

Luv(Sic) Hexalogy

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Luv(Sic) Hexalogy is an album collaboration created and finalized posthumously by the Japanese producer [Nujabes](#) (Seba Jun), who died^[1] before the completion of the album, and Japanese American [hip hop](#) artist [Shing02](#) (Shingo Annen). It is a jazz hip hop album ([hexalogy](#)), that incorporates latin jazz/soul samples and drum beats to create the instrumentals. The scratching was performed by various DJs and the vocals/ lyrics were created by Shing02.

Luv(Sic) Hexalogy

[Compilation album](#) by
[Nujabes](#)

Released December 9, 2015

Genre [Hip hop](#), [jazz rap](#), [electronica](#)

30:13 (first 6 tracks)

Length 1:06:17 (first disc)

2:12:41 (both discs)

Label [Hydeout Productions](#)

Producer [Nujabes](#)

[Nujabes](#) [chronology](#)

[Spiritual State](#) ***Luv(Sic) Hexalogy***

(2011) (2015)

Background [Edit](#)

Luv(Sic)'s title is a purposely misspelled play on words, with the Latin 'sic' referring to a misspelled quote. A journal entry by Shing02, from the notebook accompanying the *Luv(Sic) Hexalogy* release:

I first dedicated 'Luv(Sic)' to the goddess of music in the end of 2000, and fifteen years later, we have a six-part series (Hexalogy). There is a certain voice that unites the chapters, a character if you will. The way Luv(Sic) is spelled (as in the Latin sic, for a misspelled quote) symbolizes how it wasn't a straightforward love song, there's a layer of obscured honesty. Obviously, there's many classic hip-hop songs in the form of love letters, such as LL Cool J's 'I Need Love,' or Common's 'I Used to Love H.E.R', but to me it was important to write something personal, a song that spoke about my own vulnerability about wanting to have a lasting relationship with music.

— [Shing02](#), *Luv(Sic) Hexalogy Notebook (December 9, 2015)*^[2]

From 2001 and until the death of Nujabes in 2010, parts 1—3 had already been released in his other studio albums, but after Seba died unexpectedly, there was public uncertainty around whether the series could be finalized.^[3] The instrumentals of Parts 4 and 5 had already been completed before his death,^[2] and were released shortly after the news was released of his passing. Part 6 was released on February 26, 2013,^[4] on the third anniversary of Seba's death. According to Shing02's official statement on Facebook, the instrumental track for what would become Part 6 was found on Nujabes' phone a few weeks after his death.

There are six individual [vinyl](#) pressings of each Luv(Sic) part/song; on December 9, 2015,^[5] the official CD was released by Nujabes' record label [Hydeout Productions](#) which combines the original six Luv(Sic) songs as well as the instrumentals of the songs and remixes made by other artists such as the Australian producer [Ta-ku](#) (Regan Mathews),^[6] LASTorder, Jumpster and [Uyama Hiroto](#).

Creation of Luv(Sic)[Edit](#)

Luv(Sic) Part 1[Edit](#)

I remember recording the vocals to Luv(Sic) on a Roland VS-1640 and an Octava mic (which I still use) at my home studio in El Cerrito. As noted, the song is a simple letter from a 25-year old rapper. It was a departure from my usual style, but a return to poetry I had written back in high school. In essence, rap is a form of creative writing and storytelling at its best. I was building a character that spoke in idioms and riddles, but also a narrative you can relate to by reading 'between the rhymes.' After listening back to the song, I wasn't sure about my delivery, but it didn't really matter, either. I was living the moment.

— [Shing02](#)^[2]

Nujabes incorporates a sample from Aki Takase's 'Minerva's Owl' that Nujabes used alongside [drum breaks](#) and [basslines](#) to create the instrumental. The intro is a vocal sample of [Bill Cosby](#) from Buck, Buck - 'I told you that story to tell you this one'. There are three verses in this song, and between each verse is a [hook](#) of Shing02 alongside a vocal sample of [Richard Pryor](#) scratched in.^[2] The vinyl pressing of part 1 was originally released in Japan in 2001^[7] with the cover being a photograph by Emuse of Shing02 with a dog in [Yakushima](#).

Samples^[8]

- New Year's Eve performed by [Richard Pryor](#) (1978)
- Minerva's Owl performed by [Aki Takase](#) (1981)
- Buck, Buck performed by [Bill Cosby](#) (1967)

Luv(Sic) Part 2 [Edit](#)

'Traditionally, in hip hop, series of rap songs are not common'^[2] but for Shing02 it felt right to title Part 2 as a sequel as if it were a letter to someone that 'he had lost touch with'.^[2] Luv(Sic) Part 2 was released after the events of 9/11. As Shing02 was set to fly back to California, the terrorist attack occurred and postponed his flight.

