

proaudio

1st Edition | January 2024

Sound PRESS

Are you mixing with the right company?

Anticipating *THE FUTURE*

Projections for South
Africa's Music and DJ
Industry in 2024

Open-Back VS Closed-Back

High-Fidelity
Gaming Headsets

HOW TO GET DJ GIGS

Landing gigs as an emerging DJ involves
a blend of talent, alignment, strategy,
and a sprinkle of insider wisdom.

Advanced Performance for Creators

The AT2040USB is an ideal microphone for creators, featuring
a dynamic design for excellent voice capture with added USB
functionality.

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The **UNIVERSE**
has music
for those that listen.



Where words fail,
MUSIC Speaks

WELCOME to a fresh start and **NEW** possibilities!

As we dive into 2024, Proaudio Sound Press Magazine extends warm wishes for an amazing year ahead.

May this year be filled with success, growth, and inspiration for all our readers and contributors! We're dedicated to being your compass in the world of sound, providing insightful stories, cutting-edge updates, and valuable knowledge to fuel your passion for audio.

Let's unite our efforts, explore innovative sounds, and navigate toward greater achievements together. Here's to unlocking new rhythms and discovering untapped potential within the vibrant pages of Proaudio Sound Press Magazine.

May 2024 resonate with success stories and amplify your journey, allowing you to benefit from every article and feature we bring you. Cheers to a fantastic year filled with endless possibilities!

BE INSPIRED!

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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.

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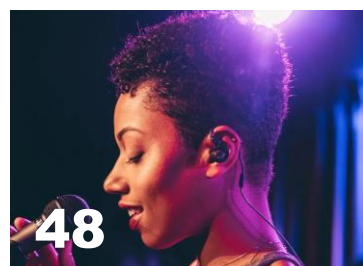
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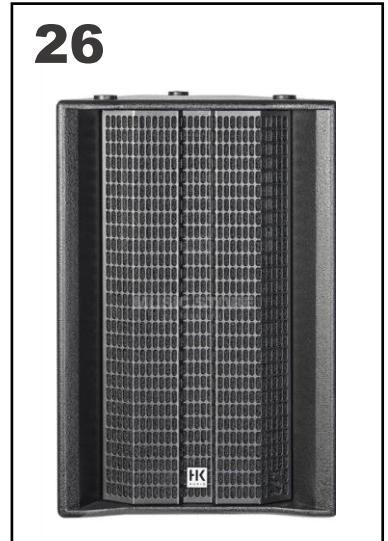
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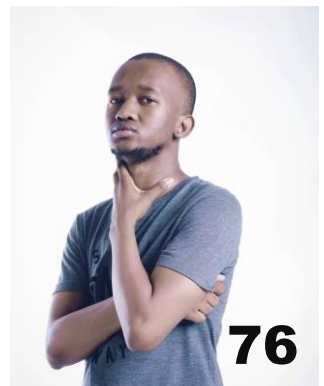
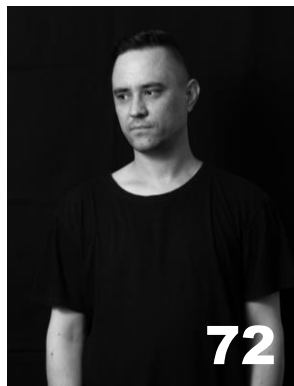
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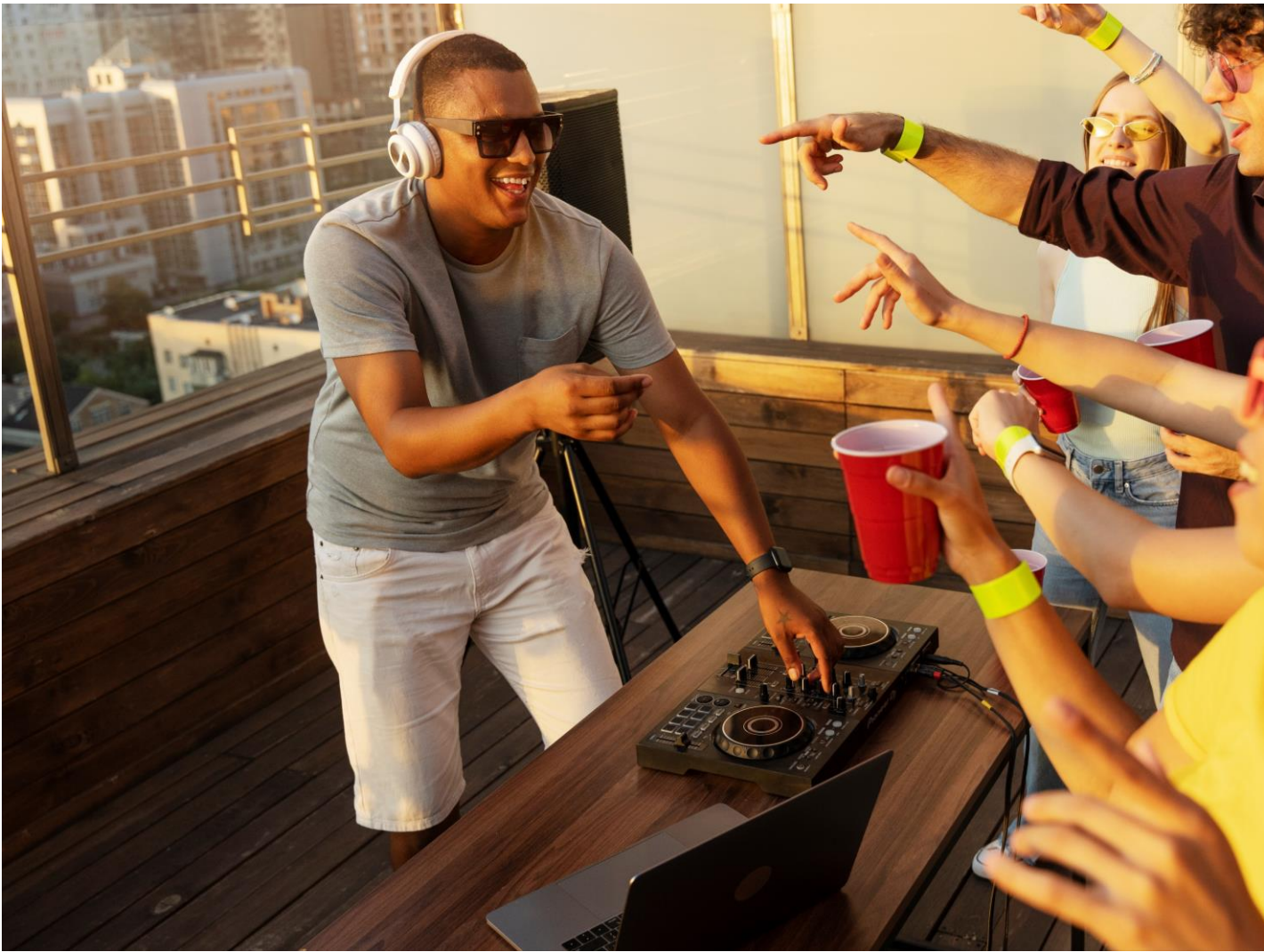
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Pioneer Dj

HOW TO GET **DJ GIGS**

Are you a DJ with the skills, the tunes, and the desire to perform at venues that truly match your style? Do you find yourself wondering how to stand out in a crowded scene and connect with promoters who resonate with your vibe? Landing gigs as an emerging DJ involves a blend of talent, alignment, strategy, and a sprinkle of insider wisdom.

We've delved into the minds of five influential bookers and promoters across global hubs like London, Berlin, New York, Taipei, and Dublin to decode their criteria and gather advice that could help elevate your DJ journey.

Are You Good Enough? Do You Align?

At the core, it's about your sound. Each expert stressed the importance of sonic alignment and mastery. Nic Baird from London's Transmissions believes having a distinct sound is crucial. "A specific style helps promoters envision where you fit in a lineup," he shares. Meanwhile, Taipei's FINAL club seeks adventurous, genre-defying talent, emphasizing the need for versatility.

What Are Your Values?

For Samantha Togni of London's Boudica, originality and shared values matter. Boudica champions trans+, non-binary, and female-identifying artists, making alignment crucial. They spotlight artists who echo their ethos, reflecting a strong identity through their music.

Does Experience Matter?

Dublin's Martin Smyth, cofounder of District 8, values a blend of fitting musicality and experience. While seeking sonic compatibility, experience plays a key role in supporting larger acts and curating diverse lineups.

Understanding Your Motivation

Berlin's New Faces at Tresor looks beyond just skill. The Brvtalist emphasizes an artist's drive and professionalism. Your motivation—be it for artistic expression, financial gains, or unique perspectives—shapes how you're perceived.



Crafting Your Online Presence

While follower count might not sway decisions, online presence matters. Authenticity and dedication resonate more. A compelling online profile showcasing your music, style, and seriousness about your craft can catch a promoter's eye.

Building Your Mix Archive

Soundcloud and Mixcloud are your canvases. Bookers actively browse these platforms for fresh talent. Nic recommends climbing the mix ladder by participating in renowned mix series.

Where Bookers Discover Emerging Talent

Beyond online platforms, bookers scout at parties, radio shows, and festivals. Being present in the scene, collaborating with collectives, or simply attending events can bring you into the spotlight.

Does Being a Producer or Part of a Collective Help?

While producing adds depth, it's not a strict criterion. Collaborating with collectives or launching your own can open doors, as collectives often curate stages and events.

Approaching Bookers and Promoters

Making personal connections matters. Approach bookers politely in person, strike conversations, and build relationships. Additionally, consider emailing or DMing—be concise, clear, and showcase your alignment with their vision.

Parting Wisdom

In the end, professionalism, alignment, and patience are key. Be humble, grateful, and invested in the scene. Politeness and genuine enthusiasm leave lasting impressions.

1. Sonic Alignment Matters: Having a distinct sound and aligning with a venue or promoter's vibe is crucial. Bookers seek DJs who fit their party's sonic landscape, emphasizing authenticity and a unique style.

2. Values and Vision: Beyond skills, shared values play a pivotal role. Promoters like Boudica seek DJs who resonate with their ethos, spotlighting originality and alignment with their platform's identity.

