

proaudio

11<sup>th</sup> Edition | November 2023

# Sound PRESS

Are you mixing with the right company?

The

## BLACK *Friday* Edition

### RESPECTED ARTISTS

HOUSEHOLD FUNK  
CRAIG DE SOUSA  
ANDREW CROSS  
MADAM SP3KR

### LATEST EQUIPMENT & NEWS

Concert Set-up with MIDAS  
Headphones 3 x features  
NORD Grand  
CDJ-400 'Throwback'

### FEATURED ARTICLES

Congrats Black Coffee  
Powerful DJ Tips  
Tour-Proven Workhorse  
HOLY Cross Up-Grade

LATEST HOMEGROWN MUSIC



“We are the People of Tomorrow,



and We Stand Together.”

Tomorrowland 2023 Anthem

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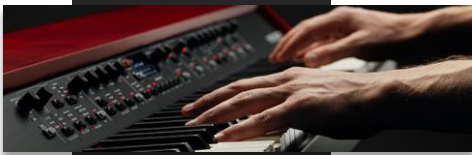
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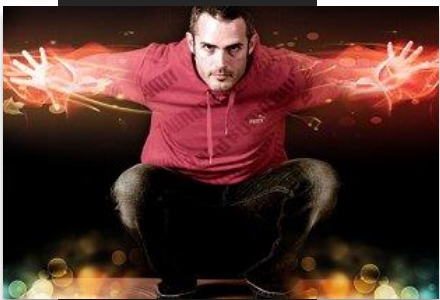
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# WELCOME

## To The November Edition Of **PROAUDIO SOUND PRESS**

This month, we're delighted to feature an array of incredible artists, each bringing their unique sound to the forefront. From the signature beats of Household Funk to the melodious tunes of Craig De Sousa, Andrew Cross's inspiring return to the DJing scene, and the captivating compositions of Madam Sp3kr, this edition is packed with the finest artists you won't want to miss.

Additionally, we're excited to present in-depth product reviews covering some of the latest and most sought-after gear in the industry. Uncover the exceptional capabilities of the Nord Grand, the compact prowess of the Amplug 2, and the cutting-edge innovations behind the Ashdown EVO Head, offering a comprehensive view of the technology shaping the music world.

Delve into thought-provoking articles discussing the evolving landscape of the music industry in South Africa, particularly with insights on the significance of Black Friday in this domain. Also, join us in extending our congratulations to the phenomenal Black Coffee for his remarkable achievements, marking a monumental milestone in his career.

For the aspiring DJs and sound enthusiasts, get ready for an exclusive section featuring incredible tips from the world's best sound engineers, providing invaluable insights and techniques to elevate your craft.

This edition is a tribute to the diverse facets of music, from the talents of our featured artists to the industry's innovations and insightful articles. It's a compilation that captures the spirit and rhythm of the music world, providing you with an enriching and entertaining experience.

Thank you for joining us on this musical journey.

**STAY INSPIRED!**

*Proaudio Sound Press Team*



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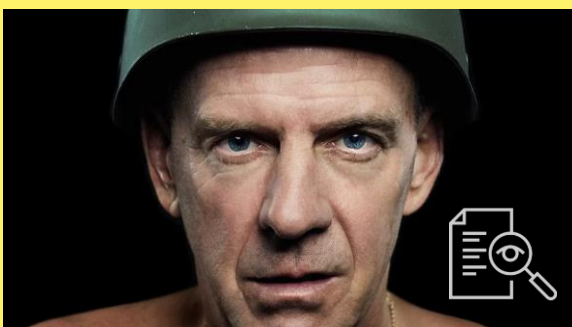
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This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

# THE press ROOM

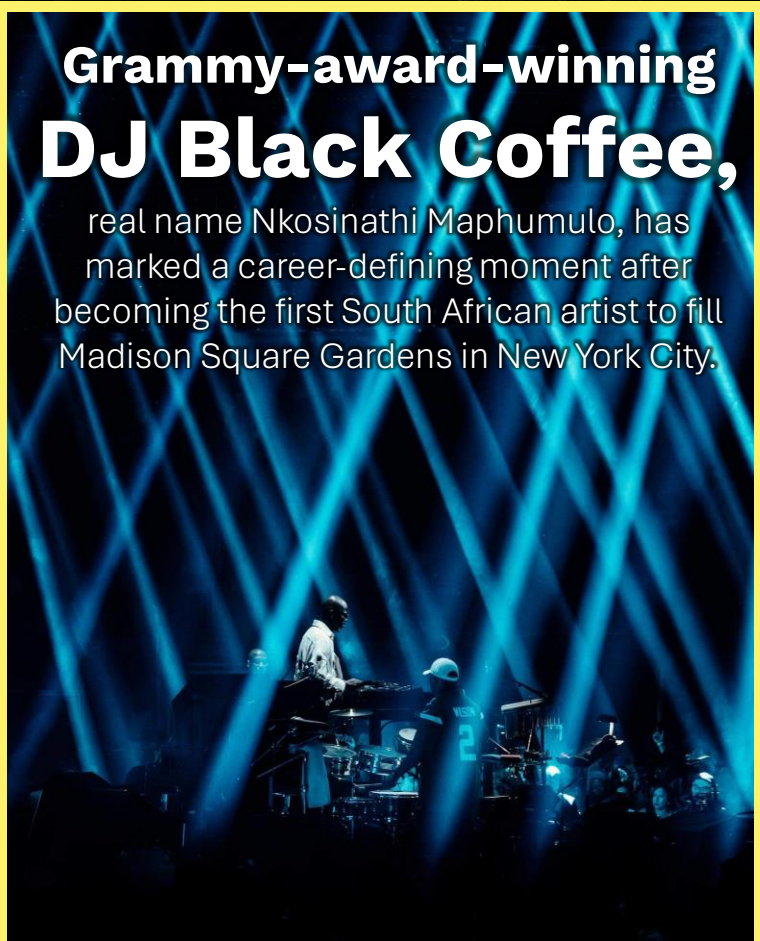


## Fatboy Slim releases 25th anniversary vinyl reissue of 'You've Come A Long Way, Baby'

Out today, the reissue is pressed on double LP gatefold vinyl and includes the original booklet from its first release 25 years ago, as well as a signed album cover print. The album was also remastered at half speed at Abbey Road Studios to maximise audio quality. First released in 1998, 'You've Come a Long Way, Baby' features four UK Singles Chart top 10 singles including 'Right Here, Right Now', 'Rockafeller Skank', 'Gangster Trippin', and 'Praise You', the latter of which went to No.1 in the UK. Fatboy Slim, aka Norman Cook, is also set to headline his own All Back to Minehead Festival 2023 next month, appearing alongside the likes of Jodie Harsh, Marshall Jefferson, Mella Dee, Sally C, Saoirse, and more.

## Grammy-award-winning DJ Black Coffee,

real name Nkosingathi Maphumulo, has marked a career-defining moment after becoming the first South African artist to fill Madison Square Gardens in New York City.



Nkosingathi Maphumulo, better known as Black Coffee, from Umlazi in KwaZulu Natal, made history headlining at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Minister Zizi Kodwa praised Black Coffee's journey, showing South African musicians endless possibilities. His recent success echoes a message to dreamers: "Anything is possible." His rise from local streets to international acclaim continues to inspire and redefine what's achievable for South African artists.



## AMAPIANO VIBES Taking Over Istanbul at Kastel

Amapiano Vibes Taking Over Istanbul at Kastel – In the heart of the world, a vibrant cultural exchange is taking place every Sunday night in Turkey. The rhythms of South African Amapiano flood one of the city's best clubs on a weekly basis.



## TOP SEVEN DJs

### 1 MARTIN GARRIX



From: The Netherlands.  
 DJ style: "Pop/electronic."  
 Best known for: "Tracks such as 'Animals', 'In The Name Of Love', 'Scared To Be Lonely' and 'We Are The People'."



### 2 DAVID GUETTA

### 3 DIMITRI VEGAS & LIKE MIKE



### 4 ALOK

### 5 ARMIN VAN BUUREN



### 6 AFROJACK

### 7 STEVE AOKI



### 'Thank you God of the impossible!' Uncle Waffles in the running for 2 Grammy Award nominations

Uncle Waffles has announced that she is in the running for two Grammy Award nominations for her latest project 'Asylum' and hit single 'Yahyuppiyah'. The international superstar DJ shared the news on her Instagram page on Wednesday night. The nominations for 66th Grammy Awards are set to be announced on November 10. The official awards ceremony will be held on February 4, 2024 at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California.



### Tyla says Drake is her dream collaboration: 'It's coming soon'

"My dream collab is Drake, 100%," she said. She then pointed towards the camera and added, "It's coming soon, I'm putting it in the atmosphere."

# HOME GROWN MUSIC

Your gateway to discovering the vibrant sounds of local South African artists. On this page, we provide you with direct access to music links, allowing you to dive into the rich tapestry of South African music. [CLICK ON THE LINKS](#)

**SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW**



## James Cole, Kevin McKay Somebody That I Used To Know

James Cole and Kevin McKay started working together last summer when James sent him his "Avec Moi" track to remix. Since then, the Hungarian/Scottish connection has been growing as the two shared DJ edits that they had made. They have similar tastes in songs, but it was surprising to them that there was one song they had both made an edit of.



## Paul Kalkbrenner Tomorrowland Brasil 2023

Coming home: Tomorrowland Brasil. Prepare to reflect your love and to unite with people from all over the world at: The Reflection of Love – Chapter II. The intense connection between the People of Tomorrow and the special union of positive energy across all borders brings magic and a worldwide reflection of light.



## Kunye Pretoria II Lemon & Herb (DJ Set)

Live Recording from Kunye Pretoria II @ Pretoria National Botanical Gardens on Saturday 1 July 2023



## Wu-Tang Clan

have shared a brand new single, 'Claudine'

'Claudine' touches on themes of love, loss and heartbreak, and pays homage to the 1974 blaxploitation film of the same name, starring Diahann Carroll and James Earl Jones. The new track's release comes in the 50th anniversary year of the hip-hop genre that Wu-Tang Clan have been a cornerstone of for three decades. They will also soon mark the 30th anniversary of their debut album, 'Enter The Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)'.



## Mi Casa

ROCK3T

The latest single Rock3t is a magical dance track that has a catchy, punchy sound that will have you singing along to the chorus and tapping your foot to the beat. The message is also important. 'One day when I'm big I want to fly a rocket' I mean that sounds so crazy. But it's essentially about not losing our innocence in the pursuit of our dreams.



## Chronical Deep

Deep Town Jozi

One of Joburg's most popular club nights, this twice monthly deep house music night



## Cassper Nyovest

Soul

The official Sprite Limelight music film for "Soul" by Cassper Nyovest. Follow South African rapper Cassper Nyovest as he celebrates his massive success while staying cool in his moments of heat.

