



Background Records

Lovers of that well-known genre 'abstract-techno-bleepy-electro-grainy-minimalism' will no doubt already be aware of Dusseldorf's Background Records.

Started by music enthusiast Andy Vaz to 'create a base for minimal left of centre techno with an eye on the repetitive side of the Detroit style', the label has since followed on from that initial concept.

It's now providing a platform for artists from places like Germany, Canada and the US,

illustrating the differences between minimal techno producers from different parts of the world.

"The name 'Background' was used because my artistic work for the label clearly demonstrates my own personal musical background, which was hip hop, then Chicago house and Detroit techno," explains Andy, who produces under his own name and rather bizarrely as "—".

"Secondly," he adds, "I liked the double

meaning of Background Records, which is also the term used for criminal records."

Background has put out records by an array of artists, all notable for their erudite and experimental takes on the techno sound. Their first release kicked off the 'Futuristic Experiments' series, showcasing four new and exclusive tracks from four different artists. Since then the label has since grown to incorporate sounds from producers including Terrence Dixon, Baby Ford, Deadbeat, Kit Clayton, Portable, Rhythm Maker, Submania, Sutekh and Todd Sines.

"The sound of Background can be defined as being strictly 4/4 based and stripped down," comments Andy. "While the goal is combining strict repetition without lacking funkiness and soul, our records are musical and warm. The sound can be defined by the criteria of one's imagination constrained only by the definition of it being 4/4 based electronic music without following any clearly defined linear sound aesthetic or concept."

Andy also runs two other imprints: ATC (A Touch Of Class) focuses on the more soulful side of deep house (mostly through local artist Repeat Orchestra) while a brand new label is nameless because "its releases shall not be associated with any specific production style or sound".

So no creative barriers at all then... well, apart from maybe one. "I'm very shocked by the fact that a lot of previous soldiers within the German minimal movement have changed their grown up attitude to an 80s pop direction," Andy announces. "To me this a backwards step that I do not feel at all.

"My answer as to how to keep serious minimal music exciting is the opposite - experimentalism. Experimenting with new production techniques in order to keep it fresh and moving, not going back to dumb cheesy headless 80s pop. Stop the 80s pop!"