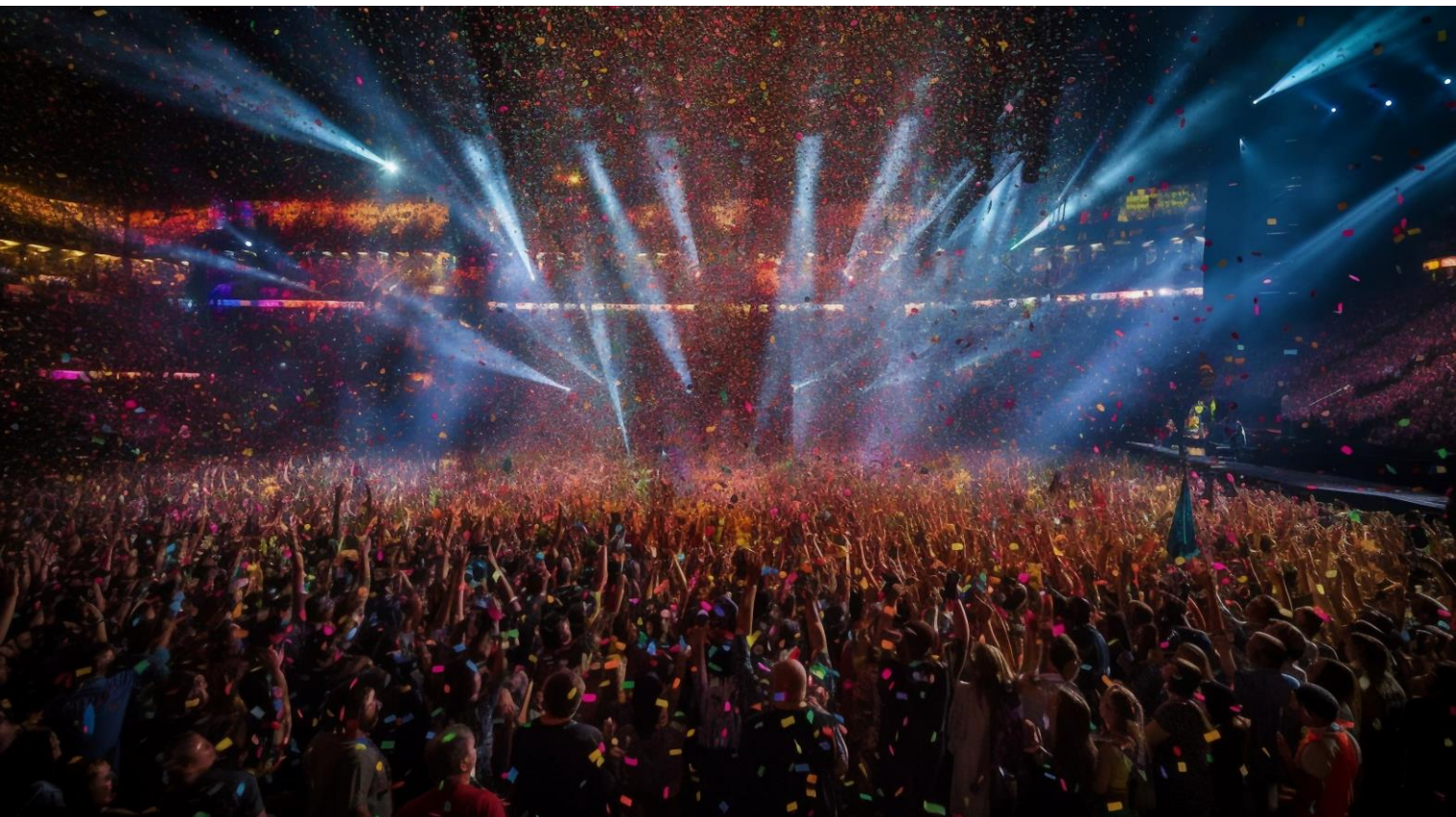
3. Balancing Talent and Experience: It's a blend of talent and experience that often grabs attention. While skill is important, experience in handling different venues or lineups can be a deciding factor.

4. Online Presence and Mix Archives: Crafting a compelling online profile and showcasing mixes on platforms like Soundcloud or Mixcloud is key. Bookers actively browse these to discover fresh talent.

5. Approaching Bookers Strategically: Building personal connections through polite in-person interactions and strategic email or DM communication is vital. Expressing alignment with the venue or promoter's vision can significantly enhance your chances of securing gigs.

Navigating the DJ world isn't just about the beats—it's about finding your place, connecting with like-minded souls, and crafting a compelling narrative that resonates both on and off the decks.

Embrace your unique sound, stay committed, and remember, it's not just about the gig, it's about the journey towards becoming a part of the vibrant musical tapestry.



ANTICIPATING *THE FUTURE*:

Projections for South Africa's Music
and DJ Industry in 2024



As we bid farewell to the echoes of the past and embrace the crescendo of a new year, the **South African** music and DJ industry eagerly stands at the **threshold of transformation.**

What will shape the industry's journey through the coming year, 2024?

Amapiano's Global Acclaim:

[A Thriving Sound](#)

The infectious rhythms of Amapiano have already stirred local hearts and ears. In the dawn of 2024, we foresee this genre expanding its horizons, resonating across international borders. Expect Amapiano to solidify its presence on the global stage, captivating audiences far beyond South Africa's shores and redefining contemporary music trends.

Tech-Fueled Collaborations:

[Bridging Continents](#)

Technological advancements continue to bridge geographical barriers, propelling collaborations and cross-genre fusions. This year, we predict a surge in global alliances among DJs and artists. Streaming platforms will serve as the conduit, enabling seamless collaborations and propelling South African talent into international limelight.

DJ Renaissance:

[Curators of Influence](#)

DJs transcend mere entertainers; they morph into cultural curators and influencers. Their roles evolve into trendsetters, shaping musical landscapes and curating unique experiences. Collaborative initiatives will thrive, fostering innovation within the DJ community and amplifying South Africa's influence on global music scenes.

Confronting Challenges:

[Seeds of Innovation](#)

Challenges within the industry serve as seeds for innovation. Issues concerning resource accessibility, intellectual property rights, and equitable representation spark inventive solutions. Educational initiatives, mentorship programs, and infrastructure development projects gain momentum, nurturing an inclusive and sustainable industry ecosystem.

Local Talent Illuminated:

[Global Spotlights](#)

The spotlight intensifies on local talent, illuminating the brilliance of South Africa's musicians and DJs. Expect 2024 to be a year where homegrown talent garners more global recognition. Their diverse sounds and authentic expressions will captivate international audiences, breaking barriers and enriching global music scenes.

As we embark on the symphonic journey of 2024, we anticipate Amapiano's international ascent, tech-driven collaborations, the metamorphosis of DJs into influencers, inventive solutions to industry challenges, and the spotlight illuminating South Africa's local talent. The coming year resonates with a symphony of possibilities—a composition waiting to be heard and celebrated.

A N E W H O R I Z O N

PIONEER DJ - DJM-A9



In the pulsating heart of the DJ scene, where beats synchronize hearts and music becomes a shared language, Pioneer DJ unveils its latest marvel: the DJM-A9.

This powerhouse mixer stands tall, raising the bar for club standard mixers, with a symphony of upgrades that redefine the DJ experience.

Step into the world of the DJM-A9, where clarity meets innovation. Building upon the legacy of its predecessor, the DJM-900NXS2, this sleek machine isn't just a tool; it's an instrument, crafted to resonate with emotions and elevate the dynamism of performances.

At the core of its brilliance lies a symphony of advancements in sound quality, playability, and connectivity. This next-generation club sound emerges from a meticulous fusion of refined existing technology and cutting-edge components, resulting in an audio masterpiece.





ENHANCED SOUND QUALITY

Experience an auditory renaissance with the DJM-A9. Delve into the realm of crystal-clear, high-resolution sound, courtesy of the ESS Technology 32-bit A/D converter, gracing the channel input section. What you hear on the booth monitors mirrors the dancefloor experience, thanks to the 32-bit D/A converters in the master and booth output sections.

But it doesn't stop there. Even the microphone inputs and headphone outputs have undergone meticulous improvement, boasting carefully selected components and optimized designs for a sonic journey like never before.

INTUITIVE DESIGN FOR PERFORMATIVE MASTERY

Seize control effortlessly with refined design elements. The increased spacing around EQ knobs allows nimble finger maneuvers, while high-grade LEDs in the channel section offer an instant visual grasp on sound levels, enabling smoother performances.

Magnetic, silk-smooth mixing beckons, courtesy of the high-quality channel faders and the third-generation MAGVEL FADER crossfader. Activate the Center Lock feature for precise control, ensuring effects reach the desired highs or lows without fear of overstepping boundaries.

INNOVATIVE FEATURES FOR ARTISTIC FREEDOM

Dive deeper into creativity with the DJM-A9's innovative offerings. A vibrant color display offers quick insights into effect statuses, complementing the intuitive X-Pad for seamless, finger-slide control, transforming echoes and effects into unique analog tape-style sounds.

Embrace the expanded horizons of your performances with three new Beat FX—Mobius, Triplet Filter, and Triplet Roll—adding layers of dynamism. The addition of dedicated buttons for channel selection streamlines effect applications, elevating your artistic expression.



BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

This marvel isn't just about music; it's about connection. The DJM-A9 opens new doors with dual USB Type-B and Type-C ports, seamlessly transitioning between DJs and enabling effortless back-to-back sets. Bluetooth® input ensures wireless integration of audio tracks, revolutionizing the DJ experience.

Unleash the DJM-A9's true send capabilities through the Multi I/O section, facilitating independent use of external effects. The mixer's versatility extends further, empowering two DJs to cue tracks simultaneously with separate headphone controls and facilitating smooth transitions.

A REVOLUTION IN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Enter a new era of management with compatibility with Stagehand, Pioneer DJ's PRO DJ LINK remote management app. Engineers can fine-tune settings wirelessly via an iPad, optimizing sound systems without disrupting the DJ's flow, ensuring a seamless, impactful show.