# BLACK Friday

As South Africa gears up for the festive season, the melodies of Black Friday echo louder than ever in the country's vibrant music industry. This annual retail extravaganza isn't just about bagging discounts on electronics or fashion; it's an opportune time for music enthusiasts, professionals, and aspiring artists to tap into a symphony of unparalleled deals, making their musical dreams a reality.

## Tuning into Unmatched Discounts

Black Friday in South Africa heralds a harmonious extravaganza for music lovers. Retailers and online platforms orchestrate exceptional discounts on a wide array of musical instruments, recording equipment, vinyl records, amplifiers, and studio gear. Enthusiasts can revel in the rhythm of slashed prices, bundled packages, and limited-time offers, making their aspirations more accessible and affordable.

## Empowering Musical Aspirations

For artists and aspiring musicians, Black Friday presents an exceptional opportunity to invest in their craft.

Reduced prices on instruments, software, and studio equipment can empower these creative minds to explore new sounds, experiment with various musical styles, and craft their unique sonic signature.

## Digital Crescendos and Streaming Harmonies

The resonance of Black Friday isn't confined to physical instruments alone. Streaming platforms and digital music stores offer delightful deals on subscriptions, allowing music lovers to explore an extensive library of artists and genres at discounted rates. It's a chance to uncover new rhythms, genres, and playlists, expanding musical horizons without stretching the budget.

## Local Flavors and Independent Artists

In the spirit of supporting local talent, Black Friday in South Africa highlights the importance of backing homegrown artists and local music shops. Many independent stores curate unique offers and exclusive deals, fostering an environment that celebrates the rich tapestry of local music while providing a platform for emerging artists.

This Black Friday, let's not merely celebrate discounts but also the harmonies of supporting the local music ecosystem and nurturing musical exploration and growth. It's an opportunity to amplify the diversity of the music scene and ensure that the sounds of South Africa continue to captivate audiences globally.

**Black Friday** is more than just a day of sales; it's an invitation to explore, celebrate, and invest in the vibrant musical culture of South Africa. So, tune in and make your mark in the musical world this **Black Friday!**



BLACK  
FRIDAY



# Pioneer DJ's Iconic CDJ-400 and DJM-400

## A Throwback to DJing's Evolution

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**In the late 2000s, Pioneer DJ made an indelible mark in the world of DJ equipment with the CDJ-400 and DJM-400, entry-level units that redefined home DJing. Towards the end of their lifespan, Pioneer DJ introduced the CDJ-400-K LTD and DJM-400-K LTD—striking black variations with captivating blue illuminations, available only as a coveted bundled package encased in a flight case.**

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Jeroen Groenendijk of Pioneer DJ reminisces about the tremendous popularity and rapid sell-out of these limited edition bundles. "People were captivated by the color variation and the use of the mesmerizing blue illumination," he recalls.

The CDJ-400, designed for aspiring club DJs to use at home, was a game-changer. This digital CD deck enabled users to play MP3 collections from CD-R/RW discs or USB storage devices, expanding the scope of music sources for DJs. Pioneer DJ took a cue from its industry-standard CDJ-1000 series, ensuring that the CDJ-400 embodied flexibility and affordability without compromising on performance.

One of the CDJ-400's standout features was the world's first Scratch Jog Effects, offering three creative scratch effects and an innovative Loop Divide function. Notably, the deck allowed virtually all button and slider functions to send MIDI data via USB output, enabling control of external DJ software like Pioneer DJ's DJS.

This software mimicked a full Pioneer DJ setup on a PC, providing eight effects, a waveform display, cue/looping ability, and easy conversion of CD/line input signals to MP3.

Moreover, the CDJ-400 was compatible with third-party applications such as Traktor and Serato Scratch Live, further amplifying its versatility in the DJing landscape. When paired with the DJM-400 mixer, this dynamic duo delivered the ultimate home party setup, catering to both aspiring and seasoned DJs alike.

The CDJ-400 and DJM-400 series, with its limited black variations, stands as a nostalgic testament to Pioneer DJ's evolution and continued innovation. These units paved the way for modern DJ technology, marking a crucial stage in the journey of home-based DJ equipment.

Though they may be a "throwback" now, their impact on the DJing world remains undeniable, serving as a foundation for the contemporary DJ equipment we see today.

# CELEBRATING

## Black Coffee's Historic Sold-Out Performance at Madison Square Garden





South African music and arts celebrated a monumental achievement as Black Coffee, the renowned DJ and producer, made history with his remarkable headline performance at the prestigious Madison Square Garden on October 7. Labelled a historic moment, Black Coffee became the first South African DJ and producer to take the stage at this iconic venue, joining an elite list of legendary artists.

The Grammy-winning DJ, expressing his excitement and disbelief, shared his sold-out show's success on social media, emphasizing the monumental achievement by saying, "We did it."

His performance at this iconic New York venue places him alongside music legends like Elvis Presley, Taylor Swift, and Bob Dylan, marking a significant milestone not only in his career but also in South African music history.

The South African Minister of Sport, Arts, and Culture, Zizi Kodwa, hailed the moment as a proud South African accomplishment, affirming that Black Coffee has amplified South Africa's music on a global scale in an unprecedented manner.

Kodwa recognized Black Coffee's journey from the streets of Umlazi and Mthatha to the world's most renowned music arenas. He celebrated the DJ's contribution, affirming that he continues to be an inspiration for both the young and old, showcasing the best of South African music to the world.

The Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture had previously honored Black Coffee and other South African Grammy winners for their global achievements, recognizing their efforts in making South African music a dominant voice on the global stage.

Despite the minister's inability to attend the groundbreaking event, the support from millions of South Africans amplified the magnitude of Black Coffee's triumph. Aiding Black Coffee's performance were special guests, including notable personalities such as Bucie, Monique Bingham, and Msaki.

This achievement was applauded by a multitude of figures across various sectors. From musician Oskido to the clothing brand Amiri, they all celebrated Black Coffee's accomplishment and influence in the music industry.

Black Coffee's performance outfit, custom-designed by Amiri, held a significant artistic essence, paying homage to the culture and heritage of South Africa. The attire, inspired by The Pyramids, an artwork by South African artist Wonderbuhle, was a heartfelt tribute to Black Coffee's mother and grandmothers, showcasing his deep connection to his roots.

The concert was a true testament to the endless possibilities for South African musicians. As this historic performance resonated globally, it's a testament to the growing influence and opportunities awaiting South African artists on the world stage.

**CONGRATULATIONS,**  
Black Coffee, for this  
monumental  
achievement and for  
representing South Africa  
on the international music  
scene!





# HHHF

## HOUSEHOLD FUNK

### In Conversation with Household Funk

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Hello, and thank you for taking the time to chat with us today. Let's start by talking about the events scene in South Africa. As a group of DJs and event hosts, could you share how this journey started and evolved over the past decade?

Household Funk: It started as a collaboration between two DJs who didn't have consistent gigs at the time. The club scene was transitioning, so we revived an old event name, Household Funk. We began hosting events in Joburg, eventually bringing in Vocalist Justin Chalice, forming the group known as Household Funk.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: You've hosted successful dance events in Johannesburg. What makes these events unique, and how do you balance DJing and event hosting?

Household Funk: Unique locations, big sound systems, mood lighting, creative visuals, and interesting décor create an immersive experience. Balancing event hosting and DJ careers was challenging; eventually, we decided to focus on our musical aspirations.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: As both DJs and music producers, what inspires your original tracks, and how was your journey of releasing two music albums featuring these tracks?

Household Funk: Our inspiration stems from diverse dance music sub-genres and acclaimed artists. We were inspired by solo artists forming Swedish House Mafia and realized creating music was necessary for standing out.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Household Funk received a SAMA nomination in 2018. How did this recognition impact your careers, and how have you seen your music evolve since then?

Household Funk: It helped us network in the music industry and instilled confidence to keep pursuing music. Evolution is essential to stay ahead. We constantly search for future hits in both our DJ sets and production.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Having achieved number one hits and chart-topping remixes on major radio stations, could you share your creative process when producing these tracks?

Household Funk: We focus on future sounds, gathering in the studio to decide the energy and genre for the track. We design synths from scratch and avoid presets. With mirrored music studios, we collaborate and work individually on tracks.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: How do you perceive the evolution of the Deep House scene in South Africa, and what trends have you noticed in recent years?

Household Funk: The scene has diversified into numerous sub-genres like Amapiano, afrotech, among others. We foresee continued growth, believing that house music will endure despite evolving definitions.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: You mentioned using the Pioneer DJS1000 sampler in your DJ sets. How has this technology enhanced your performances, and what unique experiences does it offer to your audiences?

Household Funk: We're still exploring its functions but anticipate it'll revolutionize performances. It allows live remixing and sampling, presenting endless possibilities for on-the-fly manipulation during shows.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Can you provide a glimpse into any upcoming projects, music releases, or events that you're excited to share with your fans?

Household Funk: We're working on remixes, original tracks, and will be performing at the Cannabis expo and Conchilla Ballito, amongst other events. We're also hosting a stage at Truth nightclub featuring Stimming for their birthday.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Household Funk hosts its own stage at H2O, one of South Africa's biggest outdoor events. Can you tell us more about this experience and what it means to host your favorite DJs on your stage?

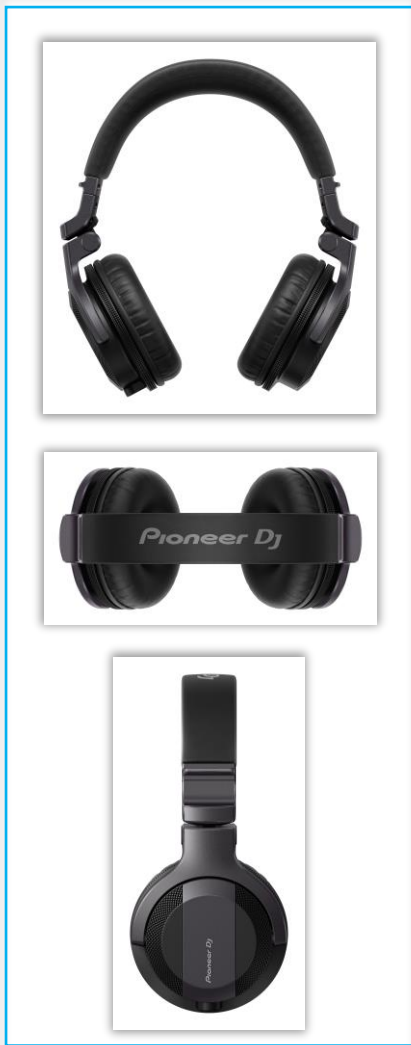
Household Funk: Hosting our brand, Deep Revival, at such a festival is an honor. It's fulfilling to provide a platform for our favorite and upcoming DJs, granting them a spotlight on a grand stage.





# HDJ-CUE1

MY STYLE MY CUE



Despite being an entry-level option, the HDJ-CUE1 headphones hold their ground by meeting the lofty feature and quality benchmarks set by our professional headphone range.

