Friday 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12 DJDay

The level of focus required for a DJ is comparable to that of a surgeon, with the DJ always ready to cue in the next track while keeping up the vibe in the house. DJ, short for disc jockey, sounds pretty hardcore but is also rather poetic. To be a jockey is the dream of every medieval boy, and to be a disc jockey is the ultimate challenge for today's diehard music lovers.



It all started with a power outage in a small club in Boston, which later led to the hottest parties in Taipei. DJ Andrew Ford started going to clubs in New York when he was a college student, and after meeting some DJs, he also started spinning and became an autodidact DJ. His first gig was in a club in Boston, but the power went out in the entire block after only three tracks. Andrew stepped into the music scene in Taiwan 11 years ago and became Room 18's resident DJ and international coordinator 5 years later.

What is the DJ doing when the dance floor is closed? Every week, Andrew picks out 40 to 60 news tracks, which he selects from subscription platforms such as ZipDJ, DJ City, Late Night, IDJ, Beatport, Traxsource, and Junodownload, where he picks up the latest trends in music. He then sorts through the music in detail to find the compositional structure, mood, and segments for every track. Each track is then marked, and then software is used to mix in key.

What is the DJ doing when the dance floor is pumping? Andrew usually arrives on scene half an hour early to see the DJ before him spin and get a feel for the vibe on the floor. It is important to know whom you are playing the music for. At clubs with younger partygoers, new tracks are introduced every 2 to 3 minutes to keep the vibe fresh and hot in the house.

The process of self-learning DJing skills is an ongoing one for Andrew, and he often finds resources online from sites such as DJTechtools and DJWorx. A novice DJ hit with a power blackout 15 years ago has now made a home for himself in Taiwan, conducting the sounds you hear at Room18 from 3:30-4:30am.

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