The DJM-A9 isn't just a mixer; it's an evolutionary step forward. It's a bridge between technical innovation and artistic expression, offering a symphony of possibilities to DJs worldwide, transforming clubs into immersive experiences.

VM-70

6.5" active monitor speaker

Pioneer DJ stands as an emblem of innovation and precision. The launch of the VM Series marks a pivotal juncture in their legacy, pushing the boundaries of sound reproduction and customization to unprecedented heights.

At the heart of this series lies the VM-70, a titan in the world of speakers, engineered to redefine audio excellence. Delving into its arsenal, the VM-70 flaunts an amalgamation of cutting-edge features tailored to cater to the diverse needs of both DJs and studio maestros.





CRAFTED PRECISION

The VM-70 is an embodiment of precision and versatility. One of its standout features is the ability to adapt seamlessly to any acoustic environment. Whether in the pulsating atmosphere of a club or the controlled confines of a studio, this speaker morphs to mirror the sonic idiosyncrasies of the space. A club vibe or a flat frequency response—the choice is yours, effortlessly controllable with its adept tuning capabilities.

THE SOUND ALCHEMY

A symphony is only as good as its components, and the VM-70 encapsulates the pinnacle of sonic alchemy. Harnessing the prowess of a Class D amplifier, coupled with a 96 kHz sampling DSP, it crafts an expansive audio canvas. The result? Wide-bandwidth audio reproduction that exudes energy and fidelity, devoid of distortions.

The 4-mm-thick rigid aluminum front baffle acts as a guardian against unwanted resonances and vibrations. This fidelity-centric design ensures that the sound emitted remains true to its origin, delivering an unparalleled auditory experience.

BASS AUTHORITY

Bass enthusiasts, rejoice! The VM-70 boasts aramid fiber woofer cones that redefine bass reproduction. 30 percent lighter than traditional cones, they epitomize strength without compromising on depth. The Vortex Bass Accelerator complements this, ensuring that low-end frequencies are not just heard but felt. With ribs in the bass reflex port, pure and tight bass becomes the norm, devoid of any intrusive vibrations.



Pioneer DJ

ELEVATED FREQUENCY DOMAINS

The constant directivity horn takes charge of the mid and high frequencies, crafting a listening space that is both broad and uniform. Its meticulously designed shape ensures a natural crossover to the tweeter, resulting in a harmonious blend of frequencies that caress the ears.

TAILORED FOR YOU

The VM Series empowers you with control. Voiced flat for authenticity, these speakers don't just stop at perfection; they provide a canvas for customization. Two knobs—Low EQ and High EQ—grant access to 16 distinct EQ settings, facilitating fine-tuning without breaking the flow.

FORM MEETS FUNCTION

The visual allure matches the acoustic brilliance. A hexagonal aluminum front baffle redefines aesthetics while fortifying sound quality and durability. Alumite-treated brushed textures add a professional finish that seamlessly integrates with Pioneer DJ gear.

THE VERDICT

The VM-70 heralds a new era in audio precision and versatility, a testament to Pioneer DJ's commitment to pushing boundaries. Whether in the throes of a live set or within the confines of a studio sanctuary, these speakers stand as beacons of sound brilliance, ready to take your auditory experiences to new heights.

XDJ-RR

2-channel all-in-one DJ system



PIONEER STANDS TALL AS AN **ARCHITECT OF INNOVATION.**

Enter the XDJ-RR, a compact powerhouse that encapsulates the essence of Pioneer's professional-grade NXS2 multi player and mixer, distilled into one sleek, portable DJ solution. This versatile system is engineered to propel your performances to stratospheric heights.

PERFORMANCE FREEDOM

The XDJ-RR grants you the liberty to curate your performance style. Seamlessly plug in your USB drive and play tracks directly, or effortlessly access your entire rekordbox library using Link Export mode, eliminating the need to export music to a USB drive. Alternatively, connect your PC or Mac with a single USB cable to harness Performance mode in rekordbox—flexibility redefined.

VISUAL COMMAND CENTER

The 7-inch color screen on the XDJ-RR provides an expansive canvas to witness the magic unfold on both players simultaneously. Keep your finger on the pulse with crucial information displayed—playback status, BPM, waveforms—all essential for crafting seamless, creative sets.

PERFORMANCE UNLEASHED

Dedicated buttons for performance features turn the XDJ-RR into a playground for creative expression. Remix tracks live by triggering Hot Cues in fresh sequences, slice and dice loops on the fly with Beat Loop, reintroduce tracks seamlessly with Slip Loop, and navigate effortlessly to your chosen beat with Beat Jump.



PROFESSIONAL GRADE MIXING

The XDJ-RR inherits the curves of EQs and channel faders from the acclaimed DJM-900NXS2 club mixer. This means you can deliver meticulously honed mixes with precision and finesse, ensuring a seamless flow throughout your performance.

FX MASTERY

Elevate your sonic landscapes with a suite of effects at your fingertips. Whether it's the atmospheric allure of Echo and Reverb or the rhythmic edge of Flanger, the Beat FX and Sound Color FX allow you to sculpt and intensify your sound, adding layers of texture and tension to your mixes.

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

Unlock the full potential of rekordbox by simply connecting the XDJ-RR to your PC or Mac. Subscribers to the Creative plan can seamlessly manage their library across devices with Cloud Library Sync, and effortlessly craft custom versions of tracks in Edit mode.

The XDJ-RR transcends the boundaries of traditional DJ systems, offering a harmonious blend of professional-grade features and portability. It's not just a tool; it's an instrument of creative liberation, empowering DJs to orchestrate unforgettable sonic journeys.

With Pioneer's XDJ-RR, your performances will soar to unparalleled heights, setting new benchmarks in the art of DJing.







UHF Microphone Wireless System



The Power Works FLY-100 T+R emerges as a beacon in this landscape, heralding a new era of convenience and performance. This powerhouse innovation redefines wireless audio transmission, seamlessly integrating technology to elevate every performance.

REVOLUTIONIZING WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

The FLY-100 T+R embodies sophistication in simplicity. Its wireless XLR transmitter and receiver operate within the 470-940MHz band, delivering an optimal playground for wireless microphone dynamics. But its prowess extends beyond frequency compatibility. With a solid RF connection spanning an impressive 90 feet, the FLY-100 T+R ensures an uninterrupted audio experience, free from the constraints of conventional wired setups.

UNCOMPROMISED TRANSMISSION

One of its standout features lies in its commitment to preserving the authenticity of sound. By enabling uncompressed wireless signal transmission, this system eliminates the distortions that often plague wired counterparts. Low noise and latency, clocking in at less than 4.5ms in normal conditions, offer a lag-free, immersive sonic experience.

THE ARSENAL OF TECHNOLOGIES

Delving deeper, the FLY-100 T+R boasts a 20-channel wireless PA audio transmission set, fortified with UHF PLL technology. This amalgamation of innovations includes a UHF DSP 1×20 Channels receiver and a digital signal processor, complemented by a unique ID address. Its super anti-jamming circuit design and frequency auto-search functionality ensure an interference-free, crystal-clear audio feed.

ADAPTABILITY REDEFINED

Versatility is the cornerstone of the FLY-100 T+R. With the ability to work seamlessly with any dynamic, condenser, or harmonic microphone, along with compatibility with audio mixers and PA systems, it offers unparalleled adaptability. This system is designed to amplify your favorite microphones, transforming them effortlessly into wireless wonders.

UNRIVALLED CONVENIENCE

Beyond its technical prowess, the FLY-100 T+R is engineered for convenience. Its compatibility with active loudspeakers makes it a perfect companion for diverse settings, from bustling venues to intimate wedding ceremonies or the setups of mobile DJs. The built-in lithium battery ensures longevity, offering up to 5 hours of uninterrupted performance while employing stable rechargeable technology for both transmitter and receiver.