Embrace these headphones for their pro look and feel, delivering rich sound, a compact, flexible design, and an impeccable finish. Infused with specialist sound tuning akin to our pro-level HDJ-X5, these headphones ensure precise mixing by accentuating low frequencies in bass and kick drums, allowing you to craft the perfect soundscape that your audience will experience.

Select your favorite from a variety of colors to match your unique style and revel in the freedom of listening to music on the move, thanks to the built-in Bluetooth technology. Additionally, for those who prefer a wired connection, a wired version of the headphones is available, catering to individual preferences.

### Immersive Sound Quality

Indulge in the full richness of your music with the HDJ-CUE1 headphones. The dynamic drivers offer an immersive experience, delivering powerful bass and crystal-clear mid and high-end sounds, ideal for precise mixing and detailed listening.

### Durability and Reliability

Designed to endure the rigors of DJing, the HDJ-CUE1 headphones boast strong, durable components. All moving parts have undergone rigorous in-house durability tests, ensuring lasting reliability. The extra-strong metal sliders in the headband offer additional resilience.

### Wireless Freedom

Enjoy wireless music with Bluetooth connectivity. The built-in microphone allows for convenient phone calls, and when it's time to start DJing, simply connect the included cable for a focused mix.

### Comfort and Flexibility

Designed for comfort, the HDJ-CUE1 features ear cups that rotate 90 degrees, coupled with a flexible, cushioned headband, allowing you to monitor your mix comfortably. Customize your style by swapping out the cable and earpads with one of the five brightly colored replacement options available in the HC-CP08 accessory pack.

The Pioneer DJ HDJ-CUE1 headphones offer a gateway to a personalized DJing experience. From superior sound quality and durability to comfort and customizable looks, these headphones are your ticket to DJing your way while reflecting your unique style. Whether you're in the mix or on the move, the HDJ-CUE1 headphones are here to complement your journey.

**HDJ CUE1**  
MY STYLE | MY CUE



# The ELEMENTAL Spirit of Air

Hours of Gaming Comfort **Extremely Lightweight**

Embark on an unparalleled gaming adventure with the Audio-Technica ATH-GDL3, a gaming headset designed to evoke the elemental spirit of air. Weighing less than 220 grams, this open-back over-ear headset offers an immersive experience while ensuring all-day comfort, nearly as light as air itself.

## **Immersive Sound, Exceptional Comfort**

Boasting 45mm drivers, the ATH-GDL3 delivers an unmatched high-resolution and high-fidelity sound quality, creating a spacious and immersive auditory experience for gaming enthusiasts. The lightweight design complements this by ensuring prolonged comfort for extended gaming sessions.

## **Advanced Features for Effortless Control**

Equipped with a flexible, detachable boom microphone, the ATH-GDL3 ensures crystal-clear audio and detailed communication during gameplay. Conveniently located on the left earcup, the built-in volume control and mute switch grant effortless command over incoming sound and microphone activity.

## **Versatile Connectivity for Gaming Platforms**

Experience seamless gaming across multiple platforms with two detachable cables – a 3.0m cable for connecting to computers and a 1.2m cable tailored for PS5, Xbox Series X, and other gaming consoles.





Compatible with a range of devices and consoles, including PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X, laptops, PCs, and more, the ATH-GDL3 is the perfect choice for various gaming environments.

#### **Adaptable and Replaceable**

With detachable earpads and headband, the ATH-GDL3 offers a hassle-free way for simple replacement, ensuring a headset that lasts through many gaming battles.

The ATH-GDL3 gaming headset is designed to transport gamers to a new dimension of sound, comfort, and control. Whether exploring virtual worlds or engaging in multiplayer showdowns, the ATH-GDL3 promises an unmatched gaming experience.

**Experience  
gaming as it's  
meant to be -  
with the  
elemental spirit  
of air guiding  
your journey.**

Available on: PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X, laptops, PCs, and other devices with a standard 3.5mm TRRS headset connector or with separate mic input and headphone output.

# KRK Headphones

## Engineered for Precision Listening

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Step into the realm of unrivaled sound quality with the impressive range of KRK headphones. Whether you're in a personal studio, commercial setting, or on-the-go for track evaluations, KRK headphones offer a precise listening experience that resonates with the same quality trusted by top producers, studio musicians, performers, and engineers.





**NEW KNS 6402**



**NEW KNS 8402**

The KNS 6402 headphones from KRK redefine accuracy and durability in a cost-effective package. These closed-back, circumaural headphones provide up to 26 dBA of isolation, effectively reducing headphone "bleed" during recordings and enabling an immersive listening experience. With a maximum SPL of 122 dB, they deliver exceptional levels of clarity and detail, ensuring low distortion and a reliable reference standard for critical listening applications.

Constructed with impact-resistant materials and field-replaceable parts, these headphones are not just lightweight and durable but also flexible, making them suitable for various uses – be it tracking, editing, mixing, or general listening. Get ready to embrace the KRK experience, where accurate frequency response and excellent stereo imaging redefine your auditory journey.

The KNS 8402 headphones by KRK embody precision listening in a robust, versatile package. With a closed-back, circumaural design that offers up to 30 dBA of isolation, they excel in reducing headphone "bleed," ensuring focus on the music without external distractions. These headphones produce a maximum SPL of 124 dB, maintaining crystal-clear, detailed sound with minimal distortion.

Trusted by professional engineers for their accurate frequency response and consistent KRK voicing, the KNS 8402 headphones are reliable companions for critical listening applications. Constructed with impact-resistant materials and field-replaceable parts, including form-fitting memory foam pads, they offer both durability and comfort for prolonged use. Versatile for various applications, both in and out of the studio, these headphones will quickly become your go-to choice, offering an exceptional listening experience.

KRK headphones epitomize precision, durability, and comfort, offering a gateway to experiencing music as artists intended it to be heard. Whether you're seeking an accurate reference for critical listening or a reliable companion for everyday listening tasks, the KRK range promises exceptional quality and an unparalleled auditory journey.

**KRK - Behind Great Music.**

November 2023 | **sound**press





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## Legacy and Innovation

### Craig De Sousa's Unplanned Journey in House Music Evolution

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Craig, thank you for taking the time to chat with us. Your career in the House Music scene has been incredibly influential and dynamic. Looking back at your extensive journey, what are some of the fondest memories and experiences that stand out for you?

**Craig De Sousa:** It's an absolute pleasure, and thank you for having me. When I reflect on my journey, it's like a treasure trove of moments that have shaped my life. The people I've met, the places I've visited, and the experiences I've had are immeasurable. These memories, sometimes forgotten but rekindled, always bring a smile to my face. Each event, each connection, has its own significance, and it's all part of a larger journey. I am profoundly grateful for these blessings and cherish every single experience.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Heads & Tails Music was a significant part of your career, contributing to the House music landscape. Could you share insights into your experience as a label boss and the vision you had for the music label?

**Craig De Sousa:** Absolutely, Heads & Tails was a venture Roger D'lux, Erefaan Pearce, and I started back in 2004. We aimed to provide a platform for releasing the abundant South African House music that wasn't getting much international exposure.

Over the span of 10 years, we released 37 EPs from various artists, some of whom went on to become great success stories. Artists like Iridium Project, Kyle Watson, and Mark Stent found their wings through our label. Even after we closed the label, the catalogue remains alive and well-supported. Recently, I received an offer from France to press some of the singles to vinyl, which is quite exciting to see the continued interest.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Your passion for teaching DJing and music production is admirable. What inspired you to share your knowledge, and what do you find most fulfilling about mentoring aspiring artists?

**Craig De Sousa:** Teaching was never in my initial plan, but it's evolved to become the most rewarding aspect of my career.

Leaving a legacy and giving back to an industry that's given me so much has been a driving motivation. Witnessing my students grow and reach new heights is incredibly fulfilling. Transferring over 30 years of experience to enthusiastic minds and seeing them grasp complex concepts and create magic is truly priceless.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Your focus on Ableton and live DJing is distinctive. How have these areas shaped your approach to music creation and live performance?

**Craig De Sousa:** Ableton came into the picture when I joined Iridium Project, leading to the development of my first live set. My goal was always to perform my original material live, and Ableton, particularly with the Push controller, facilitated this. It significantly altered my understanding of music theory and my approach to creating music. It became evident that successful artists who shaped the industry could create their own content, not just play tracks from other producers.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Let's talk about your albums. "The Deeper Sounds of Craig De Sousa" was a notable release. Can you share the inspiration behind this album and what you aimed to convey through its tracks?

**Craig De Sousa:** "The Deeper Sounds" resulted from the faith shown in me by Nigel Laver from USM, a visionary in SA DJ compilations and House music releases. I invested time in learning about music production and engineering. Since there were no sound schools in South Africa at that time, I spent several summers in Paris immersing myself in the French House sound that I admired. This album became a signature sound that unexpectedly defined my career and continues to do so today.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** "Nightwatchmen" was an album ahead of its time. What was the vision behind this release, and how did it impact your career and the music industry?

**Craig De Sousa:** "Nightwatchmen" stemmed from my radio show with Dino Moran on Good Hope FM. We both extensively promoted South African House music, which, at that time, didn't receive much recognition or support for local producers. This album was the first 'SA House' exclusive mix, showcasing the emerging sound that I was deeply passionate about. It laid the groundwork for the explosion of this sound globally, now visible with artists like Black Coffee, Shimza, and Themba leading the scene.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** The music industry has evolved significantly, especially in South Africa. How have these changes impacted artists and DJs, and what trends do you believe have been the most influential?

**Craig De Sousa:** The most significant change has been the technological advancements. Brands like Pioneer, Ableton, and Roland have revolutionized the music scene with their remarkable products. Much like guitar pedals transformed the industry in the '60s, these tools have fundamentally altered the way we create and perform music. Personally, these advancements have allowed me to transition into a live performing artist.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Looking ahead, what is your vision for the music industry? What direction would you like to see it take in the future?

**Craig De Sousa:** Music is a fundamental human need, and I'm excited to see a renewed interest among the youth in learning instruments and studying this universal language.

I envision a future with more live acts capturing the essence of moments in performances. This trend could encourage audiences to be more present and actively engage in the music.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** South Africa has a rich music culture. How has this cultural diversity influenced your style and career as an artist and DJ?

**Craig De Sousa:** Growing up in Johannesburg, exposed to a melting pot of cultures, has played a significant role in shaping my musical style. House music has been deeply ingrained in South African culture, more so than in any other country I've visited. It's part of our daily lives, from radio to public spaces. The blend of cultures here has birthed a unique sound that has gained global attention.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** For budding artists and DJs aspiring to follow your path, what advice would you offer to navigate the challenges and achieve success in the music industry?

**Craig De Sousa:** Talent is only part of the equation. Networking is crucial. Building genuine relationships and contributing positively is essential for sustained success. As a creative, it's vital to remember that this is a privilege and an opportunity to entertain responsibly and with integrity.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Cape Town's music scene is vibrant. Are there particular venues or events in the city where you enjoy performing?

**Craig De Sousa:** I find the groove bar culture of Cape Town particularly appealing, especially at Zsa Zsa & Darling, where I am a resident DJ.