Nujabes emailed me another track. It was a nice release from the task at hand and the vibe inspired me to write what I was feeling towards the world. the first line came naturally, 'once again now...'

— [Shing02](#)^[2]

The vinyl pressing of Part 2 was originally released in Japan in 2002^[9] with the cover being an artwork created by graffiti artist Syu. Nujabes used the jazz sample from the song Qualquer Dia, pitching it down and increasing the [BPM](#). Alongside drum beats and scratching done by DJ Dai-Nasty in M2R Studio.

Samples^[10]

- Qualquer Dia performed by [Ivan Lins](#) (1977)
- 頂(pinnacle) performed by [Shing02](#) (1999)

Luv(Sic) Part 3 [Edit](#)

As Luv(Sic) part 2 was completed, Nujabes would message Shing02 for the next installment. Shing02 said the message behind Part 3 would be about the power of music and the need to return to our music roots as individuals to discover this 'power'.

[...] I would convince him that there were many fans worldwide who are fully behind the series concept, and that we shouldn't deprive them from content. In the end he folded, and that was an example of us working out our differences.

— [Shing02](#)^[2]

Luv(Sic) Part 3 was originally released as the fourth track of Nujabes' album [Modal Soul](#). An extended version leaked on the internet featured a third verse, as well as a spoken word intro and outro sampled from [Rod McKuen](#)'s spoken word album *In Search of Eros*. A snippet of the latter mix was released in Shing02's collaboration with DJ Icewater, *For the Tyme Being*, as a medley with a duet rendition of Part 1 featuring [Emi Meyer](#). On March 1, 2010, a new rendition was released on Shing02's YouTube channel as a tribute to Jeff Resurreccion, a beatboxer and fan of Shing02 who died of cancer in January of that year. As part of the Hexalogy compilation, a remastered version with a new vocal take was released in Japan on March 2015^[11] 10 years later than the digital release and 1 month after the CD release. This mix features a third verse but lacks the Rod McKuen samples or the break without drums heard in the original and leaked versions. A remix by [Ta-ku](#) is also featured in the single release. The vinyl cover was also created by Syu who did the cover for part 2. The song is the second in the series to sample the work of Brazilian singer [Ivan Lins](#) - the song features a loop from a cover of Tens (Calmaria) [Nana Caymmi](#), with [Ivan Lins](#) (the original singer) on the piano. The DJ scratching was performed by Spin Master A-1 at Shing02's studio.

Samples^[12]

- Tens (Calmaria) performed by [Nana Caymmi](#) (1975)

Luv(Sic) Part 4 [Edit](#)

Shing02 had asked Nujabes in 2008 that the Luv(Sic) series was complete, but under the condition that if he gave him three more instrumental tracks to work with then he could continue the series further. With help from other Japanese musicians such as Uyama Hiroto - after a few years, two of those requested instrumentals would later be Part 4 and 5.^[2] The vinyl pressing of Part 4 was originally released on July 7, 2011.^[13] The artwork was completed by artist FJD.

Samples

- Unknown; since Nujabes had passed away, but the instrumentals were already created, there is no information regarding the samples.

Luv(Sic) Part 5 [Edit](#)

The instrumental was originally too dark to be used as stated by Nujabes, but Shing02 wanted a sound that was a serious departure from the other harmonic and peaceful sounds from the previous installments.^[2]

When the pieces fit perfectly, there's always a strange sense of serendipity. I'm sure all artists can attest to that, those are moments that remind us why we fell in love with creating.

— *Shing02*^[2]

The vinyl pressing was released on December 26, 2012 in Japan. With artwork created by FJD.^[14]

Samples

- Scratch samples from Nujabes' vinyl collection.^[2]

Luv(Sic) Grand Finale^{Edit}

As Shing02 was visiting the store Tribe Records, the owner of the store said to Shing02 that there was a song called Luv(Sic) Grand Finale that was later discovered on Nujabes' phone after his death.^[2]

[...] I was quite shocked and he played me the loop inside the store. It was a simple loop, but I instantly knew that we had to finish it.

— *Shing02*^[2]

The vinyl pressing was released on February 26, 2013 and the artwork was created by FJD.^[15] The instrumental was a sample loop of Choro Das Aguas with the DJ scratching being completed by DJ Kou.^[16]

Samples^[16]

- Choro Das Aguas performed by [Ivan Lins](#) (1977)

Release and reception^{Edit}

Luv(Sic) has been widely regarded with over 80 million views on streaming platforms. The widespread critical acclaim has allowed there to be an annual tribute concert held on Nujabes' passing^[17] where Nujabes' collaborative artists play live and Shing02 plays Luv(Sic) in its entirety. On March 25, 2018 the Luv(Sic) album was released on [Spotify](#)^[18] alongside all of the remixes and instrumentals found on the CD.