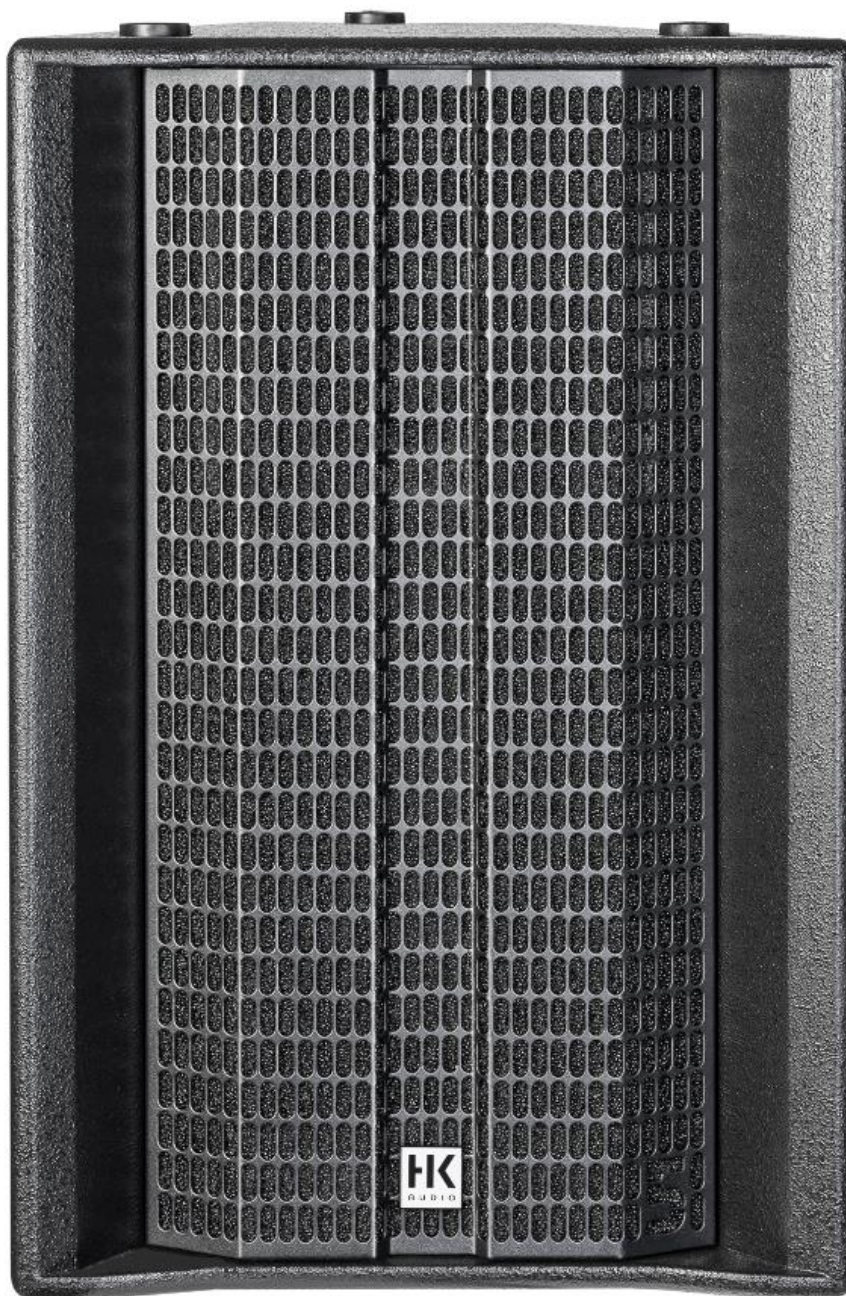
THE FLY-100 T+R PROMISE

In a world inundated with complexities, the Power Works FLY-100 T+R mic wireless system emerges as a solution that simplifies and elevates. Its mission is clear: to alleviate the challenges and frustrations associated with conventional wireless microphone systems. By creating an all-encompassing solution that fuses flexibility with unparalleled performance, the FLY-100 T+R sets a new standard for wireless audio transmission.

For the discerning sound professional seeking an innovative, reliable, and adaptable wireless microphone system, the Power Works FLY-100 T+R stands tall as the beacon of technological brilliance and sonic fidelity, ushering in an era of liberated performances.



LINEAR 5 MK II 308 LTA



Amidst the vibrant landscape of sound reinforcement systems, the HK Audio Linear 5 MkII 308 LTA stands tall as a paragon of efficiency, scalability, and cost-effectiveness. Designed specifically for expansive venues, vast auditoriums, and sprawling outdoor spaces, this active mid/high unit redefines the boundaries of sonic projection, seamlessly marrying power and precision in a compact package.



A REVOLUTION IN SOUND PROJECTION

The Linear 5 MkII 308 LTA bridges the gap between traditional point source PAs and the grandeur of line arrays, emerging as a powerhouse that delivers a direct, horn-loaded sound source in a remarkably compact form. Its 1-inch HF-Driver and Multicell Transformer (MCT) redefine sound coverage, ensuring an unparalleled depth without treble drop-off, even in the furthest reaches of the venue.

EXPANSIVE REACH, UNMATCHED CLARITY

Crafted to captivate audiences within vast spaces, this system effortlessly extends its reach, enveloping areas up to 40 meters and accommodating gatherings of up to 3000 individuals without the need for cumbersome delay lines. The trio of vertically arranged, horn-loaded 8-inch woofers meticulously reproduce bass and mids, rendering them crisply and richly, ensuring a balanced and powerful auditory experience.

FLEXIBILITY AND GROWTH

The Linear 5 MkII 308 LTA is more than a mere sound system; it's a modular marvel. Engineered with precisely tuned presets for clustering and headstacking directly on the speaker, its design allows for seamless expansion and adaptability. With just one unit per side, this system is capable of remarkable sonic depths. Cluster, headstack, or headstack cluster configurations provide coverage patterns with enhanced width and depth.

EFFORTLESS CONNECTIVITY

Simplicity meets efficiency with the inclusion of PowerCon connectors and PowerCon Link, streamlining wiring processes while economizing on cable materials. This attention to detail extends to its comprehensive specifications, boasting a maximum SPL of 133 dB half space (100 Hz – 12 kHz averaged) and a peak SPL of 138 dB half space.



A SYMPHONY OF TECHNICAL MASTERY

Underneath its unassuming exterior lies a powerhouse of technical finesse. Equipped with a Class D biamped amp type and a sophisticated active crossover frequency of 1.6 kHz FIR X-over with 60 dB/oct., this system offers a gamut of DSP functions—from a fully parametric 10-band EQ to variable filter characteristics, high-pass and low-pass filters, polarity adjustments, level configurations, delay settings, limiters, and mute functionalities.

IT'S NOT JUST A SPEAKER SYSTEM; IT'S A TESTAMENT TO INNOVATION, VERSATILITY, AND UNCOMPROMISING EXCELLENCE.

For venues demanding an immersive, expansive, and flexible audio solution, this system emerges as the pinnacle of sound mastery, delivering an auditory experience that resonates across the farthest corners of any space.





High-Fidelity Gaming Headsets

Open-Back Design

VS

Closed-Back Design

When it comes to gaming, audio quality plays a pivotal role in creating an immersive experience. High-fidelity headphones come in two primary designs: open-back and closed-back. Each has distinct characteristics that can significantly impact your gaming experience, offering unique pros and cons worth considering.

Open-back headphones are designed with perforations or vents in the ear cups, allowing air and sound to pass through. This design choice results in a more natural and spacious soundstage. The open-back design enables air and sound to escape, preventing pressure buildup within the ear cups. As a result, it creates a more open and expansive audio environment, offering a sense of depth and clarity in the audio.

For gaming, open-back headphones excel in delivering a wider soundstage, which can be advantageous in certain game genres.

It provides better positional audio, allowing gamers to accurately pinpoint the direction of in-game sounds, enhancing spatial awareness. This feature is particularly beneficial in multiplayer games, first-person shooters, and open-world adventures where precise audio cues are crucial.





However, open-back headphones do have drawbacks. Due to their design, they leak sound both in and out. This means that while you can enjoy an immersive audio experience, those around you can also hear what you're listening to, and external noises can interfere with your gameplay immersion.

Closed-back headphones feature sealed ear cups, effectively isolating the listener from external noise and preventing sound leakage. This design creates a more intimate and isolated audio environment, making closed-back headphones ideal for gaming in noisy environments or when privacy is essential.

In gaming, closed-back headphones provide better isolation, allowing gamers to focus solely on the game without external distractions. While they might not offer the same expansive soundstage as open-back headphones, they often deliver punchier bass and a more direct sound experience.

However, the closed-back design may also result in a slightly narrower soundstage, potentially affecting the perception of directional audio cues. Some users might find closed-back headphones less comfortable for extended gaming sessions due to the sealed nature, which can cause heat buildup and discomfort over time.

Choosing between open-back and closed-back headphones for gaming ultimately depends on personal preferences and gaming needs. If you prioritize a wider soundstage, accurate spatial awareness, and a more natural audio experience, open-back headphones might suit you better.

Conversely, if noise isolation, punchy bass, and the ability to game in varied environments are your priorities, closed-back headphones could be the ideal choice.

It's worth considering the gaming environment, your preferences, and the specific games you play when making this decision. Some gamers even opt for a combination, using open-back headphones for certain gaming scenarios and closed-back for others, depending on the situation.

In the end, both types of high-fidelity headphones have their merits, and the choice between open-back and closed-back comes down to what best complements your gaming style and preferences.



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#gaming



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/Direct-Drive with High-Torque Motor

Designed for DJs



This high-torque direct-drive deck comes with a high-output AT-XP3 DJ cartridge and is loaded with professional features.



proaudio

The AT-LP140XP fully manual professional DJ turntable features a high-torque direct-drive motor and anti-resonant, mass-damped, die-cast aluminum platter to ensure stable, on-axis rotation at 33-1/3, 45, and 78 RPM. It is equipped with an S-shaped tonearm with height adjustment, adjustable tracking force (counterweight) and adjustable dynamic anti-skate control.



Audio-Technica has been a leader in phono cartridge design for more than 50 years, and that expertise shows in the durable, high-output AT-XP3 DJ cartridge with 0.6 mil conical bonded stylus included with the turntable. It comes pre-mounted to an AT-HS6 universal 1/2"-mount headshell.

Designed to connect to components with a dedicated phono input, the turntable comes with a detachable dual RCA output cable and supplies a strong 5.5 mV output.

Additional professional features include a start/stop button; forward and reverse play; selectable high-accuracy quartz-controlled pitch lock and pitch change slider control with +/-8%, +/-16%, and +/-24% adjustment ranges; a stroboscopic platter with speed indicator; a popup stylus target light; and a removable hinged dust cover.

Audio-Technica's AT-LP140XP turntable emerges as a compelling addition to the landscape of DJ-centric equipment, catering to both the professional realm and the audiophile enthusiast's cravings.

Akin to its predecessor, the ATLP120USB, this newer model elevates the experience with an assortment of enhancements, notably the inclusion of the AT-XP3 cartridge. In this comprehensive review, we delve into its features, sonic performance, and its place within the audiophile sphere.

Designed with the DJ community in mind, both the ATLP120USB and the AT-LP140XP present an array of familiar tools. The latter, however, ventures further, aiming to carve its place in audiophile circles despite the inherent DJ-centric accessories. This review seeks to explore whether the AT-LP140XP lives up to its aspirations in the high-fidelity domain.

From a feature standpoint, the AT-LP140XP mirrors its predecessor with a suite of DJ-centric functionalities—platter strobe/light, forward/reverse operation, variable pitch control, and a retractable light. However, distinguishing itself, the AT-LP140XP foregoes built-in phono amplification and a USB port, contributing to a cleaner, purer audio signal, albeit sacrificing convenience for vinyl ripping.

Structurally, the AT-LP140XP exhibits notable differences, such as a robust, heavier plinth and a more damped construction, reducing feedback and coloration from low-frequency sounds.



This attention to build quality extends to its motor, boasting higher torque than its predecessor, ensuring a more stable and precise operation.

A significant highlight is the inclusion of the AT-XP3 cartridge, specifically tailored for DJ demands—showcasing a conical stylus tip, V-Mount dual magnet construction, and excellent tracking capabilities for manual and back-cueing.

However, the inherent DJ-oriented cartridge contributes to a certain level of inherent noise, somewhat detracting from the turntable's audiophile potential.