The Sunday sunset sets at the Grand Africa beach bar are another favorite. The outdoor festival scene in Cape Town is truly world-class.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Lastly, what can fans anticipate from your upcoming projects, performances, or releases?

**Craig De Sousa:** I'm thrilled to be the creative director of an installation at Africa Burn, exploring the realms of technology and creation. I've completed 24 new singles that I incorporate into my live set and plan to release them over the next few months. Also, I'm looking forward to my European tour next year with my live act.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Elster from Pro Audio for his ongoing support and encouragement.



# The World's Only Les Paul Concert Ukulele!







# LES PAUL CONCERT UKULELE

Long known for its history of making great Les Paul™ guitars, Epiphone presents the Les Paul Concert Ukulele.

Like a traditional Les Paul Standard, the Les Paul Concert Ukulele features a mahogany body combined with a maple top with a AAA grade flame maple top veneer for great tone and a great look.

Featuring a mahogany neck with a SlimTaper™ D profile shape with 19 frets, a 15" scale length, and a 16" fingerboard radius.

A gig bag is included. And best of all, the Les Paul Concert Ukulele features a piezo pickup so you can plug in anywhere!





# audio-technica

Hypercardioid Dynamic Handheld Microphone



The Audio-Technica Artist Elite 6100 microphone is a dynamic powerhouse crafted for the unyielding vocalist. Boasting assertive sound and impressive monitor cut, this microphone ensures unparalleled presence in any performance space.

Tailored to elevate vocal performances, the AE6100 delivers high output, fast transients, and clean articulation, ensuring every note and lyric is delivered with striking clarity and precision. With a back-cavity assembly that 'floats' within the handle shell, exceptional isolation from handling noise is achieved.

Maximum feedback rejection and a hypercardioid polar pattern further enhance the isolation of the desired sound source, making the AE6100 an indispensable tool for vocalists.



Built with superior anti-shock engineering, this microphone minimizes handling noise, allowing performers to focus solely on their craft without distraction. The multi-stage grille design offers impeccable protection against plosives and sibilance, maintaining high-frequency clarity without compromise.

For versatile and silent microphone positioning, the AE6100 comes equipped with the Quiet-Flex™ stand clamp, ensuring flexibility in placement without any unwanted noise disturbances. Robust and road-ready, this microphone embodies durability and resilience, standing strong against the rigors of touring and live performances.



**In the hands of the uncompromising vocalist, the Audio-Technica Artist Elite 6100 microphone stands as a beacon of uncompromising quality, empowering artists to deliver their best performances with confidence and unmatched sound precision.**





*H2O*  
*The Moon*

Featuring  
**ANDREW CRO**

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# INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW CROSS

## A Journey Through Music, Life, and Resilience

Proaudio Sound Press had the pleasure of sitting down with the remarkable Andrew Cross, a well-respected figure in the music industry, to discuss his enduring passion for DJing, his experiences in the music business, and the deeply personal motivations that have recently brought him back to the world of DJing. Andrew Cross, a dedicated music professional and DJ with an illustrious career, shared insights on his incredible journey and the transformations he's witnessed in the music industry over the years.

### Rediscovering DJing: A Personal Return

"I think I was also the first DJ to play for them at their infamous Household Funk parties."

Andrew Cross's return to DJing, while heartfelt and personal, is a multilayered story rooted in his illustrious career. He describes his early days as a DJ, emphasizing that he was never among the "big" or incredibly well-known DJs, but it was always about the music. Venues in the past didn't require elaborate lineups, and people attended, irrespective of the DJ, to hear new music and groove on the dancefloor. Marketing himself has never been his strong suit, and he's comfortable with his low-key approach.

Despite this, Andrew gained recognition and played at some of the most prestigious clubs, venues, and festivals throughout his career. He embarked on his DJ journey at the tender age of 15, dropping his first beats in the vibrant Rosebank clubbing district of 1998. Watching and learning from the country's top DJs every night proved instrumental to his rapid growth.

Andrew acknowledges the importance of those who supported him, especially Sean Oxley and Speedy (Richard Santana), in opening doors to opportunities he might not have had otherwise.

Tragedy struck Andrew in 2011 when he lost his best friend, Brett Jackson, to cancer. It deeply affected him and led to his decision to stop playing in public. It was a turning point in his life, shifting his focus from DJing to his family and career.

Fast forward to the present, and the COVID-19 pandemic inspired Andrew to return to DJing. The realization that life is fleeting and precious, coupled with the support of his friends, motivated him to reignite his passion. However, shortly after returning to the decks, a series of personal hardships struck.

In 2022, he lost both his stepfather and father in a span of six weeks, and his wife's mental health took a significant toll on their family. These events have been deeply challenging, and Andrew continues to grapple with them, seeking healing and understanding.

In essence, Andrew's return to DJing is a deeply personal journey intertwined with his early experiences, family commitments, and the legacy of those who believed in him. His resilience is a testament to the human spirit's capacity to bounce back from adversity.

Music Evolution and DJing

**"Playing on vinyl in the 90's meant a DJ became synonymous with certain songs."**

Throughout his career, Andrew Cross has witnessed significant transformations in the music industry, from the vinyl era cherished among close friends to the CD era that was prevalent during his time at Soul Candi, and finally, the current digital age dominated by streaming. He acknowledges both the positive and negative aspects of these changes.

The digital age has brought a double-edged sword for DJs. While it offers unlimited creativity and access to music, it has made it easier for artists to release mediocre tracks, as they can easily upload their content to various platforms. The ease of sampling music rather than creating unique sounds from scratch has become more common, resulting in a homogenization of tracks.

However, the digital age also brings numerous benefits. DJing with controllers and laptops allows for limitless creativity, enabling real-time remixing, editing, and mashups. The role of a DJ has evolved to be more than just mixing tracks; it now includes live remixing and production.



New Horizons for DJing: Longer Sets and Meaningful Collaborations

**"I'd rather play fewer gigs and play longer sets, I think that gives people more value than many shorter gigs."**

In terms of his DJ sets, Andrew Cross shares that he loves to focus on deep house with upfront music. He emphasizes the importance of staying true to his roots while also keeping things fresh by staying current with new tracks. His current playlist includes artists such as Gorge, Dilby, Markus Homm, Mihai Popoviciu, and others.

He's also interested in pushing for longer DJ sets, showcasing that less is more and allowing DJs to construct a proper set and tell a musical story. By playing longer sets, a DJ can truly connect with the audience and create a progressive journey throughout the night.

A significant aspect of his musical journey involves his collaboration with Les Afrique from Household Funk. They complement each other in terms of musical taste and have joined forces to curate the Deep Revival lineups for events. Les Afrique has been a constant source of encouragement for Andrew, pushing him to play even when he was considering retiring.

Their collaborative approach is built on a deep respect for each other's unique style and shared values, particularly their strong commitment to family.

**Andrew's evolution as a DJ reflects a deep understanding of the art form, a commitment to embracing new musical trends, and a strong belief in how he can contribute positively to the DJing scene. His personal experiences have brought depth and new meaning to his approach to music and DJing.**

# POWERFUL STORY OF TOUGHNESS

Andrew Cross reveals his journey from the early stages of his DJ career, the hiatus he took, and the personal tragedies he has endured. Here is what he has learnt:

**1. Return to DJing:** Despite taking a significant break from DJing, his passion for it has been rekindled after several life-altering events, including the loss of close friends and family members. This has sparked a deep personal commitment to returning to the art of DJing and music.

**2. Personal Growth and Development:** Andrew has evolved as a DJ with a broader perspective. He's re-entered the scene with a deeper understanding of his own passion and drive. His commitment isn't just a personal quest but also a reflection of lessons learned through life experiences, driving his passion in a new direction.

**3. Desire for Musical Evolution:** Andrew continues to stay true to his deep house roots but emphasizes the need to keep up with fresh music. He's open to new tracks, genres, and styles. He believes in striking a balance between timeless classics and the latest tracks to create a cohesive and innovative musical experience for his audience.

**4. Pioneering Longer DJ Sets:** Andrew advocates for a shift in the DJing landscape, promoting longer sets as a way to craft a story and build a vibe throughout the night. He's moving away from the trend of shorter DJ slots and believes that fewer DJs and longer sets offer more value to the audience.

**5. Adaptation to Technological Changes:** Andrew has transitioned from analog to digital DJing. He acknowledges the benefits and challenges of this transition and appreciates the immense creative possibilities offered by digital platforms. However, he also values the uniqueness and exclusivity that came with vinyl records in the past.



# nord grand

KAWAI HAMMER ACTION

The Nord Grand features a premium weighted keybed with advanced triple sensors that capture the movements of the hammers with exceptional precision, delivering the smooth and natural feel of an acoustic grand piano.

Incorporating our award-winning performance features and hands-on user interface the lightweight Nord Grand not only provides an extraordinary playing experience, but is also an elegant new approach to our stage piano series.

## **Cutting-Edge Keyboard Technology**

At the heart of the Nord Grand lies the sophisticated Kawai Hammer Action keybed with advanced triple sensors. This mechanism, designed to track hammer movements rather than key movements, delivers an unparalleled dynamic touch akin to an acoustic grand. The Ivory Touch keys further enhance the playability, providing a natural and authentic feel for both delicate pianissimo and intense percussive playing.

## **Unmatched Performance and Ease of Use**

Tailored for live performances, the Nord Grand hosts dedicated knobs and buttons for essential functions. Swiftly create Layers and Splits, apply effects, or transpose the instrument on the fly. Seamless Transitions ensure fluid program changes during performance without interruption.





### **Expansive Sound Possibilities**

The Nord Grand is packed with an impressive array of sounds, including Grand, Upright, Electric, and Digital pianos from the exclusive Nord Piano Library. The factory bank boasts an assortment of meticulously captured sounds, capturing the distinctive character and nuances of each instrument. Additionally, the Advanced String Resonance replicates the intricate interplay of piano strings, enhancing the authenticity of the Grand and Upright piano sounds.

### **Pioneering Sampling and Effects**

The Sample Synth section comprises a diverse selection of high-quality sounds from the Nord Sample Library 3.0, including iconic instruments like the Mellotron and Chamberlin. This section allows dynamic control over attack, decay/release, and dynamics, providing extensive creative possibilities for crafting unique tones. The Effect section, modeled after classic stomp boxes, offers a wide range of high-quality stereo effects, easily assignable to the Piano or Sample Synth sections.

The **Nord Grand** is a culmination of innovation and performance, designed to meet the demands of modern musicians. Its fusion of advanced technology, expansive sound capabilities, and exceptional playability makes it a definitive choice for those seeking excellence in stage pianos.

With its unparalleled features, the **Nord Grand** sets a new standard, providing an immersive and dynamic musical journey for performers and enthusiasts alike.



**amPlug<sup>2</sup>**  
HEADPHONE GUITAR AMPLIFIER

**FLY**



**amPlug<sup>2</sup>**  
HEADPHONE GUITAR AMPLIFIER  
**FLY**

**Blackstar Tone &  
Performance - Anywhere**

## amPlug 2 FLY Guitar



The amPlug2 FLY Guitar has three channels – Clean, Crunch and Lead with tone shaping using Blackstar’s patented ISF (Infinite Shape Feature) control to give you all the sounds you need.

