

Playing A 7-Hour DJ Set - John OO Fleming's Tips

1. Preparation - how to get everything ready

Plan for all stages of the evening - empty room, warm up, full room, peak time

Warm up - familiarity helps "to get from wiggling to dancing". Build energy slowly

As filling up - tease, but don't give up the goods too early. Note tracks you think will get attention but not anthems

Peak time - variation is key, as anthem after anthem will numb people. Think how comedians work a crowd. All crowd differ

When you misjudge a crowd - get out of that track fast.

You have to observe your crowd really carefully - every room has a different mood, until you bring them in synergy!

Don't show panic even if thing are going wrong - that attitude carries to the dancefloor, so "fake it till you fix it"

Think of your dancefloor in "groups" - what are each "group" doing? How can you appeal to those who aren't dancing?

"Become your own character" when DJing - learn to be comfortable with what you're doing and who you are - people will get to know you.

2. Place - how to get your environment right

Make sure all firmware etc updated on every device - laptop, CDJs etc - but only when safe to do (don't use brand new operating systems)

Don't necessarily trust what staff etc tell you - check everything (politely) for yourself - LAN cables, monitors, do a soundcheck etc.

Go onto the dancefloor to check all speakers are sounding good - more than once during the night if you can

Try and ensure that if you want to be alone or just have certain people with you when DJing, that the venue can organise this

3. Performance - How to interact with your crowd and convey the right "energy"

4. Promotion - How to get these types of gigs!

Start by putting your own gigs on in small venues, pubs etc - this is where you're going to make your puppy steps and make mistakes. These gigs are naturally LONG, and you get lot of chances as people come and go. You learn os much!

Promoters love their NIGHTS - just like you love your MUSIC. The respectful thing to do is VISIT places you want to play, to make sure you really have something to offer!

Gain trust by playing warm up, working up from there, then FINALLY a guest won't turn up... and it's you all night!