

# Axel Bartsch

## Biography

*It's a long road that leads from the purchase of your first single in mid-70s to establishing yourself as a respected solo artist with gigs all over the world today. There were, of course, the first tentative steps, spinning funk and dance classics at house parties in the 80s. These led to Axel promoting raves in the early 90s with old friend and partner-in-crime Asem Shama, with whom he then built a studio, set up their first label and collaborated on the Vanguard project. Next came the fifty or so releases on respected and innovative labels like Bush, Planet of Drums, Frisbee Tracks and Spiel-Zeug, not to mention the innumerable live P.A.s and DJ sets... After completing his studies in 2004, Axel was finally free to focus all his efforts on music, especially his increasingly sophisticated solo works. The fresh application of time and energy landed him one side of the now classic Speicher 26, released on Kompakt's prestigious Extra offshoot. 'Galaxy', was a growling, bass-driven bomb and deservedly became an international smash, setting dancefloors alight. "I'd not had previous contact with the Kompakt guys," Axel says, "But after all I'd read and heard, I got the feeling we had a lot in common, and that they'd like what I was doing..." And like it they did, commissioning another mighty Speicher production ('Was Bleibt Ist Die Musik') and acting as distributor for the newly minted Sportclub label, which Axel founded together with Franco Zeiger in late 2005. Sportclub has provided Axel with another platform from which to release his own heady brand of modernist techno - releases like 'Breakout', 'Thunk' and the 'Hola Guapa' EP have ensured a steep rise in his popularity, and put his name on the lips of DJs, labels and tastemakers across the globe. Any doubt that Axel Bartsch had truly arrived was dispelled with the release of his 'Light in the Dark' maxi for Kompakt's main imprint and the solo Speicher 41. "I produced 'Light in the Dark' with Kompakt in mind..." Axel tells us, "I guess it was meant to be, kind of eerie..." After a few Remixes he returns to his good old partners at "Spiel-Zeug Schallplatten" to deliver two awesome peaktime tunes on the "Radio Controlled E.P." in 2007 followed by "Easy" on their "Hi Freaks" imprint. He had done three albums in cooperation with Asem and now it..s time for his first soloalbum "Kiss" which hits the scene on Cologne based "Karmarouge Records" in June 2008 and takes him another step ahead celebrated by almost all upfront DJs in the techno circus. 2008 is the year when he really enjoys Berlin and spends more time to see what the city..s got to offer then in the studio, but he still delivers rmxs. for Guy Boratto and Sian beside two Sportclub releases and a track for Berlins hot shot "Upon You Records". So the road's been long, sure, but Axel remains tireless - his fascination with music and clubbing keeps him happy and, luckily for us, productive. Wherever he is right now, whether tweaking away in the studio, gazing out the window of an aeroplane or maybe sweating his bollocks off after a 6-hour set at the Panorama Bar, you can rest assured: he's doing it for music's sake, and giving all he's got to enchant and enthrall us with the sounds of the 21st century. Get behind him.*