists like Daniel Lopatin, and Ramona Xavier. Xavier's album, Floral Shoppe has become a very influential album for all of Vaporwave, becoming the blueprint for the genre.

Essential Vaporwave artists:

- Macintosh Plus
- Death's Dynamic Shroud
- James Ferraro
- Cat System Corp.

Essential Vaporwave albums:

- Floral Shoppe- Macintosh Plus
- I'll Try Living Like This- Death's Dynamic Shroud
- News at 11- Cat System Corp.
- Far Side Virtual- James Ferraro

Mallsoft

Mallsoft is a subgenre of vaporwave, with its aesthetics centered around malls. Mallsoft is based on corporate lounge music, and conjures imagery of malls, lobbies, and grocery stores.

Essential Mallsoft artists:

- Cat System Corp
- Disconscious
- Groceries
- Hantasi

Emo Rap

Created: mid 2010s

Emo Rap is a subgenre of hip-hop that has influence from emo and the SoundCloud rap scene. The most prominent artists in the genre were Juice WRLD, XXXTENTACION, and Lil Peep. Emo Rap has more emotional and personal lyrics, focusing on topics such as: suicide, heartbreak, loneliness, drugs or nihilism. Emo rap features dark trap beats, and guitars.

Before emo rap was even a genre, the term “emo” or “sad” was used to describe artists like Kanye West and Drake, due to their lyrics or heartbreak and loneliness. Around the 90’s, there have been crossovers between hip-hop, and pop-punk/emo bands, since songs would be remixed by hip hop artists.

Emo rap was pioneered by artists like Bones, and GothBoiClique, both influenced many underground hip-hop scenes on SoundCloud. Artists like Lil Uzi Vert and XXXTentacion would bring the genre to more mainstream heights, with songs like XO Tour Llif3 and Jocelyn Flores, both having lyrical topics of suicide.

Essential Emo rap artists:

- Lil Peep
- XXXTentacion
- Juice WRLD
- Trippie Redd
- GothBoiClique
- Lil Tracy

Essential Emo rap albums:

- ?- XXXTentacion
- Hellboy- Lil Peep
- Yeah It's True- GothBoiClique
- A Love Letter To You 3- Trippie Redd
- Death Race for Love- Juice WRLD

Future Bass

Created: Early 2010s

Future bass is a subgenre of EDM that was developed in the early 2010s. Future bass fuses elements of dubstep and trap, with more warmer rhythms. The genre was pioneered by artists like San Holo, Hudson Mohawke and Cashmere Cat, while the genre was popularized by artists like Flume, Martin Garrix and Illenium.

Future Bass is characterized by automated synths and low frequency oscillation to create a wobbly effect, vocoders, vocal chops and arpeggiated chords are other features of Future bass

In 2013, the genre gained mainstream attention from Flume's remix of Disclosure's song "You & Me". 2016 was the breakout year of the genre, with lots of chart-topping hits from artists like Martin Garrix, The Chainsmokers and Flume. Offshoots of Future bass, such as Kawaii future bass and Futurecore would emerge around the mid to late 2010s.

Essential Future bass artists:

- Illenium
- San Holo
- ODESZA
- Flume
- Martin Garrix
- Hudson Mohawke

Essential Future bass albums:

- Album1- San Holo
- A Moment Apart- ODESZA
- Skin- Flume
- Awake- Illenium
- Satin Panthers- Hudson Mohawke

Phonk

Created: Early 2010s

Phonk is a subgenre of trap that takes inspiration from Memphis rap. Phonk samples vocals from old Memphis rap songs, and samples from early 1990s hip hop. The term “phonk” was created by rapper SpaceGhostPurrp.

Phonk has its roots in Southern Hip Hop, groups and artists like Three 6 Mafia and DJ Screw would be the foundation for the genre years later. SpaceGhostPurrp would bring back the Memphis rap sound in the form of phonk music. Phonk music is characterized by Memphis rap vocals and samples, combined with jazz samples. Chopped and screwed is a technique used on the samples, to make a darker sound.

Essential Phonk artists:

- SpaceGhostPurrp
- DJ Yung Vamp
- Lil Ugly Mane
- Freddie Dredd
- SXMPRA

Essential Phonk Albums:

- Mista Thug Isolation- Lil Ugly Mane

- Mysterious Phonk: Chronicles of SpaceGhostPurrp-
SpaceGhostPurrp
- I Need More Blood- DJ Yung Vamp
- Dredd- Freddie Dredd

Drift Phonk

Drift Phonk is a subgenre of phonk that emerged in the late 2010s in Russia. Drift Phonk is characterized by its use of cowbells and distorted sounds and high bass, lyrics and samples are usually unrecognizable, and usually have a higher tempo than phonk tracks.

Drift phonk is associated with videos of drifting and racing, which is where the name comes from, the genre became popular on TikTok, where it surpassed the original genre in popularity. Eventually, phonk became associated with drift phonk.

EDM Trap

EDM trap is a fusion genre that originated in the early 2010s. The genre blends elements of trap, with elements of EDM, such as buildups and beat drops.

As the genre gained more popularity, more pop elements would be incorporated into EDM trap. Though EDM trap songs are usually very dynamic and experimental compared to hip hop-trap due to the EDM elements.

Essential EDM trap artists:

- Baauer
- DJ Snake
- RL Grime
- Yellow Claw
- Diplo

Essential EDM Trap albums:

- Aa- Baauer
- Skrillex and Diplo Present Jack U- Skrillex and Diplo
- Encore- DJ Snake
- New Blood- Yellow Claw

Rage

Created: Late 2010s/Early 2020s

Rage(also known as rage rap or rage beats) is a microgenre of trap music that originated in the late 2010s and early 2020s. The name of the microgenre comes from the song “Miss The Rage” by Trippie Redd and Playboi Carti. The song title references mosh pits during hip hop concerts. Characteristics of rage music include future bass influenced synthesizer lead hooks and trap rhythms.

Playboi Carti has been suggested to be one of the originators of rage or a popularizer of rage. It also suggested that Carti’s album “Whole Lotta Red” laid the foundation for rage as a genre. The album would define rage music, despite mixed reception from fans.

“Miss the Rage” is also considered to be a breakthrough of the genre popularity wise. Initially considered to be a trap metal song, and by Trippie himself, a hyperpop song. Whole Lotta Red and Miss the Rage were both influential in defining the rage genre. Playboi Carti’s record label Opium has been influential in the genre, with artists like Ken Carson, Destroy Lonely, and Homixide Gang being signed to the label, with

several notable releases in the rage genre. Later on in the 2020s, the genre would see more popularity on TikTok thanks to artists like Yeat, who has had songs like “Sorry Bout That” and “Mad About That” get popular on the platform.

Essential Rage Artists:

- Playboi Carti
- Trippie Redd
- Ken Carson
- Destroy Lonely
- Yeat

Essential Rage albums:

- Whole Lotta Red- Playboi Carti
- Up 2 Me- Yeat
- A Great Chaos- Ken Carson
- Trip At Knight- Trippie Redd
- NOSTYLIST- Destroy Lonely