

**Everything you never knew you wanted to know, but
probably still don't want to know about techno.**



Drew DeCarme, Chariot Day 2022

Today's Agenda

I honestly can talk about this for hours, but we're going to put an agenda together because we need to create some direction here.

- **Basics** - Let's define the genre, talk about what it is and what it isn't.
- **Myths** - We're going to dispel some myths about what the public sees vs what the passionate sees.
- **Explore** - We're going to explore some artists, venues, festivals, clubs and instruments that really define the genre. We're going to talk about some of the things that you normally wouldn't associate with it.

So what is techno?

The **formal definition** taken from Merriam Webster (online of course)

electronic dance music that features a fast beat and **synthesized** sounds usually without vocals or a conventional popular song structure

Techno is used a lot to describe this type of music, but in all reality, it's actually a sub-type of electronic music.



So what is techno?

Here's a more in-depth description taken from Wikipedia

Much of the instrumentation in techno emphasizes the role of rhythm over other musical parameters. Techno tracks mainly progress over manipulation of timbral characteristics of synthesizer presets and, unlike forms of EDM that tend to be produced with synthesizer keyboards, **techno does not always strictly adhere to the harmonic practice of Western music** and such structures are often ignored in favor of timbral manipulation alone. Another distinguishing feature of techno music and techno aesthetic is the **general embracement of creative use of music production technology**.

Key takeaway - not limited to the bounds of conventional music

A Quick History of Techno

- Originated in Germany in the late 1980s
- Quickly became associated with Detroit (merged european synth-pop to more african music house and electro)
- Detroit & Chicago became hot beds for synthesizer exploration
- This song ([Strings of Life by Derrick May](#)) arguably became the singularity for the explosion of house music in detroit in 1988.

A Quick History of Techno (continued)

- Acid house started to take shape in Europe at that point which really took roots in warehouses. Seeing as these were uncontrolled environments, this is where the party drug / scene started to take place
- During the fall of the Berlin wall, illegal parties exploded; techno is credited with a big part of the re-unification

Electronic Music Breakdown

Let's break a few of the major concepts down to really focus in on what we're talking about.

[Electronic Music Decision Tree](#)

[Electronic Music Interactive Map](#)

Myths

What people normally associate to techno

In Movies

- Blade from 1998
- Matrix Reloaded
- EDM Festivals
- EDM Drops

What people normally associate to techno

In photos



What *isn't* techno?

The genre is so expansive, it sometimes helps to classify things using negation. Below are some examples of what techno really isn't

- It's not a popularity contest or a place to go to be seen
- It's not a lot of signing / pop music / or mainstream influences
- It's not typically planned

Explorations

Culture

Techno is a lot different than mainstream EDM in several ways. The culture is extremely rich and diverse

- Not a lot of bracelets
- No cell phones
- Going to get a lot of space to dance
- Typically an older crowd (30+)

Culture

- Definitely more subdued; black
- A bit more introverted yet overt



Influential Artists

One of the most exciting things about techno is the gender diversity...

Most all notable artists these days who are rising the ranks of techno are all women.

- Charlotte de Witte - Belgium
- ANNA - Brazil
- Lilly Palmer - USA
- Amlie Lense - Belgium
- Deborah de Luca - Italy
- Sama' Abdulhadi - Palestine
- Indira Paganotto - Spain



Musical Composition

Everything in the studio becomes your music

They're try masters of tempo



Festivals

- Love Parade - Germany
- Exit Festival, Serbia
- Awakenings -
Amsterdam
- Tomorrowland - Boom
Belgium
- Futura, Torino Italy



Festivals

Exit Festival

The festival was founded in 2000 in Novi Sad, Serbia as a student movement, fighting for democracy and freedom in Serbia and the Balkans. After the Yugoslavian general election in 2000, Exit moved from the city's university park to the Petrovaradin Fortress in the same city in 2001.



Clubs

Bergain

Location: Berlin, Germany

Known For: World capital of
techno.



Clubs

Privilege

Location: Ibiza, Spain

Known For: Worlds largest club.



Clubs

Output

Location: Brooklyn, NYC

Known For: Best sound on
the east coast.