### 3 Channels in one unit

- Clean – Clean chime, which breaks-up when pushed
- Crunch – Classic, ‘hot-rodded’ Crunch with clarity and note-definition
- Lead – Harmonically-rich, mid-boosted overdrive, perfect for riffing and lead playing

### Patented ISF control

Blackstar’s patented ISF control allows you to choose the exact tonal signature you prefer. At the lowest setting, the amplifier has a more American characteristic with a tight bottom-end and more aggressive middle, and at the higher setting the amplifier has a British characteristic which is more ‘woody’ and less aggressive.

### Nine built-in effects

Nine selectable effects can be selected for any channel playing 3x Chorus, 3x Delay and 3x Reverb.

## amPlug 2 FLY Bass



amPlug2 FLY Bass is specifically designed for low frequencies and offers a wide range of response. There are three distinct channels built-in, Classic, Modern and Overdrive, and a custom Tone control, to take your sound from deep and booming to bright and cutting. Engage one of the six different Rhythm loops to find your groove and jam along.

### 3 bass channels in one unit

- Classic – Valve-inspired tone with mid-range growl
- Modern – Fat bottom-end with a mid-scoop and extended treble
- Overdrive – Smooth, natural overdrive with plenty of bite

### Six different rhythm loops built-in:

Select from Rock, Funk, R&B, Hip Hop, Blues, Metronome and set the beat with the simple Tap Tempo control.



# NX 9 SERIES

Masterfully engineered wooden speakers with remarkable audio performance and extended versatility for professional audio applications.

The new bi-amplified 2100 W electroacoustic design provides impressive sound pressure levels, when used in open-air and at long distances, with remarkable sound quality. The combination of purpose-designed transducers, advanced DSP processing, and a constant directivity waveguide produces coherent coverage on the listening area with distortion-free sound. NX 9 Series includes RCF exclusive FIRPHASE and Bass Motion Control algorithms, perfectly tuned for each model, and delivers absolute clarity for vocal reproduction and deep, powerful bass response. RCF durability and reliability are always built-in. The tour-ready, rugged all-wood cabinet is easy to carry and can be pole-, flown-, wall-, or truss-mounted using the multiple rigging points available.



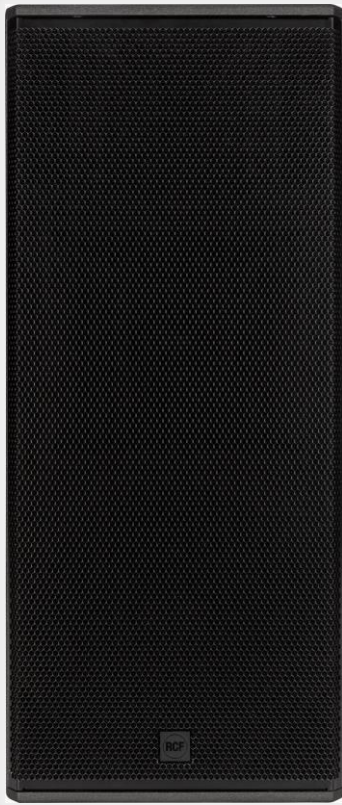


## Power that moves

The most powerful amplifier in its class. RCF's improvements in transducer design make them stronger and powerful, so the amplifier follows the evolution. With 2100W power, the 2-channel NX 9 Class-D amplifier is 50% more powerful than previous models, able to manage extreme sound pressure levels with an ultra-fast attack, realistic transient response, and very low heat loss. NX 9 is energy-efficient so there's no need for a cooling fan - the amplifier is attached to a solid aluminum heat exchanger in the rear of the cabinet - with no moving parts. The input circuit features a new low distortion design with an advanced safety limiter, maintaining the true character of the input signal at all levels. All NX 9 amplifiers are designed according to EN62368-1 for maximum safety and present a Switch Mode Power Supply section joining high-efficiency with minimum weight.

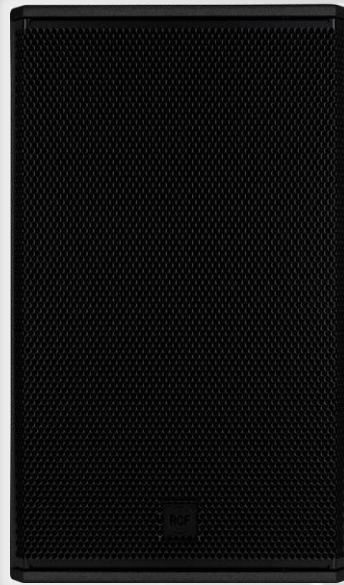


# Size them up



## **NX 985-A**

15" Woofer  
8" Midrange  
1.75" c. driver



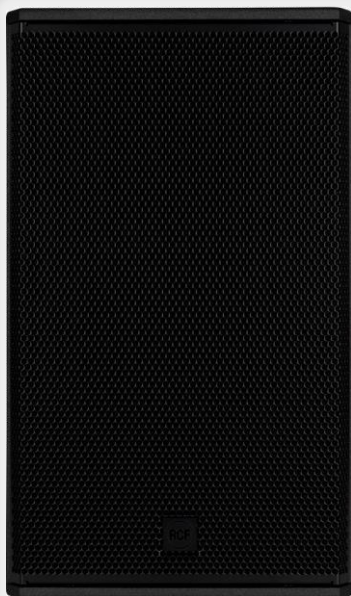
## **NX 945-A**

15" Woofer  
4" c. driver



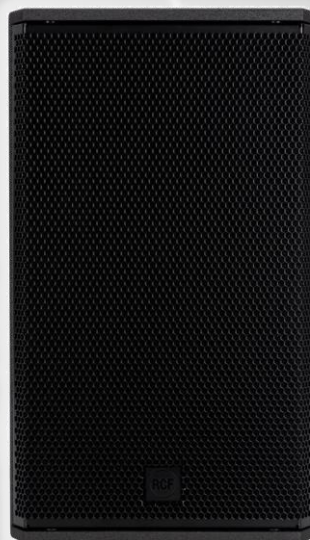
## **NX 932-A**

12" Woofer  
3" c. driver



## **NX 915-A**

15" Woofer  
1.75" c. driver



## **NX 912-A**

12" Woofer  
1.75" c. driver



## **NX 910-A**

10" Woofer  
1.75" c. driver

# Tour-proven workhorse

NX 9 can operate as either the main system or as a floor monitor. This flexibility makes it a smart choice for a wide range of live sound applications.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOUND







## Madam Sp3kr's Journey Through Music, Passion, and Empowerment in South Africa"

Hello and thank you for taking the time to chat with us today. Let's start by talking about the events scene in South Africa. As a female DJ and host of many great deep house events, could you share with us some of your favorite moments from these events and how they have contributed to the growth of the music scene in the country?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** Thank you so much for the opportunity. Love what you guys do for the industry. Where do I begin? Sunblaze sessions was started as a passion project for the 3 of us. The goal was to host an all-inclusive deep house Sunday chill session and our first event had 32 attendees. This was a sign that we were on the right track and starting our own little movement. We soon learned that there is so much talent that needed a safe space to shine, and we opened the lineup to include our community members. Sunblaze sessions is more than just an event – We are family and when needed, everyone jumps in with their unique talents and skills to make it happen every time.

### **Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:**

Starting your journey as a DJ and music producer is no small feat. Can you tell us about your experiences and challenges since you recently began? What motivated you to pursue this path, and how have you managed to overcome any obstacles you encountered along the way?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** I think every DJ dreams of playing their own music and having the whole crowd dance and sing along to it. I am still very new to the music production scene and finding it quite challenging to understand the full capacity of the production program. Our local producers make it look so easy. I'm really blessed in the sense that I have many producer friends who are always open to assist and advise me on new ways of working and listening to sounds.

### **Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:**

It's impressive to know that you are not just a DJ and music producer, but also an active writer and attendee of various events. Could you tell us about your writing and how it ties in with your passion for music?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** Being a creative individual, it was natural to explore all avenues of creative expression. I started writing to assist my team and friends with EPKs and general content creation. We don't often realize how important the use of words can be and how we can evoke feelings with it. As I lead a very busy lifestyle, it is often difficult to allocate time to writing. Right now, writing is on the backburner, but I will soon need to be cooking up a storm for our new Music Platform Beat Bass Music News, in which I will be writing reviews on songs, events, and all other things music-related.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Balancing a busy career as a DJ, attending events, music production, and writing must be challenging. On top of that, you also have kids to take care of. How do you manage this process effectively?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** Above all the titles I hold, my first and main title is Mom to my girls. I am super blessed and grateful for my support structure that allows me to play this delicate balancing act. My girls come first always over everything. The key to balancing it all is honesty, communication, prioritization, and understanding you can't do it all.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** We understand that you often work alongside your partner, Nash the DJ. How does this dynamic play out during events and music production? What are the advantages and, perhaps, some unique challenges of working closely with your significant other in the music industry?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** Nash is such a musically talented individual; it was hard to not get roped into all he does in this space. His passion is infectious, and he has kept me on my toes.

We've spent endless hours playing music, planning events, and brainstorming ways we can use our talents to further grow the local music industry. Working towards shared objectives creates a sense of camaraderie and fosters a collaborative environment where everyone is invested in the success. It's essential to remember that differences and challenges are natural in any partnership, but when the overall mission is clear and agreed upon, it becomes easier to navigate through those difficulties.


**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** South Africa has a vibrant music scene with a diverse range of genres. How do you see the future of deep house and the electronic music scene in the country?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** I believe the future is certainly bright for music in SA; however, it needs a space for everyone to shine. Having known this for a while, I'm excited about a new venture that my team and I are working on called Beat Bass Music, which is currently in development.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** As a female DJ and artist in the music industry, you are undoubtedly an inspiration to many aspiring women. What advice would you give to young women who want to pursue a career in DJing, music production, or event hosting?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** My advice would be to stay in your own lane, move at your own pace, and stay true to yourself. Remember why you started and don't use anyone's ruler to measure your success. Challenges will arise, but as long as you stay true to yourself and your goals, you will succeed and build a successful career in this space. The only competition should be to better yourself; there is only one you.





**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Lastly, what can we expect from you in the near future? Are there any upcoming events, music releases, or exciting projects that your fans can look forward to?

**DJ Madam Sp3kr:** My plans are to promote my brand, DJ a few gigs, produce an EP, and potentially host my own podcast/event titled Chambers of House, in which I will showcase our many local talents. Stay tuned and feel free to reach out should you wish to collaborate with me in any way.

A big thank you to DJ Madam Sp3kr for sharing her insights and experiences with us. Her dedication to her craft and her supportive nature toward fellow artists truly makes her an inspirational figure within the music industry. We eagerly await her upcoming projects and look forward to her continued contributions to the music scene in South Africa.

