



Slippery Discs

THE PROBLEM

The algorithm is not fit for dance music.

The biggest streaming platforms in the world provide track suggestions through algorithms designed to maximise session continuity. Consequently, they tend to:

- Prioritise music that "matches" previous listening habits
- Favour what is already popular
- Encourage easy listening and background music
- Discourage complexity, structural surprises and long intros

The result is a reinforcing feedback loop that keeps you in your comfort zone and diminishes any chance of serendipity, as well as increasing creator inequality.

THE SOLUTION

The best selectors in the world are not algorithms. They are people.

Slippery Discs is a community-driven discovery platform that gives those people a stage. Users submit their hidden gems to a shared pool, whilst simultaneously getting to hear — and rate — what the rest of the community has found. A monthly leaderboard reveals the highest ranked tracks, giving selectors an incentive to keep their uploads exceptional. We believe this is the modern alternative to the algorithm, promoting underground electronic music in a democratic way via an engaged community.

HOW IT WORKS

A credit economy built on listening

01 — RATE

You are shown two songs and a timer. Once the combined duration of both tracks has elapsed, you cast your vote. No skipping, no rushing.

02 — EARN

Voting earns credits. The amount of credits available to earn depends on the size of the current track pool.

03 — UPLOAD

Spend credits to submit a track to next month's pool. At least one platform link is required: Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, Bandcamp, or SoundCloud. Additional links are welcome.

04 — COMPETE

Uploads enter the following month's rating pool. Final leaderboard position depends on both community Elo rating and obscurity score. The reveal comes at month end.

THE MONTHLY CYCLE

Upload. Verify. Rate. Retire.

Tracks uploaded during a given month do not enter the rating pool immediately. They are held for a vetting window until the start of the next month. During this window each submission is verified: platform data is pulled via API, stream counts are locked, and any gaps in a track's platform presence are researched and filled in by the platform. Only verified tracks enter the rating pool. This means the community is always listening to a clean, confirmed set of songs, and every data point attached to a track is trustworthy from the moment it appears.

Submitted ›	Verified ›	Rated ›	Leaderboard ›	Retired
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THE RATING ENGINE

Pairwise comparison + Elo ranking

Because the pool is fixed and closed for the entire rating month, every track receives a statistically balanced number of pairwise comparisons from across the community. Results are then processed using an Elo ranking algorithm, the same system used in competitive chess. A win against a highly rated track is worth more than a win against a weak one. Moreover, the 20-credit upload cost is deliberate — it maintains a ratio between ratings and uploads that tends to 40:1, making the leaderboard mathematically resistant to noise and ensuring real competition, not randomness. Scores update on a fixed cycle, not in real time, so the leaderboard cannot be gamed mid-month.

THE OBSCURITY INDEX

*We are not a home for artists that have already made it.
We are a launchpad.*

A track's final leaderboard position is not determined by Elo rating alone. It is adjusted by an obscurity function, a score derived from stream counts relative to how long the track has been live, artist reach across platforms, and follower data where available. The obscurity score is built from whatever platform data exists for a given track and does not penalise music that lives on fewer platforms. A Bandcamp-only release is assessed on Bandcamp data alone.

$$\text{Final score} = f(\text{Elo rating, obscurity score})$$

Stream counts and artist data are pulled automatically via platform APIs at the point of verification and locked permanently. The platform researches and fills in any gaps in a track's cross-platform presence as part of the vetting process.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

Two scores. Two ways to impress.

TRACK RATINGS

Every upload earns a final score from the community. Each month, the highest-scoring tracks top the leaderboard with the uploader's name alongside. Your best individual scores are recorded permanently, so a single extraordinary find is never forgotten. The leaderboard resets. The record does not.

ALL-TIME AVERAGE UPLOAD

Your mean score across every track you have ever uploaded. The prestige metric, hard to build, impossible to fake. Rewards sustained depth of taste over years.

THE HALL OF FAME

A permanent record of discovery

Every monthly leaderboard is preserved forever. The track retires, but the achievement does not. The hall of fame documents what this community found and how few people had heard it at the time. Streams at the point of upload are locked permanently alongside the user who surfaced the track. Current stream counts are shown alongside the original figure.

MONTH	TRACK — ARTIST	AT UPLOAD	NOW
Mar 2026	Drift Season — Yola Fasola @crate_witch	1,204 (Bandcamp)	48,310
Feb 2026	Cassette Rain — Mori @deepcuts99	847 (SoundCloud)	12,540
Jan 2026	Ghost Infrastructure — Nneka Uwa @selekta_j	2,091 (Spotify)	203,774

As the platform grows, these numbers will tell a story: a community that heard something before the world did.

THE PROFILE

Every action is public. That is the point.

Every user's profile shows their scores, with a month-by-month breakdown of their upload history and a complete history of every pairwise vote they have ever cast. When your ratings are visible to the entire community, you take them seriously. Profiles are genuinely compelling to browse: you can see exactly what kind of selector someone is, how their taste has evolved, and which months they clearly found something extraordinary.

SHORTCOMINGS

Known challenges and how we address them

No platform is without weaknesses. These are ours, and how the design responds to them.

Dishonest rating

The entire platform depends on users rating genuinely. Each pairwise vote is gated by the combined playback length of both tracks — the next comparison cannot begin until that time has elapsed. Every comparison is permanently logged on a public profile, visible to the whole community. The social cost of obviously lazy or biased ratings is real and intentional.

Coordinated self-promotion

Every Slippery Discs account must be linked to at least one verified platform account — Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, Bandcamp, or SoundCloud — and the same account cannot verify two profiles. At worst, a bad actor across all five platforms can create five accounts. This is a meaningful ceiling on coordinated manipulation.

Smurf accounts

Newly created platform accounts used purely for verification are flagged. The vetting process checks account age and activity history. Thin or recently created accounts are rejected, making it costly and slow to manufacture a fake verified identity.

Early pool quality

With a small initial user base, the pool will be limited in size and diversity. The platform launches with a curated seed pool to ensure the early experience is strong regardless of upload volume. Quality over quantity is baked into the credit economy from day one.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Slippery Discs does not compete with Spotify. It exists upstream of it.

We find the music those platforms will never surface on their own, and give it a moment in front of people who are genuinely looking for it. Every month, within the pool, there are tracks that deserve recognition and appreciation.

Slippery Discs finds them.