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APPROACHING YOUR DJ SET

“A good DJ set, in my opinion, tells a story.”
—Armin van Buuren

SUBCHAPTERS

- DJing Is Sharing Your Passion for Music
- Use Every Gig As a Learning Opportunity
- Play Your Own Music
- Borrow From What's Hot
- Leave Room for Experimentation
- Using Repetition to Create an Arc
- Be You

CHAPTER REVIEW

The drive to become a DJ stems from a passion for sharing music you love with others. When you're just starting out, every opportunity you have to perform is a chance to gain fans, test your original tracks on a dance floor, and become more comfortable mixing in front of a live audience.

Armin doesn't program his DJ set to the minute. If he has one hour to play 18–22 songs, he will prepare a folder of 40 tracks to choose from during his set. He will typically plan his intro and second track, and then let the energy of the crowd dictate where to go next. This helps to keep every night interesting and exciting. Armin also designs his sets to have a beginning, middle, and end—just like any good story. One way he achieves this structure is by repeating elements, such as an encore track that references an earlier highlight in the set.

LEARN MORE

- Armin plays his encore version of “Sunny Days” through the Rekordbox DJ software, which you can download [here](#).

ASSIGNMENT

- Follow Armin's advice and in two sentences write why someone would leave their house to see you perform. Think about what makes you special as an artist—Do you have a new single out? Do you make mashups better than anyone else? Be concise and share your two sentences with your peers in [The Hub](#). Now look over some of your go-to DJ tracks; do they reflect what you've said in your two sentences?