# SONANCE



HOSPITALITY

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## COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS

## CEILING SPEAKERS



Sonance Professional Series In-Ceiling Speakers feature a bezel-less grille design and optional square grilles ensuring minimal visual intrusion, whilst also matching design cues of lighting and decor. Sonance's Laminated Core Transformer combined with state-of-the-art driver design deliver best-in-class fidelity and uncompromised sonic performance in 70V/100V.

## PENDANT SPEAKERS



Sonance Professional Series Pendant Speakers utilize a minimalistic design similar to pendant lighting to blend discreetly into the environment. Sonance's Laminated Core Transformer combined with state-of-the-art driver design delivers best-in-class fidelity and uncompromised sonic performance in 70V/100V.

## SURFACE MOUNT SPEAKERS



Sonance Professional Series Surface Mount Speakers feature Sonance's Fast-Mount® bracket and front cable connection to speed up the installation process and provide a minimalistic appearance. Sonance's Laminated Core Transformer combined with state-of-the-art driver design delivers best-in-class fidelity and uncompromised sonic performance in 70V/100V.

## SUBWOOFERS



The PS-S210SUBT features an extremely shallow design which allows it to be used in a wide range of specialty applications such as under restaurant booths and banquettes as well as mounted onto rafters, walls or ceilings with the optional C-bracket. Featuring Sonance's Laminated Core Transformer, the PS-S210SUBT can be driven on the same amplifier channel as the other fullrange loudspeakers in a system.



# A Classic, Reborn.



# LES PAUL

## STANDARD 50s

Epiphone's new Inspired by Gibson™ Collection proudly presents the Les Paul™ Standard 50s! This guitar lovingly recreates the feel and tone of the 1950s era Les Pauls.

Epiphone's long friendship with Mr. Les Paul began in 1940 when Les built one of the world's first solidbody electric guitars while working nights at the original Epiphone factory in Manhattan. Les' first solidbody guitar, nicknamed "the Log", would go on to inspire the Les Paul Standard, which many consider the greatest electric guitar ever made.

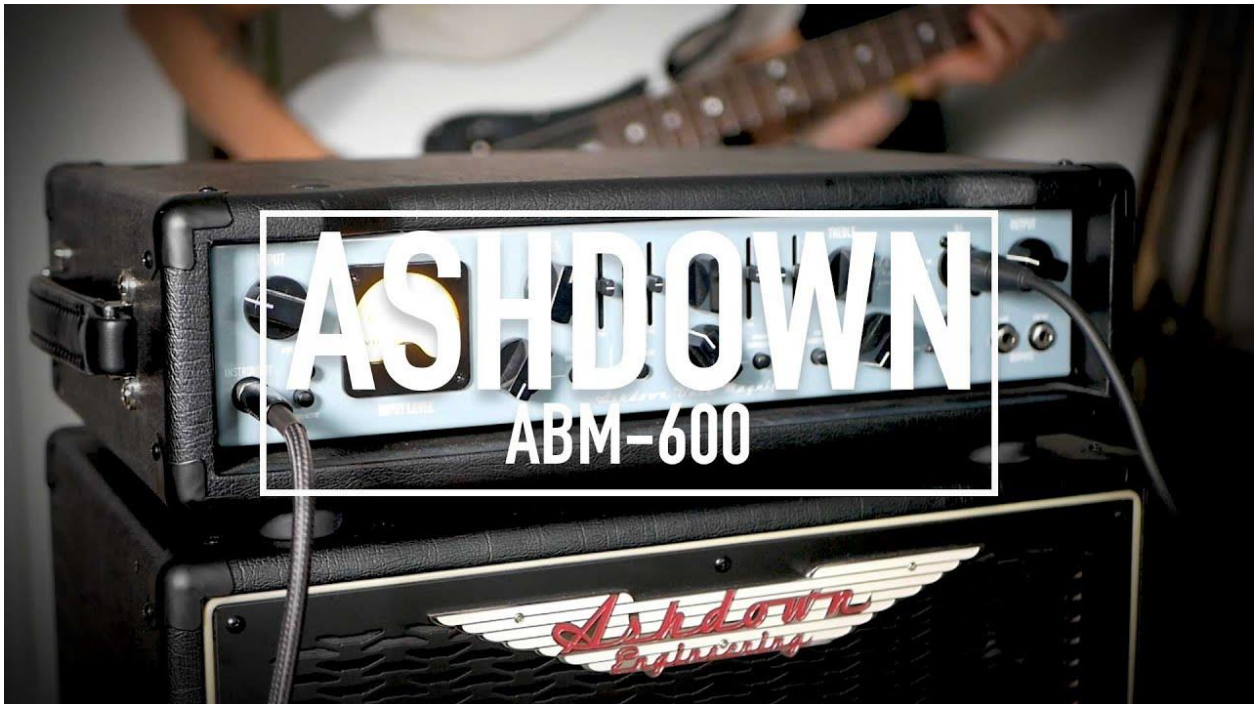
The guitar is crafted with a mahogany body, maple cap (AAA veneer on figured tops), bound 50s shaped mahogany neck with long neck tenon, Indian laurel fingerboard with classic trapezoid inlays, Epiphone's new Vintage Deluxe tuners, a pair of critically acclaimed Epiphone ProBucker™ humbuckers™, and gold Top Hat knobs with dial pointers. Available in Metallic Gold, Vintage Sunburst, and Heritage Cherry Sunburst full-gloss finishes.

This Epiphone Inspired by Gibson Original model also has the Kalamazoo headstock, rolled neck for a comfortable feel, Graph Tech® NuBone® nut, era-appropriate wiring, and CTS® pots.



# ABM-600-EVO IV HEAD

Unparalleled Versatility - Redefining Bass Amplification



For over two decades, the Ashdown ABM series has remained the quintessential choice for bassists seeking unparalleled tone, versatility, power, and reliability. Now, ushering in its fifth iteration, the ABM EVO IV sets new benchmarks in the realm of bass amplification, offering a comprehensive set of features designed to unleash the true potential of your bass guitar.

The ABM EVO IV, a 600W head, introduces the Variable Valve Drive Plus. This innovative feature provides a spectrum of clean to overdriven tones right at your fingertips.

The new 9-band EQ, with precision controls, allows bassists to effortlessly sculpt their perfect sound. The Input VU meter streamlines the setup process, making it easier than ever to find your sweet spot quickly.

Retaining well-loved features like the One Knob Dynamic Compressor and the Sub-Harmonic Generator, the ABM EVO IV enriches bass notes with depth and character. Its professional connectivity options, including a tuner output, transparent FX loop, and Line Input, make this head stage-ready and studio-friendly.

The flexible foot-switching capabilities of the ABM EVO IV allow on-the-fly control over Valve Drive, Compression, EQ, and Sub-Harmonic Generation, offering countless sound combinations without the need for extra pedals.





### Variable Valve Drive Plus:

The Variable Valve Drive preamp section in the EVO IV has been enhanced to deliver more drive and harmonic content. From pristine clean tones to the fattest bass overdrive available, the Drive level can be easily preset and engaged or disengaged via footswitch, granting access to a wide range of tonal possibilities.

### The Ultimate 9-Band EQ:

A sophisticated 9-band EQ greets bassists plugging into the EVO IV. With precision cut and boost controls at various frequencies, the EQ allows for instant tonal shifts. This sonic perfection offers precision in tonal adjustments and is an impressive leap from previous ABM models.

### Classic Features Enhanced:

The ABM EVO IV retains the famed One Knob Dynamic Compressor and the Sub-Harmonic Generator, perfect for enriching bass tones with added depth and power.

**Professional Connections and Flexibility**  
Loaded with professional connectivity, the ABM EVO IV boasts a tuner output, Line out, transparent FX loop, and a Line Input. Its flexible pairing options via Neutrik Jack/Speakon sockets provide versatile cabinet partnering options.

### Flexible Footswitching Capability

Paired with the FS-4 footswitch, the ABM EVO IV becomes an on-stage powerhouse, allowing for real-time tonal gearshifts. Footswitchable Valve Drive, Compression, EQ, and Sub Harmonic Generator provide a plethora of sound combinations, eliminating the need for extra pedals.

### Key Specifications:

- Power Output: 600 Watts
- Power Requirement: 115-230 Volts
- Speaker Outputs: 2 x Jack/Speakon outputs
- Frequency Response: -3dB @ 17Hz and 30KHz
- High Instrument Input: Impedance 3.9m Ohms, input range 150mV
- Low Instrument Input: Impedance 22k Ohms, input level 0dBu nominal
- Line Input: Impedance 22k Ohms, input level 0dBu nominal
- D.I. Output: 600 Ohm balanced, Level 0dBu nominal
- H x W x D (mm): 146 x 489 x 336
- Weight (kg): 12.5

**The Ashdown ABM EVO IV is a testament to Ashdown's ongoing commitment to redefine bass amplification, catering to the varied demands of contemporary bassists.**

# A LEADING SOUND ENGINEER OFFERS TIPS FOR DJs



Wayne "Rabbit" Sargeant, whose famous clients include Calvin Harris, Swedish House Mafia, Dizzee Rascal and fabric, explains what it takes to reach the top of his profession, along with advice for DJs on how to get the best out of a sound system. For the past 30-plus years, Wayne has been the sound engineer behind some of the biggest music acts on the planet.





## Top Tips for DJs by Wayne "Rabbit" Sargeant:

### 1. Source Quality Matters:

Use high-quality files for your DJ sets to maximize sound system potential. MP3s may sound subpar on modern sound systems.

### 2. Communicate with Sound Engineers:

Engage with house sound engineers; request not to compress your set. Building a positive relationship can enhance your performance.

### 3. Bridge the Gap Between DJ and Sound Engineer:

Encourage mutual respect and understanding between DJs and sound engineers. Understanding and valuing the music is key to a successful partnership.

### 4. Understanding the Sound System:

While you don't have to be an expert, be able to communicate your needs to the sound engineer. Different music genres have varying audio needs.

### 5. Mixer Rules:

While some rules exist, creativity often involves bending or breaking them. Understanding how to set up your mixer without distortion is essential.

### 6. Gain Practical Experience:

Practical experience is as crucial as theoretical knowledge. Volunteering at local clubs or venues can provide an excellent starting point.

### 7. Train Your Ears:

Experiment with different audio equipment to understand sound processing better. Developing a keen ear for audio details takes time and practice.

### 8. Successful Qualities:

Be quick-thinking, adaptable under pressure, and passionate about the music you work with.

### 9. The Art of Acoustics:

Acoustic issues can significantly impact sound quality. Understand room acoustics and manage reverberations and standing waves for better results.

### 10. Ideal Sound Systems:

For an exemplary listening experience, venues like the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam boast top-notch acoustic treatments and are worth experiencing.

## Wayne's Personal Insight:

Embrace practical experience, communicate effectively, and value the partnership between DJs and sound engineers. Strive for high-quality audio and harmonious collaborations for the best performances.

Wayne's journey and expertise in the world of sound engineering emphasize the importance of practical knowledge, effective communication, and a deep appreciation for music in creating exceptional live experiences.