Track listing^{Edit}

<u>No. (Number)</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Writer(s)</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Length</u>
1.	'Luv(Sic) Part 1'	Shing02	Nujabes	4:46
2.	'Luv(Sic) Part 2'	Shing02	Nujabes	4:33
3.	'Luv(Sic) Part 3'	Shing02	Nujabes	6:14

4.	'Luv(Sic) Part 4'	Shing02 Nujabes	5:10
5.	'Luv(Sic) Part 5'	Shing02 Nujabes & Uyama Hiroto	5:49
6.	'Luv(Sic) Grand Finale'	Shing02 Nujabes & Uyama Hiroto	5:16
7.	'Luv(sic) (12' Remix)'	Shing02 Nujabes	4:57
8.	'Luv(sic) Part 2 (Acoustica)'	Shing02 Nujabes	6:33
9.	'Luv(sic) Part 3 (Ta-ku Remix)'	Shing02 Nujabes & Taku	4:56
10.	'Luv(sic) Part 4 (LASTorder Remix)'	Shing02 Nujabes & LASTorder	4:38
11.	'Luv(sic) Part 5 (Jumpster Remix)'	Shing02 Nujabes & Jumpster	4:38
12.	'Luv(sic) Part 6 (Uyama Hiroto Remix)'	Shing02 Nujabes & Uyama Hiroto	4:38
13.	'Perfect Circle'	Shing02 Nujabes	4:00

References [Edit](#)

- ¹ [^] [Turner, Gustavo \(March 18, 2010\). 'Underground Japanese Beatmaker DJ Nujabes Confirmed Dead'. *LA Weekly*.](#)
- ² [^] [^a ^b ^c ^d ^e ^f ^g ^h ⁱ ^j ^k ^l ^m ⁿ 'A journal entry by Shing02, from the notebook accompanying the Luv\(Sic\) Hexalogy release'. Luv\(Sic\) Hexalogy. *Hydeout Productions*. December 9, 2015.](#)
- ³ [^] ['Shing02 on completion of Luv\(Sic\)'. *Facebook*. April 3, 2012.](#)
- ⁴ [^] ['Hydeout Productions initial release of Luv\(Sic\) Part 6'. *SoundCloud*. February 26, 2013.](#)
- ⁵ [^] ['Luv\(sic\) Hexalogy'. *Hydeout Productions*.](#)
- ⁶ [^] ['Luv\(sic\) Part 3 \(Ta-ku Remix\)'. *YouTube*.](#)
- ⁷ [^] ['Nujabes Featuring Shing02 - Luv\(sic\)'. *Discogs*. 2001.](#)
- ⁸ [^] ['Luv\(sic\) by Nujabes feat. Shing02'. *WhoSampled*. 2001.](#)
- ⁹ [^] ['Nujabes Featuring Shing02 - Luv\(sic\) Part Two'. *Discogs*. 2002.](#)
- ¹⁰ [^] ['Luv\(sic\) Pt. 2 by Nujabes feat. Shing02'. *WhoSampled*. 2003.](#)
- ¹¹ [^] ['Part 3 Vinyl info'. *Discogs*.](#)
- ¹² [^] ['Luv\(sic\) Pt. 3 by Nujabes feat. Shing02'. *WhoSampled*. 2005.](#)
- ¹³ [^] ['Nujabes Featuring Shing02 - Luv\(sic\) Part 4 \(2011, Vinyl\)'. *Discogs*. July 7, 2011.](#)
- ¹⁴ [^] ['Nujabes Featuring Shing02 - Luv\(sic\) Part 5 \(2012, Vinyl\)'. *Discogs*. December 26, 2012.](#)
- ¹⁵ [^] ['Nujabes Featuring Shing02 - Luv\(sic\) Grand Finale / Part 6 \(2013, Vinyl\)'. *Discogs*. February 26, 2013.](#)
- ¹⁶ [^] ^a ^b ['Luv\(sic\) Pt. 6 by Nujabes and Shing02'. *WhoSampled*. 2013.](#)
- ¹⁷ [^] ['Nujabes、追悼イベント「A Tribute to Nujabes」東京と大阪で開催。ケンモチヒデフミ \(水曜日のカンパネラ\)ら出演' \[Annual tribute to Nujabes held in Circus Tokyo\]. *Tower Records* \(in Japanese\). February 7, 2019.](#)
- ¹⁸ [^] ['Luv\(sic\) Hexalogy'. *Spotify*.](#)