Sound quality is where the AT-LP140XP shines and raises questions. The sonic profile leans towards a vibrant, energetic performance, with a sturdy and responsive bass and an animated midrange. Yet, the DJ-tuned cartridge tends to emphasize certain frequencies, occasionally leading to a slightly edgy or pronounced sound signature.

Experimentation with tracking force adjustments revealed intriguing results, highlighting the delicate balance between catering to DJ requirements and meeting audiophile expectations. Additionally, replacing the DJ-specific cartridge with an audiophile-oriented counterpart, like the Ortofon 2M Red, unveiled a transformation in sound quality, hinting at the turntable's potential when geared solely toward audiophile pursuits.

Comparisons with other turntables, such as the Fluance RT83 and the Rega RP1, shed light on the AT-LP140XP's positioning. While it excels in areas like precision and bass impact, it faces tough competition in the realm of audiophile-focused sound quality and refinement.



The Audio-Technica AT-LP140XP stands as a bridge between DJ functionality and audiophile aspirations. Its robust build, energetic performance, and responsive bass make it an intriguing choice for enthusiasts seeking a fusion of utility and sonic vitality.

However, its inherent DJ-oriented design compromises its standing as a true audiophile turntable, presenting a notable trade-off for those seeking pristine sound quality above all else. Ultimately, its inclusion on demo lists becomes justified for those seeking a well-built, lively, and versatile turntable that balances the demands of DJing and audiophile listening.



/AT2020USB-XP Cardioid Condenser Microphone

Advanced Performance for Creators



Customize the AT2020USB-XP to you and your environment – no software required. Select between three levels of noise reduction to account for any unwanted room noise and activate the automatic gain control to maintain consistent output levels – no matter how loud or soft your voice.

Tell Your Story

The AT2040USB is an ideal microphone for creators, featuring a dynamic design for excellent voice capture with added USB functionality.

Enter the Audio-Technica AT2020USB-XP microphone—

a powerhouse solution tailored for streamers, podcasters, and creators seeking convenience without compromising on studio-quality audio.

Building upon the legacy of its acclaimed predecessor, the AT2020, the AT2020USB-XP is designed to deliver award-winning sound in a package that caters to modern digital needs. This microphone packs an array of studio-quality features and onboard digital technology, ensuring a seamless and professional recording experience.

At the heart of its capabilities lies the cardioid directional pickup pattern, enabling the microphone to focus precisely on the intended sound source while reducing ambient noise. Moreover, users have the flexibility to choose from three levels of onboard noise reduction or disable it entirely, adapting effortlessly to diverse recording environments.

One standout feature is the onboard automatic gain control, offering users the ability to maintain a consistent microphone output level irrespective of variations in speaking or singing volume. The microphone's LED indicator provides clear visual cues for the current noise reduction setting and the status of automatic gain control, ensuring straightforward and intuitive operation.

Equipped with a high-resolution A/D converter supporting up to 24-bit/192 kHz recording sampling rates, the AT2020USB-XP promises crystal-clear, natural sound reproduction, elevating your audio content to captivate audiences.

Enhancing usability, the microphone integrates a headphone jack and volume control, facilitating real-time monitoring of the microphone signal without latency. The mix control function enables seamless blending of the microphone's audio with computer-generated audio.





/Onboard Processing for
Streamers



/Zero Latency Monitoring for
Podcasters



/Studio-Quality Sound for
Musicians



/Easy Plug-and-Play Operations for
Remote Work

Additionally, the touch-sensitive mute button, conveniently located on the microphone body, allows for hassle-free muting during breaks or unexpected interruptions, signaled by an LED color change from blue to red.

Maximizing versatility and compatibility, the AT2020USB-XP boasts a USB-C output and ships with a USB-C to USB-A cable and USB-A to USB-C adapter. Alongside these, the microphone arrives with an array of accessories, including a custom-designed pop filter, a threaded adapter, and a stable desk stand, ensuring a solid foundation for recording endeavors.

For those seeking to minimize vibration noise, compatibility with the AT8455 Shock Mount (available separately) provides an effective solution.

The Audio-Technica AT2020USB-XP microphone offers a comprehensive, user-friendly, and feature-rich solution tailored to the demands of content creators. Its blend of professional-grade audio, digital control, and a suite of accessories makes it an ideal choice for those striving to deliver top-notch audio content across various platforms.

With its versatility and quality, the AT2020USB-XP stands as a reliable companion for elevating your content creation journey.

Epiphone

**JOINS THE CERTIFIED
VINTAGE PROGRAM**



GIBSON CERTIFIED VINTAGE

Curated. Authenticated. Certified.





GIBSON CERTIFIED VINTAGE

Thoughtfully chosen and authenticated vintage instruments

NEW LIFETIME WARRANTY

Limited lifetime warranty on all

MEET THE EPIPHONE LINEUP



1961 Epiphone E230TD Casino

The names associated with the Epiphone Casino are a who's who of iconic players, from Howlin' Wolf, Keith Richards, and some cats from Liverpool called The Beatles to modern luminaries like Noel Gallagher, Josh Homme, and Gary Clark, Jr. A true hollow body, the Casino's light weight and timeless signature chime is unmistakable.

This 1961 E230TD Casino comes from the first year of production and is a true original with the "Bikini Badge" headstock plaque that was unique to 1961 production. It features all of the Casino's earliest appointments, including black Dogear P-90 covers, a single-ply tortoise pickguard, and dot inlays. This Casino is in excellent overall condition, showing only light play wear and lacquer checking throughout.



WARRANTY

Certified Vintage instruments

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Only Gibson can verify the true value & authenticity

1962 Epiphone FT-79N Texan



Nearly everyone can instantly recall the sound of the opening chords to The Beatles' "Yesterday," and that is the sound of the Epiphone Texan. This beloved slope-shoulder dreadnought acoustic has also been played by Graham Nash, Noel Gallagher, Ben Gibbard, and Peter Dinklage, among others—a testament to its sonic pedigree.

1961 Epiphone Coronet



Although the Coronet was introduced by Epiphone in 1959 as a reliable entry-level instrument, it wasn't long before influential players across generations, including Steve Marriott, Johnny Marr, Del Shannon, and Ace Frehley sought out its signature Cherry finish, double-cut accessibility, and P-90-driven tone.

1969 Epiphone FT-110 Frontier



The FT-110 has a long history with Epiphone, dating back to 1939. After Gibson President Ted McCarty purchased Epiphone in 1957, it was resurrected in 1958 as the square-shoulder FT-110 Frontier. As its namesake would imply, it became a place for sonic and design exploration throughout the 1960s. Its dreadnought body and rope-and-cactus pickguard served as inspiration for the Gibson Hummingbird and Dove.

1967 Epiphone EB-232 Rivoli Bass



Made on the same production line, the semi-hollow EB-232 Rivoli served as Epiphone's version of the Gibson EB-2 bass and features the same specs as its counterpart with some minor aesthetic changes. The Rivoli came loaded with a Gibson Sidewinder pickup that puts out a whopping 32k ohms and a push-button "baritone" switch that cuts some of the bass frequencies.



ASHDOWN ENGINEERING

ORIGINAL HD-1

300 WATT MINI BASS HEAD



The OriginAL is a rugged little go-getter, using scuff proof paint over its steel & alloy chassis. Retaining a nice yet practical weight to it, with quality feeling control pots, The OriginAL is built to last a lifetime. Offered with a 5 year warranty, The OriginAL comes complete with auto protect voltage for global touring musicians and an adaptive temperature controlled fan for road and studio use.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Power Output - 300 Watts
- Power Requirement - 115-230 Volts
- Speaker Outputs - 2 x Jack Outputs
- High Instrument Input - Impedance 3.9m Ohms, input range 150mV - 20mV p-p
- Low Instrument Input - Impedance - 1M Ohms, input range 150mV to 10 V p-p
- Line Input - Impedance 10k Ohms, input range 300mV - 40V p-p
- DI Output - 600 Ohm balanced / Level -20dBu nominal
- Impedance - Minimum 4 Ohm



- Signal to noise - Better than 80dB (EQ flat)
- EQ - Bass +/-15dB @ 100Hz, Lo Mid +/-15dB @ 220Hz, Middle +/-15dB @ 660Hz, Hi Mid +/-15dB @ 1.6kHz, Treble +/-15dB @ 7kHz
- Effects Send - Impedance 22k Ohm / Level 0dBu nominal
- Effects Return - Impedance 22k Ohm / Level 0dBu nominal
- H x W x D - 89 x 22 x 209
- Weight (kg) - 1.8

The Ashdown OriginAL 300 Watt Mini Bass Head is your ticket to powerful, portable, and professional bass amplification, delivering Ashdown's renowned tone in a sleek and reliable package.

High-Fidelity Sound

Pro In-Ear Monitors Are Part of the Package

Don't settle for basic earbuds. The 3000 Series Wireless IEM comes with our ATH-E40 in-ear monitor headphones for professional performance right out of the box.

Within the dynamic realms of live performances, houses of worship, and stage productions, audio clarity and stability reign supreme, the Audio-Technica AT3000 Series Wireless In-Ear Monitor System—an epitome of durability, cutting-edge technology, and superior sound delivery, meticulously crafted to meet the exacting demands of professional settings.

Crafted to deliver a symphony of high-quality sound and unwavering RF stability, this wireless in-ear monitor system is a powerhouse tailored for exceptional performances. Its optimized internal digital signal processing is a testament to its commitment to providing unparalleled stereo separation, ensuring a pristine and immersive audio experience.

A standout feature is its wide UHF tuning bandwidth spanning 138 MHz, a testament to its adaptability in an increasingly congested RF environment. Available in the DF2 frequency band (470 – 608 MHz), this system ensures maximum versatility without compromising on signal stability, an absolute necessity in today's bustling RF landscapes.

True to Audio-Technica's legacy, this system shares design elements with the revered 3000 Series UHF Wireless Systems, guaranteeing seamless integration and compatibility with existing setups—a boon for professionals seeking efficiency and ease of use.

The transmitter and receiver units are equipped with OLED screens, offering optimal readability of critical settings and alerts. Furthermore, the system's integration with the Wireless Manager software enables network monitoring and control, empowering users with remote access and comprehensive management capabilities.



proaudio

#pro



Efficiency and simplicity merge seamlessly with the ability to deploy channel plans across network-connected transmitters via a single receiver, eliminating interference or third-order intermodulation issues—ensuring uninterrupted and distortion-free performance.