# MASTERING THE ART of setting up **MIDAS CONSOLES** for **CONCERT SOUND**

Setting up a concert for massive crowds is an intricate dance between technical prowess and artistic finesse. Achieving optimal sound quality is paramount, and when it comes to setting up the audio consoles, the right gear and precise configurations are crucial. Here's a detailed guide on how to set up two Midas Digital Consoles for a concert, allowing for independent control of front of house and monitor mixes.



# The Setup:

## 1. Equipment Needed:

2 x Midas HD96-24-CC-TP Digital Consoles  
2 x Klark Teknik DN9680 Multiplexers  
6 x Midas DL231 Microphone Splitter I/O Boxes  
CAT5e STP cabling

## 2. Console Connection:

Each HD console connects via the HyperMac snake connection to the DN9680 multiplexer using two single CAT5e cables. The DN9680s then distribute 192 bidirectional channels to 8 x AES50 ports per multiplexer.

## 3. DL231 Microphone Splitter Connection:

The DN9680s connect to the DL231 I/O Boxes. Six of these I/O boxes are used to split and distribute audio signals, ensuring that each console receives the inputs it needs. The "A" ports connect to one console, while the "B" ports connect to the other, creating a symphony of audio control.

## 4. Splitting Outputs:

5 x DL231s are configured to receive outputs from the monitor console, enabling up to 120 monitor mixes. These can be 60 x stereo mixes or 120 mono mixes, or a blend as required. 1 x DL231 is set to receive the output source from the front of house console, handling PA, subs, matrix mixes for out-fills, front-fills, delay systems, and more.

## Benefits and Features:

The setup provides independent gain controls for an impressive 144 microphone inputs at a 96kHz sample rate, utilizing the revered Midas preamps, renowned for delivering top-tier sonic performance.

## Key Features:

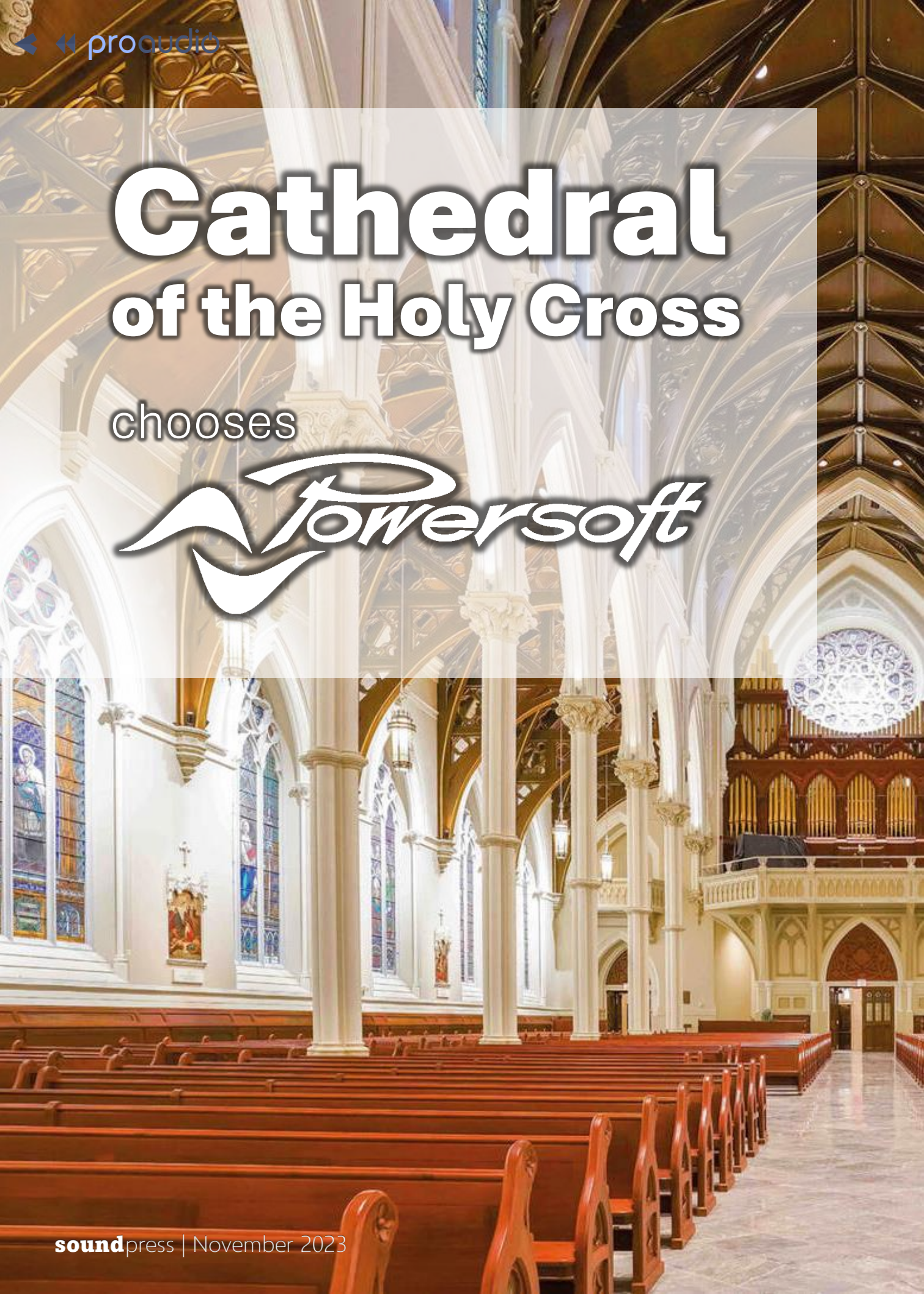
- 123 time-aligned phase-coherent mix buses.
- Flexi-auxes and AI for versatile mixing capabilities.
- Every essential feature a mix engineer could desire for optimal control.

## Advantages of Using Midas Consoles:

The Midas HD96-24-CC-TP Digital Consoles offer unmatched quality in the market. The consoles' features, including the high sample rate, large number of inputs, and comprehensive control options, make them ideal for large-scale concerts where precise sound management is paramount.

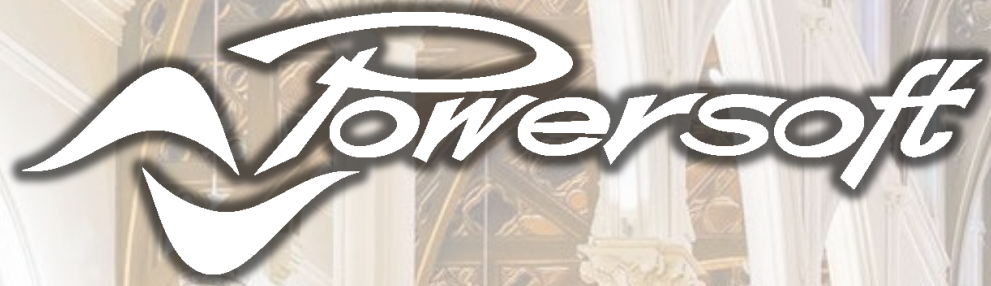
The setup described ensures a streamlined and sophisticated audio configuration, granting sound engineers complete control over front of house and monitor mixes for large concerts. With the use of the Midas HD consoles and supporting equipment, the quality and precision of sound delivered are unparalleled, making it the top choice for professionals seeking the highest standards in concert audio.


**Setting up Midas Consoles for big concerts is no small feat, but with the right equipment and a detailed understanding of the connections and functions, it is possible to create an audio experience that truly stands out and elevates the live music experience to new heights.**



# Cathedral of the Holy Cross

chooses





The Cathedral of the Holy Cross, a monumental structure dating back to 1875, stands as a testament to time and tradition. While revered for its historical significance, the grandeur of the Cathedral was accentuated with a sophisticated renovation, including a substantial enhancement to its sound system. In the pursuit of flawless acoustics, Powersoft technologies played a pivotal role in elevating the auditory experience within this architectural masterpiece.

Undertaken as a comprehensive part of the extensive renovation, the refurbishment aimed to rejuvenate the Cathedral's sound system. Evan Landry, the visionary CTO and President of Landry Audio Division at Commlink Integration Corporation, led the design team, striving to create an unparalleled auditory experience. "The primary focus of the system acts as an acoustic anchor, so that all the sound sounds like it's coming from the chancel — the place where it looks like it's coming from," Landry explained. The renovation prioritized listener engagement, clarity, and intelligibility.

At the heart of this acoustic revitalization was the Innovox MicroBeam, a custom-designed focal point within the sound system. Crafted around a column of Innovox MicroBeam 32 units, this masterpiece aimed to channel the sound, resonating from the chancel, captivating the audience in clarity and articulation.

The line-array employed 26 active mid-/low-frequency elements and 26 high-frequency elements, emphasizing sound quality and optimizing speech clarity. Innovox, known for their innovative use of high-frequency elements, embraced Powersoft's D-Cell modules.

Chris Oswood, owner of Innovox Audio, expressed their commitment to using Powersoft due to the exceptional sound quality and the advantageous form factor and power density of the modules.

Spanning 200 feet from the chancel to the nave's rear, 18 additional Innovox line arrays were meticulously installed along the columns. These arrays, empowered by Powersoft Ottocanali 1204 amplifiers, aimed to maintain the resonating quality and articulate the sound throughout the entire Cathedral.

Beyond just exceptional sound quality, Powersoft's amplifiers resonated with Oswood for their superior build quality and package density. Oswood also highlighted Powersoft's Armonia software, which facilitated the setup of the system's Digital Signal Processing (DSP), applauding its flexibility and high-quality output.

