

Blogs to lurk on

Your first task as a blogger is to pay attention to what other bloggers are doing, regardless of content or intention. Though not the kind of blog you might be planning to create, these five blogs are well-regarded, well-trafficked, and are a great place to learn more about how a good blog functions:

FC Now (blog.fastcompany.com): This blog from the publishers of Fast Company is devoted to talking about business practices that rise to the top between regular publication dates. Though a unique combination of multiple bloggers, guest bloggers, and active comments, the site stays current and fresh, without losing focus.

BoingBoing (www.boingboing.net): This “directory of wonderful things” is a group blog that brings together the weird, wonderful, and remarkable sites on the Web today. Not every entry appeals to all readers, who nonetheless stick around because there is no other Boing Boing.

InstaPundit (www.instpundit.com): This mostly political blog by University of Tennessee

professor Glenn Reynolds is widely read. Reynolds’ posts are usually short, often include quotes, and nearly always link to another Web site. The following figure shows the InstaPundit blog.

Romenesko (www.poynter.org/romenesko): Jim Romenesko tracks and comments on all media-related happenings in his blog on Poynter Institute’s Web site. This blog is a must read for media professionals trying to stay on top of hirings, firings, media scandals, and more.

Dooce (www.dooce.com): Dooce is the personal blog of Heather Armstrong. Heather has readers all over the world that visit for a daily fix of news about her family, health, friends, thoughts, and photos. This is a quality production: The writing is funny, irreverent, and smart, and the site is beautifully designed.

Gizmodo (www.gizmodo.com): A blog about all kinds of tech gadgets, Gizmodo is a popular resource for daily readers and those looking for specific information on a product they are thinking of purchasing.

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HOUSE REMIXES OF LAWRENCE WELK? Yep. In the latest issue of *BPM* is a review of *Upstairs at Larry's: Lawrence Welk Uncorked*, a collection of -- you guessed it -- Lawrence Welk remixes. From the review by Andy Hermann:

It sounds like something done on a dare: An entire album of house remixes of tunes from The Lawrence Welk Show, possibly the squarest television show of all time. Can anyone really make "Bubbles in the Wine" funky? Apparently, the answer is yes. The collection's lack of polkas will disappoint Welk fans, but who cares about them, anyway? . . . Music for squares never sounded so cool.

Shockingly, I don't own the CD, but you can hear online samples here, and to my surprise it's pretty good. I think my favorite was the Kaskade Remix

Patron Blogged

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