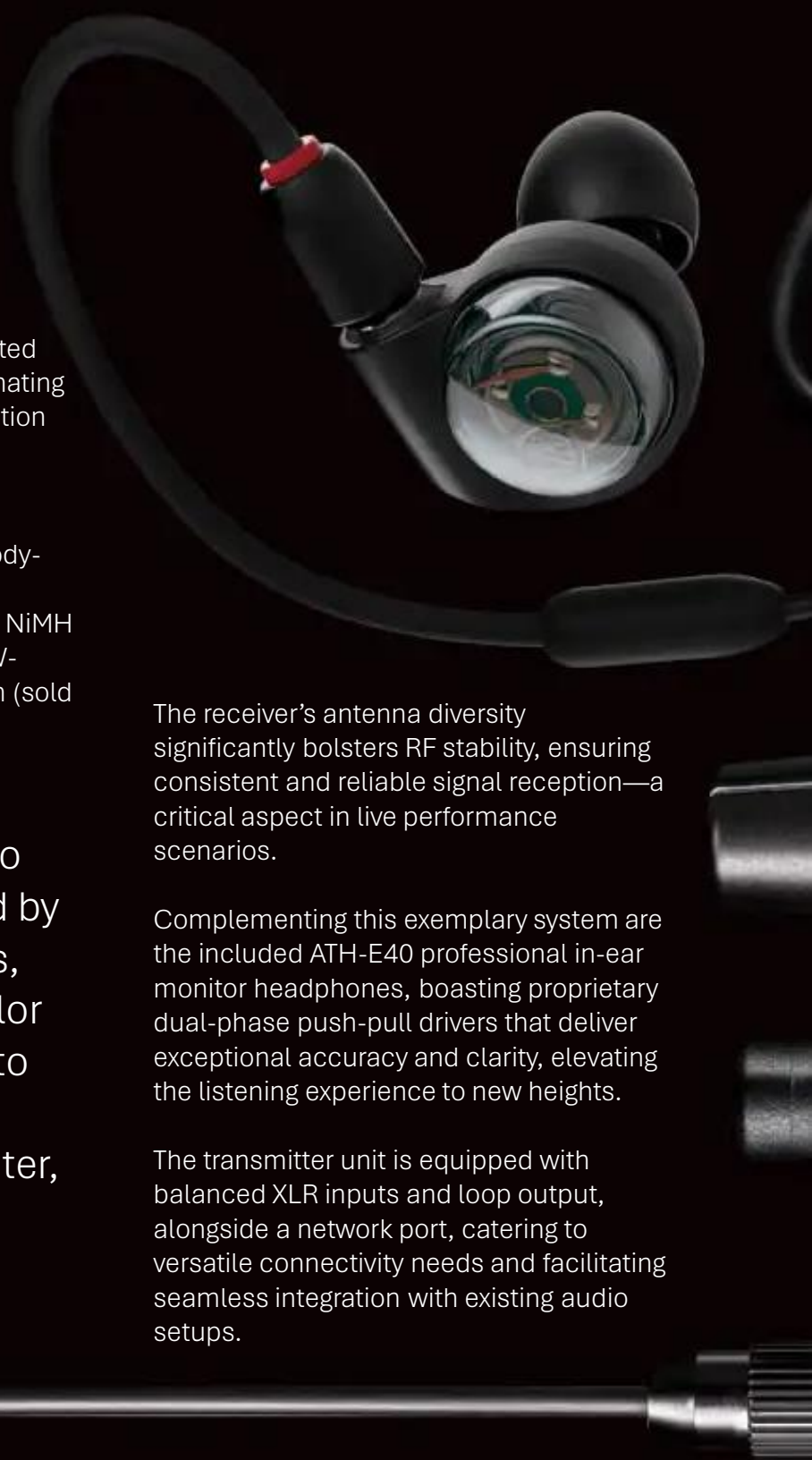
Practicality meets longevity with the body-pack receiver's impressive continuous operation of up to 7 hours, powered by NiMH batteries and easily charged in the ATW-CHG3 or ATW-CHG3N charging station (sold separately).

The system offers the flexibility of stereo or mono operation, complemented by pan/personal mix controls, allowing performers to tailor their auditory experience to perfection. Custom audio settings including EQ, limiter, gain control, and balance further enhance personalization options.

The receiver's antenna diversity significantly bolsters RF stability, ensuring consistent and reliable signal reception—a critical aspect in live performance scenarios.

Complementing this exemplary system are the included ATH-E40 professional in-ear monitor headphones, boasting proprietary dual-phase push-pull drivers that deliver exceptional accuracy and clarity, elevating the listening experience to new heights.

The transmitter unit is equipped with balanced XLR inputs and loop output, alongside a network port, catering to versatile connectivity needs and facilitating seamless integration with existing audio setups.



The Audio-Technica AT3000 Series Wireless In-Ear Monitor System is a testament to uncompromising excellence in audio technology. Its blend of durability, technological sophistication, and superior sound delivery makes it an indispensable asset for professionals seeking precision, reliability, and uncompromised audio quality in their performances.

ATW-R3250 STEREO RECEIVER

000.000 MHz
ST ST

 audio-technica

soundpress | JANUARY 2024

BEYOND SOUND

Welcome to the new Sonance.
So much more than speakers.

CEDIA 2019 "Best Integra
Photo Courtesy of Cantar



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IN-WALL & IN-CEILING SPEAKERS

From the company that invented the category comes a complete offering of in-wall and in-ceiling speakers that balance performance with design. Sonance has solutions to complement any décor and impress the most discerning listener.



VISUAL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Sonance Visual Performance Series features an award-winning low-profile grille that is paintable to blend into the wall or ceiling. With three shapes and sizes, several performance levels and a range of specialty application speakers, a consistent look can be achieved for any application in every space.



ARCHITECTURAL SERIES

Sonance Architectural Series delivers the ultimate blend of high-performance and premium aesthetics. The totally flush and bezel-less grilles disappear into the surrounding ceiling surface while the state-of-the-art driver materials and cutting-edge design sets a new standard in audiophile sound quality.



INVISIBLE SERIES

Sonance Invisible Series is the ultimate expression in architectural audio. Installed into the wall or ceiling and then finished over with the surrounding surface, Invisible Series speakers deliver ambient music that emanates throughout the space with no visual footprint.



LANDSCAPE SERIES

Sonance Landscape Series is a totally scalable outdoor speaker system that delivers perfectly even volume coverage and unbelievable sound quality throughout any size space. Described by one critic as outdoor sound to “knock their socks off”, SLS provides jaw-dropping sonic performance from small satellite speakers and below-ground subwoofers that are hidden completely out of sight among plants and under foliage.



GARDEN SERIES

Sonance Garden Series takes elements from the industry-leading Sonance Landscape Series products and creates a simply scaled system ideal for outdoor areas up to 3,500 square feet. Sonance Garden Series is the perfect balance of performance and simplicity in an outdoor audio system.



PATIO SERIES

Sonance Patio Series was developed for small scale-spaces that deserve even, balanced coverage of great audio performance. With four satellite speakers and one in-ground subwoofer, powered on a single Sonance DSP amplifier, the system is equipped to provide a great experience for a great value.



COMMERCIAL

Sonance purpose-built commercial loudspeakers can be found in thousands of flagship installations throughout the world. Its expertise in architectural audio, combined with in-depth knowledge of international construction methods, standards, and codes, puts Sonance at the forefront in the field of commercial sound.

nord®

LIVE SESSIONS

The phenomenal Matthew Whitaker and his band perform "Take A Break" live at Studio G Brooklyn in the opening episode of this brand new NORD LIVE series.



Matthew's musical journey started at age 3 with a keyboard gift from his grandfather. He's now an artist, captivating audiences globally and appearing on notable TV shows like Showtime at the Apollo, the Today Show, Ellen, and 60 Minutes.

Matthew is a versatile artist, starring, producing, and scoring the All-Arts Emmy-nominated documentary "About Tomorrow" and scoring the film "Starkeisha", also appearing, and contributing music for the Emmy-nominated Apple T.V. commercial, "The Greatest."

Beyond music, Matthew is an advocate for persons with disabilities, consulting with companies to improve accessibility features. With three studio albums, "Outta The Box," "Now Hear This," and "Connections," Matthew collaborates with industry greats such as Derrick Hodge, Ray Chew, Jon Batiste, Christian McBride, and Regina Carter.

A three-time ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award winner, and the Musical Director for the musical "Billy Strayhorn: Something to Live For," which premiered in Pittsburgh, PA, in Fall 2023.



HIT VENUUE MKIII

Blackstar
AMPLIFICATION



Boutique Cleans and Modern Overdrives

HT Venue is renowned for combining class-leading boutique cleans with modern high gain overdrives without compromise.

The Clean channel, though simple in appearance, offers vast versatility in producing classic clean and crunch tones. Both Voices utilise an ECC83 / 12AX7 valve exclusively for producing any valve compression or crunch.

The Overdrive channels have evolved from the original Series One range. The topology shares the same basic building blocks in the gain structure and tonal shaping and includes the cascaded gain stages of an ECC83 / 12AX7 double triode valve.

WHAT'S IN A VENUE?

Until HT Venue, guitarists had to choose between an amp that delivered great clean tones, or great overdrives. Our mission for HT Venue was to use what we learned when designing the Artisan handwired boutique amps and the modern high gain Series One and combine the best clean and overdrives into a single valve amp; a valve amp that would give players classic reference tones in one unit – without compromise.

Incorporating everything we've learned since the original in 2010, the new MK III refines the tones, the components and even the look. To match the way you play today we've brought modern recording and connectivity to a traditional valve amp, including CabRig, our class-leading DSP speaker simulator software, plus a suite of connectivity options: USB-C, XLR D.I. and of course ¼" jack.