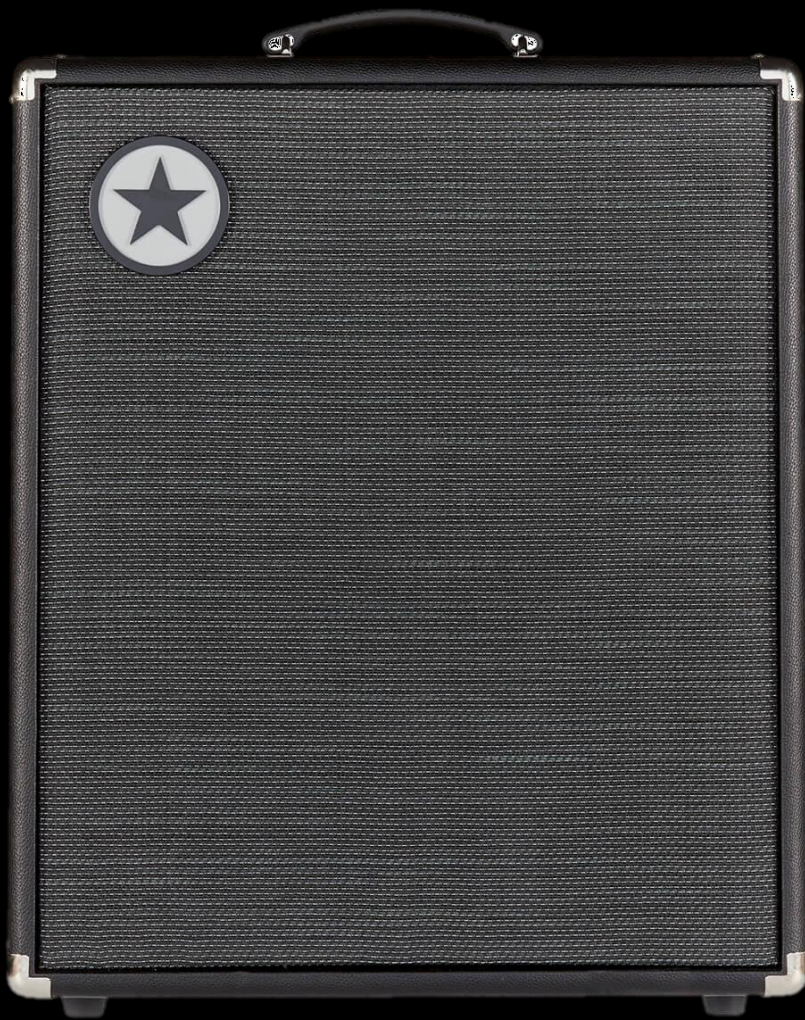
The revitalization of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross's sound system stands as a testament to the marriage of historical significance and technological advancements. The Powersoft-driven innovation underlines the importance of seamless auditory experiences and highlights the power of cutting-edge technology in honoring heritage and tradition.

Through the dedication of visionary designers and the synergy between innovative technologies, the Cathedral's recent renovation has not only preserved its historical prominence but also enriched the auditory journey for millions of attendees and viewers worldwide. **The reverberation of this technological marvel continues to set the benchmark for sound system innovations in sacred spaces.**

# ·UNITY·

# BASS

THE NEW FACE OF BASS







Blackstar Amps has long been synonymous with innovation and excellence in the realm of amplification. Their latest offering, the Unity range of Bass Amplifiers, stands as a testament to the brand's commitment to high-quality sound, versatility, and power. Crafted from the ground up by bass players for bass players, the Unity series boasts an array of features that cater to the needs of modern musicians while echoing the vintage echoes of the past.

The Unity Pro Bass amplifiers have emerged from meticulous research, benchmarking against iconic references from music history. This dedication has culminated in a line of amplifiers that are not only straightforward but also potent, allowing any player to achieve their desired tone, irrespective of style.

At the heart of the Unity range is Blackstar's unique Response control, affording players the ability to select between the sound and feel of three classic power amp stages. This control shapes compression, natural drive, and dynamics, imparting a distinctive quality to the sound and overall feel.

Each amplifier in the Unity series offers a unique set of features, tailoring to various power requirements and tonal preferences.

**Unity 30 and 60:**

Designed with a custom 8-inch and 10-inch speaker, respectively, these models come with three distinct voices – Classic, Modern, and Overdrive. With a 3-band EQ and semi-parametric Mid, alongside footswitchable Overdrive and Chorus, the Unity 30 and 60 cater to diverse tonal explorations.

UNITY 30



UNITY 60



**Award Winning Amps**



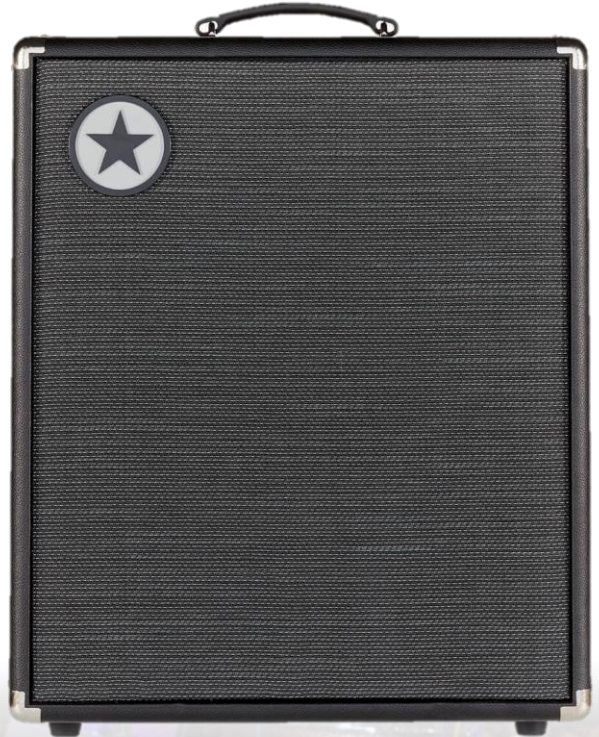
### Unity 120 and 250:

Stepping up the power, the 120 and 250 models are equipped with custom-designed Eminence speakers and the same three voices as their predecessors. Additionally, the Unity 250 offers user-controllable blend drives, footswitchable Chorus and Sub-Octave, and unique Response controls for added tonal flexibility.

UNITY 120



UNITY 500



UNITY 250



### Unity 500:

This 500-watt powerhouse features custom-designed 2 x 10-inch Opus Speakers. Three distinct voices and footswitchable drives, in combination with a Series effects loop, USB audio out for direct recording, and D.I. outputs, provide a vast array of options for tone shaping and recording.

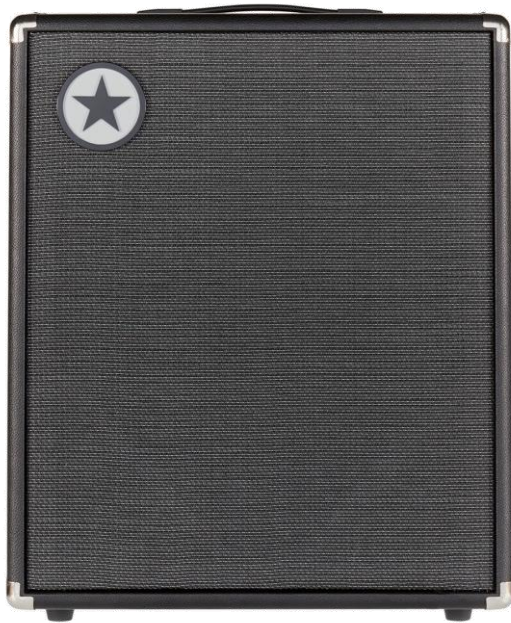




## **Unity 250ACT:**

With a focus on active cabinets, the Unity 250ACT comes equipped with a custom-designed Eminence 15-inch Opus Speaker. Its versatility allows both independent volume control and chaining together with other Unity active cabinets.

UNITY 250 ACT



Blackstar's Unity range is designed to be equally at home in the studio and on stage, offering not just exceptional sound quality but also an array of effects including built-in Chorus, Compression, Octave, and more. Their connectivity and balanced XLR and USB interfaces make them a perfect partner for recording while ensuring ultimate flexibility for the modern musician.

Blackstar's Unity range is a testament to their commitment to redefining bass amplification, offering an expansive tonal palette and unprecedented versatility to bass players across genres and skill levels.







# THE *LES PAUL* FOR POWER PLAYERS

## Your First Forever Guitar



Ebony  
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The Epiphone Power Players Les Paul™ is a 3/4+ version inspired by the legendary Gibson Les Paul shape. It has a 22.73" scale length and a slightly smaller mahogany body making it light, easy to play, and an excellent choice for younger players.

The Power Players Les Paul is also a great travel guitar choice for more experienced players. It sounds better and stays in tune longer than other "student model" guitars due to its high-quality components and excellent build quality.

The bolt-on mahogany neck has a sculpted heel for improved upper fret access, and it is powered by a pair of authentic Epiphone humbuckers™ for rich, full Les Paul tone.



The Power Players Les Paul comes equipped with a gig bag, strap, picks, and a guitar cable.



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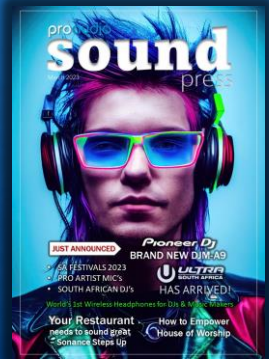
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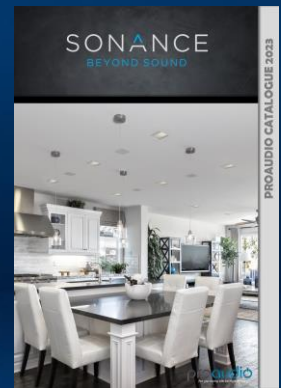
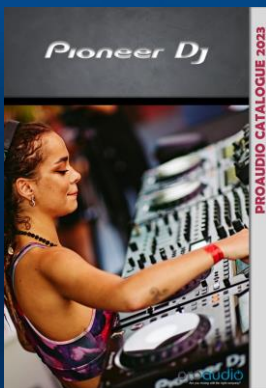
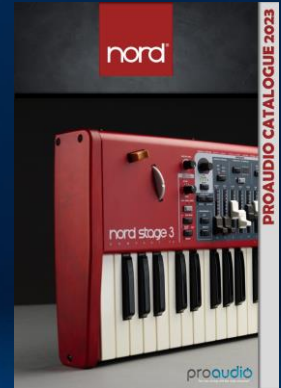
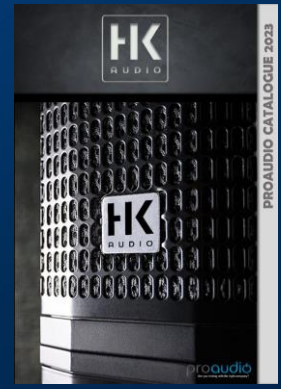
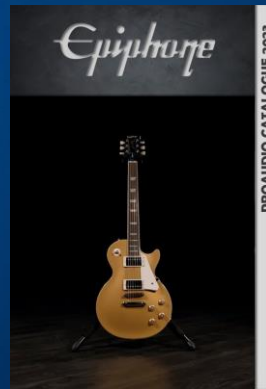
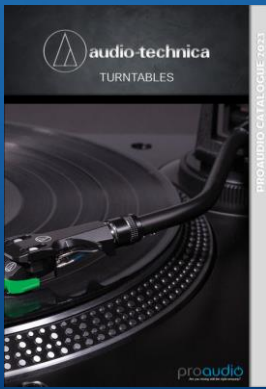
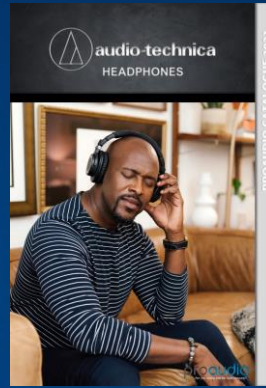
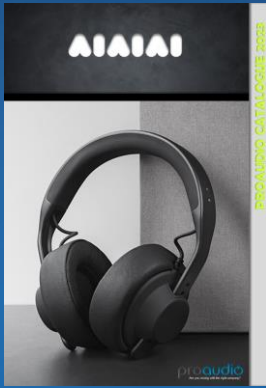
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