

Todd Bodine is well-known as one of Berlin's longest-serving, most creative DJs and label owners. His Highgrade imprint is home to the likes of Guido Schneider, Jens Bond, Markus Homm and co-founder Tom Clark.

From his earliest days trainspotting at Tresor, through his self-taught exploration of techno ("I had no playlist from Richie Hawtin" he deadpans), to starting Highgrade at the turn of the new millennium, Todd has always fearlessly carved his own path. His latest act of musical daring is the gorgeous album *Forms* - his second long-player and first to be released on Highgrade. Unlike many dance albums, *Forms* makes no effort to be radio-friendly.

There are no big-name guest vocalists, no MTV-ready videos, no compromises. Just 12 tracks of sublime instrumental electronica that beg comparison to masterpieces like *Selected Ambient Works*. I Voice went behind the scenes with Bodine to uncover the origins of his inspiration. He picked the artists and I Voice selected some classic tracks for your listening pleasure.

#### Octave One Blackwater (430 West)

Blood brothers from Detroit, Octave One are an enduring techno phenomenon - their ferocious live sets are the stuff of legend and cuts like *Blackwater* never get stale.

#### Juan Atkins Flash Flood (Tresor)

Timeless instrumental techno from Detroit godfather Juan Atkins, one of the famous Belleville Three (along with fellow innovators Derrick May and Kevin Saunderson).

#### Jeff Mills Life Cycle (Tresor)

The dark lord of minimal techno, Jeff Mills' fast and furious beats were a profound (if unlikely) influence on Todd Bodine. This cut is from *Waveform Transmission Vol 3* - one of Todd's favourite albums.

#### Cristian Vogel Body Mapping (Tresor)

Chilean-born DJ and producer Cristian Vogel was one of Bodine's early heroes. You can hear the influence in the silky sounds of *Body Mapping*.

#### Cab Drivers Affect (Cabinet)

Cabinet Records' studio was where Bodine first learned to produce. He calls *Affect* the most influential record by a fellow Berlin artist: "It has amazing grooves and I think this record really describes the typical Berlin-sound," Todd says.

#### Robag Wruhme 'K.T.B.' Daniel Paul & DJ Zky rmx (Sonar Kollektiv)

Cabinet Records founders Daniel Paul and DJ Zky were Todd's early mentors. "Their sounds and melodies inspired me, they showed me everything I needed to know about producing music."

#### Mathew Jonson Magic Through Music (Itiswhatitis)

This glorious b-side is the record Todd says he most wishes he'd written. "It's an amazing track."

#### Phage & Daniel Dreier Static Bubbles EP (Highgrade)

Bodine is hard-pressed to pick a top track from the many years of illustrious Highgrade releases, but this is one he is very proud to have released. "I love the deepness."

#### Todd Bodine Day After (Highgrade)

Last but not least:

Todd's personal favourite from *Forms*. Here's why: "I love tracks like this that build up slowly then come down for a while. Not this dancefloor-monsterbreak stuff. You can listen to and play a track like 'Day After' for a long period."