HT Stage 100H MK III

- 100W Valve Head
- Three Footswitchable Channels & Six Footswitchable Voices
- Additional Presence, Speaker Emulated output with 1x12/4x12 voicings



HT Club 50H MK III

- 50W Valve Head
- Two Footswitchable channels & Four Footswitchable voices
- Digital Reverb with Dark/Light Switch, ISF & USB Recording

Two distinct Voices on each channel
Each Voice is far more than a minor tweak to the sound. With HT Venue MK III, each Voice switch introduces comprehensive circuit alterations in both preamp and power amp to recreate authentic reference tones without compromise. This includes EQ voicing, tone stack position in the circuit, the gain, and power amp damping. Achieve diverse tonal options with the flick of a single switch!



Pro Features

Blackstar's patented ISF (Infinite Shape Feature) control shifts the response of the three control tone stack between, a US type response at one end, and at the other, a UK type response.

Importantly, in between the two extremes lie an infinite number of alternative tone choices that would be otherwise unavailable.

MK III also has an all-new reverb voiced for guitar tones. Switch between 'Dark' room and 'Light' plate settings and deep-edit other parameters via our free Architect software.

Ideal for modern musicians, the MK III has all the connectivity you need, effects loop, USB-C audio for professional recording and an XLR D.I. for live performances.



HT Stage 60 212 MK III

- 60w Valve Combo
- Three Footswitchable Channels & Six Footswitchable Voices
- Additional 1x12" Celestion Speaker



HT Stage 60 112 MK III

- 60W Valve Combo
- Three Footswitchable Channels & Six Footswitchable Voices
- Additional Presence & Resonance, Speaker Emulated output with 1x12/4x12 voicings



HT Club 40 MK III

- 40W Valve Combo
- Two Footswitchable channels & Four Footswitchable voices
- Digital Reverb with Dark/Light Switch, ISF & USB Recording



CabRig™ DSP speaker simulator technology
 CabRig™, our class-leading DSP speaker simulator comes as standard, offering hundreds of different cabinet, mic, and room settings. Save your favourites to three presets for easy access directly from the amplifier. Switch into standby for 'silent' recording or silent stage use. The USB-C port lets you send 4 channels (clean/dry, preamp out, stereo emulated out) to your DAW, ensuring the easiest way to capture authentic valve tone in recordings.

THE ULTIMATE

Multi-Position Battery Powered PA System

ATLANTIS Series
All-in-One



Music and sound enthusiasts, rejoice! The ATLANTIS Series emerges as a game-changer, offering an unparalleled all-in-one solution tailored for musicians, DJs, and general PA applications. This innovative system redefines versatility, portability, and sound quality, making it an indispensable asset for any audio aficionado.

At the heart of the ATLANTIS Series lies its multi-position functionality, elevating the auditory experience across various settings. Crafted with Auto EQ technology, this system adapts seamlessly to different positions, ensuring optimal sound output regardless of setup. Whether deployed as a PA system, floor monitor, practice amplifier, or primary music apparatus, its adaptability knows no bounds.

Five distinctive modes empower users to harness the full potential of this speaker. From projecting clear, audience-encompassing sound when placed on a surface or stand to facilitating intimate performances by tilting it, the ATLANTIS Series guarantees an immersive sonic experience. Need a personal floor monitor? Simply lay it horizontally and direct the sound toward the performer, revolutionizing on-stage monitoring.

Moreover, flexibility reigns supreme with multiple deployment options. Be it mounted on a speaker stand for widespread sound dispersion or installed on a wall (thanks to optional accessories), its utility extends to diverse environments such as homes, movie theaters, churches, and meeting halls.

The ATLANTIS Series doesn't compromise on power either, boasting a robust rechargeable lithium-ion battery that ensures up to 12 hours of usage at 50% power. A battery status indicator keeps you informed of the remaining charge, granting peace of mind during extended performances or events.

Seamless Bluetooth connectivity further amplifies its appeal, enabling high-quality wireless streaming from mobile devices with effortless pairing to one or two Atlantis systems. Meanwhile, the inclusion of a comprehensive 3-channel mixer, reverb, and 2 Bank EQ control ensures a professional-grade audio experience. Whether it's a microphone combo input with voice priority, an auxiliary Hi-Z or guitar input, or RCA and AUX channels for wired or wireless music sources, the ATLANTIS Series offers unmatched versatility.

Additionally, the system features a mix output via XLR, a USB charger for mobile devices, and switchable DSP for added customization, catering to diverse user preferences.

The ATLANTIS Series emerges as a paradigm of innovation and convenience in the realm of audio systems, promising a superior auditory journey tailored to the needs of performers, presenters, and audio enthusiasts alike.

With its multifaceted capabilities and unwavering commitment to exceptional sound quality, this all-in-one powerhouse redefines what it means to achieve sonic excellence, anytime, anywhere.



An Interview With..



SoundPress: Your recent release, "Night Life," arrived just in time for the festive season. Could you share the inspiration behind the album and the creative process involved?

DJ DekStir: Taking a break during the lockdown, I draw inspiration from live performances. Witnessing the resurgence of the party atmosphere inspired the album. I aimed to create a narrative, not just a single track. Crafting music for radio, clubs, and festivals took over a year, and I'm proud of the outcome.

SoundPress: You've been a notable figure in the South African music scene, performing from big stages to smaller venues. How do you adapt your sets for such diverse audiences?

DJ DekStir: Pre-show prep is key. Keeping updated with dance trends, having secret weapons, and creating my own edits helps. As a DJ, reading the crowd is crucial. Their response often directs the musical journey.

SoundPress: Playing at venues with different language backgrounds must present challenges. How do you select tracks to connect with diverse audiences?

DJ DekStir: I have a few Afrikaans hits that rock the dance floor if requested, but I mainly perform at English venues.

SoundPress: With a packed schedule across Johannesburg and beyond, how do you prep for sets, especially at large events like H2O?

DJ DekStir: Organized music libraries make set preparation a breeze. Engaging with the crowd takes priority over searching for tracks.

SoundPress: Your extensive tattoo collection—do they hold special meaning, tying into your identity as an artist?

DJ DekStir: Most tattoos reflect my music passion and serve as reminders. They add uniqueness to an artist's identity, helping one stand out.

SoundPress: Balancing a busy DJ schedule, gym routine, and music creation seems challenging. How do you manage it all?

DJ DekStir: Mindset shapes it all. Setting rules and forming good habits streamline managing these aspects, ensuring a dedicated routine.

SoundPress: Regarding your own music, has crowd energy directly influenced any of your tracks?

DJ DekStir: Once, playing a new track, the crowd's positive response was thrilling. Their Shazam search for the track fuels my imagination for future productions.

SoundPress: Equipment choice is pivotal for DJs. Do you have a favored Pioneer DJ gear that enhances your performances?

DJ DekStir: The Pioneer RX3 offers everything I need—looping, beat jumps, vinyl mode—coupled with Rekordbox, making it versatile and easy to transport.

Grateful to the SoundPress team for this interview. If I've inspired belief in dreams, then I've achieved my goal.





NIGHT LIFE





An Interview With..



SoundPress: Can you share how Laminin Music came together? What inspired its formation, and how did your shared love for electronic music bring you together in 2015?

Laminin: Laminin Music originated from a group of friends who shared a profound passion for electronic music. Frequenting club and festival scenes, we envisioned creating our musical experiences. The idea coalesced during successful studio sessions in 2015, leading to the birth of our collective.

Named after the Laminin molecule—found in all humans, symbolizing unity—we aimed to unite diverse audiences on dance floors through our music. Celebrating eight years, our brotherhood forms the core of our collective.

SoundPress: Specializing in deep tech, deep house, and techno, what musical influences shape Laminin Music's unique sound? Are there specific artists or genres that inspire your collective's style?

Laminin: Each of us brings diverse influences—Hip Hop, RnB, Drum n Bass, Lounge, among others—melding into our productions. We interpret these varied influences collectively, blending Deep Tech, Deep House, Minimal, Techno, Dub, and Electronica into our auditory narratives.

SoundPress: Described as "illustrations of audio stories," how do you approach storytelling through your music? What emotions or themes do you aim to convey?

Laminin: Crafting audio stories is intrinsic to us. Studio sessions draw from our daily experiences, emotions, and desired messages. We aim to forge a deeper connection with our audience, taking them on an emotional journey and offering an escape through our music.

SoundPress: Laminin Music incorporates live elements into DJ performances. Could you explain how you set up these live components? When did the collective seamlessly incorporate these elements into your performances?

Laminin: Employing Ableton Live and MIDI, we enrich our DJ sets by designing layers specific to each track. Using synthesizers and Pioneer mixers, we manipulate sounds during performances, establishing a hybrid live set. This method, experimented with in 2017 and embraced fully from 2018, became integral to our gigs.

SoundPress: With four members, how does the collaborative process work in music production? Are there specific roles or is it a more collective effort?

Laminin: We ensure seamless collaboration by standardizing our DAWs, allowing individual project contributions that circulate until the track reaches collective approval. Together in the studio, we leverage each other's strengths, collectively scrutinizing and refining our projects.

SoundPress: Collaborations with labels in Brazil, the Netherlands, and South Africa have impacted Laminin Music. How did these partnerships arise, and what has their influence been on your journey?

Laminin: Initial releases through international labels broadened our musical horizons, challenging us to adapt our sound while preserving our essence. Our involvement in Round Robin Recordings since 2017 granted insight into label operations, fostering connections and allowing freer musical expression.

SoundPress: Seeing your music resonate globally, how does it feel to connect with diverse audiences? Any memorable moments or feedback from international listeners?

Laminin: Digital platforms facilitated global outreach, connecting us with DJs and radio presenters worldwide. Recognition from artists like Roger Shah and support from stations like 5FM in South Africa are cherished milestones, validating our musical journey.



Pioneer DJ

SoundPress: How has Laminin Music's sound evolved since 2015? Any particular musical elements or techniques that have changed over time?

Laminin: Over years of studio exploration, we've honed sound manipulation techniques while adhering to fundamental quality standards. Our recent adoption of analog synthesizers and compression signifies a new phase in our musical evolution.

SoundPress: What are your future plans? Any upcoming projects, collaborations, or goals you're eager to share with your fans and the electronic music community?

Laminin: We're in talks with an artist management agency, set to materialize in 2024. This partnership excites us, promising a focus on artistry, high-profile performances, and global outreach.

SoundPress: What inspires your creative process? Are non-musical influences like art or literature significant in shaping Laminin Music's sonic landscapes?

Laminin: Daily experiences, emotions, and diverse inspirations drive our creativity. From impactful literature to nature and music events, our creative wellspring is vast.

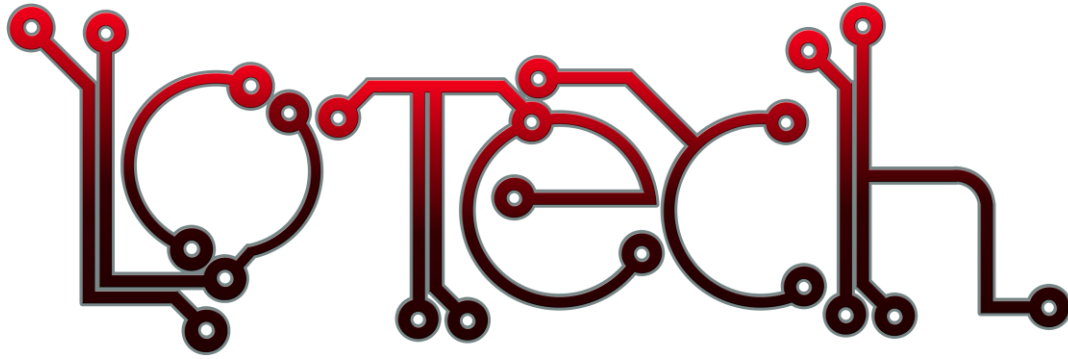
SoundPress: Engaging with your listener community, do you actively seek feedback from your audience? How do you connect with them through your music?

Laminin: We primarily observe audience reactions, gauging responses on social media and especially on the dance floor, ensuring our music resonates with them.





An Interview With..



SoundPress: Schalk, you've been DJing for 25 years, drawing early inspiration from the top Progressive House DJs of the early '00s. How have these influences shaped your DJing style, and how has your musical taste evolved over the years?

LoTech: The Progressive House of the late '90s and early '00s blended House and Balearic Trance, featuring lengthy tracks gradually building up with elements like vocals and electric synths. Those sounds still resonate in the music I play today.

SoundPress: Your current sets encompass minimal, techno, and breaks. What draws you to these genres?

LoTech: Techno's warmth from modular synths and deep vocals captivates me. Minimal's appeal lies in the Hip Edits, building tracks around '90s Hip Hop samples. Breaks, a part of my repertoire since day one, add an unexpected twist to the dancefloor.

SoundPress: The underground scene in South Africa, especially venues like Mødular in Cape Town and Truth in Johannesburg, has been influential. How has this scene shaped your career?

LoTech: Growing up in Bloemfontein, the scene was scarce, leading me to Johannesburg's Truth. TOY TOY's pure techno and house sound shaped my journey profoundly. Playing at venues like Mødular in Cape Town allowed me to explore the harder side of techno after moving to Durban.

SoundPress: You've launched events under the LoTech Curates brand. What inspired these events, and what experience do you aim to offer?

LoTech: LoTech Curates began to fill a gap in Durban's underground music scene. We strive to bring diverse electronic music to open-minded audiences, showcasing both established and upcoming DJs often overlooked by mainstream clubs.

SoundPress: The Minimal and Techno scene in South Africa stands out as a niche. How significant is it, and what sets it apart?

LoTech: Unlike Europe where techno dominates, South Africa gravitates more towards deep house. The minimal and techno scene here remains niche but has a dedicated group of DJs and promoters fostering a tight-knit community.

SoundPress: Securing gigs in the underground scene differs. What strategies do you employ?

LoTech: Staying visible and relevant is crucial. Updating socials and SoundCloud with mixes keeps you on booking agents' radars. In this fast-paced scene, staying engaged and pushing boundaries is key.

SoundPress: Your Pioneer CDJs play a pivotal role. How have they impacted your performances?

LoTech: Owning a pair of Pioneer CDJ2000 NXS2s has been invaluable, setting an industry standard at our events. It's also provided budding DJs the chance to experience top-tier gear at our events and my studio.



SoundPress: Reflecting on your DJing career, any standout moments?

LoTech: A few unforgettable moments: the emotional vibe during “For Those I Love - I Have a Love (Overmono Remix)” at a LoTech Curates party; a powerful moment with “Kobosil’s” remix at Mødular during the #METOO movement; and a mind-blowing set at TOY TOY featuring “Yogg and Pharoah’s” “The Neverending Geveer”.

SoundPress: What's your vision for the future of electronic music in South Africa, and your role in it?

LoTech: South Africa's scene is thriving, with new clubs and events emerging. I'm excited to see these crews grow and play a role, whether through collaborations or advisory positions, supporting and guiding the next generation.

SoundPress: Lastly, any upcoming projects or events fans can anticipate?

LoTech: Stay tuned for upcoming gigs! Personally, I'm focused on expanding LoTech Curates nationally, organizing parties in Cape Town and Johannesburg featuring residents, special guests, and myself.





An Interview With..

Gabanna

SoundPress: Gabanna Da DeeJay, you've exhibited incredible musical talent from a young age. Can you share your journey into music and what sparked your career?

Gabanna: My journey started in 2007 during high school. With no formal training, I dived into music production out of sheer love for electronic music. The emotional connection and joy it brought spurred me on. I wanted to share that feeling with others.

SoundPress: Your influences include legendary figures like Jimpster, Vinny Da Vinci, and others. How have they shaped your style?

Gabanna: They've been huge. Learning from them, even befriending a few, has not only influenced my music but steered my life in a different direction compared to my peers. Their impact nurtured my love for Deep House and Deep Tech.

SoundPress: Your skills span beyond DJing and production to audio engineering and sound design. How do these enhance your music?

Gabanna: Audio engineering gives me control over tracks, ensuring a polished mix. Sound design expands creativity, allowing me to craft unique sounds, especially using retro analog gear I adore.

SoundPress: Your music's known for lush pads and expressive elements. Can you describe your creative process behind these sounds?

Gabanna: It's a mix of experimentation, inspiration, and attention to detail. I aim to create sounds that captivate and evoke emotions, often embracing "happy mistakes."

SoundPress: Fluxtuations Recordings, your label, is quite the venture. What inspired its creation?

Gabanna: Establishing it granted full creative control. It lets me express my vision and explore different styles without limitations. My dream is still collaborating with my favorite labels.

SoundPress: Despite lacking formal training, your self-taught path is impressive. How do you continue evolving with each release?

Gabanna: Hands-on experience and experimentation have been crucial. I believe limitations spark creativity and push boundaries.

SoundPress: Your music is often described as "Lush," "Phat," and "Deep." What do these qualities mean to you?

Gabanna: They aim to evoke emotional resonance, connection, and introspection in listeners, providing a transformative experience.

SoundPress: Any exciting recent releases or upcoming projects?

Gabanna: I've got a big release dropping in December 2023, marking my transition into 2024. Lots planned for the year, experimenting with genres and aiming for the international market.



SoundPress: How do you approach DJ sets to create a memorable experience?

Gabanna: Crafting a storyline is key. I curate a musical journey aiming to leave the audience with euphoria and a desire to relive the experience.

SoundPress: Your primary goals as an artist?

Gabanna: Personal growth, reaching a diverse global fanbase, and industry recognition for my unique sound and vision.

SoundPress: Finally, summing up your musical journey in one sentence?

Gabanna: My journey is a symphony of exploration, growth, and connection, every release and set reflecting my passion and music's impact on my life.

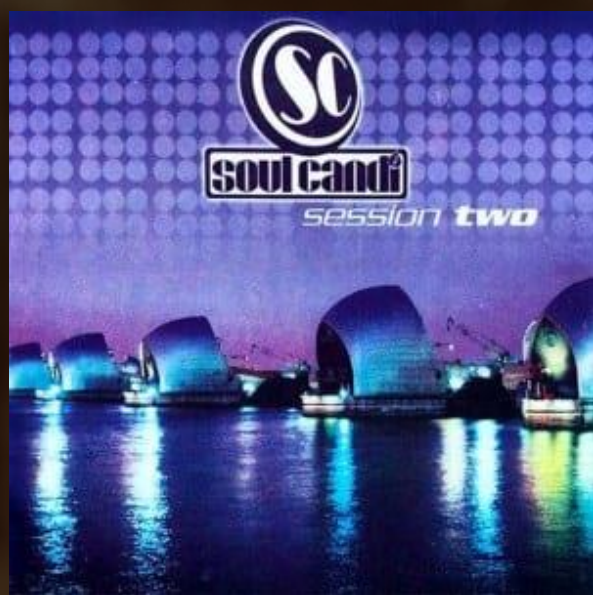




HOME-GROWN MUSIC

This Month we are throwing back to
THROWBACK TO SA'S MOST ICONIC HOUSE HITS

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DJ Mbuso

Mbuso's Revenge

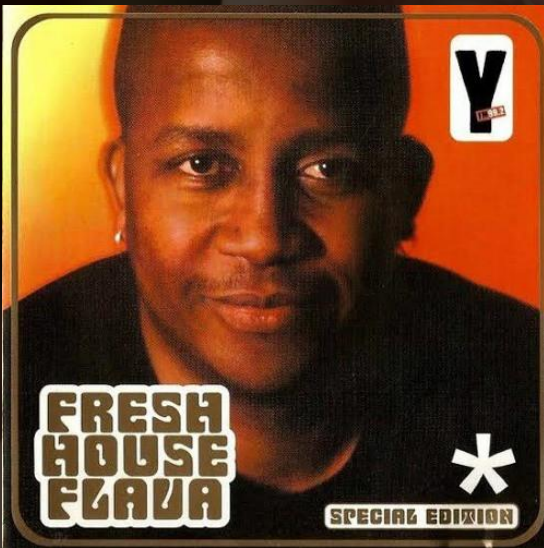
DJ Mbuso is a man of many hats. As the co-founder of Soul Candi Records and Phezulu Records, he's been responsible for bringing many a hit into South African dance floors through his compilations. He's also a producer of considerable talent. Taken off 2005's Soul Candi Session 2, "Mbuso's Revenge" features racing percussion, a thick bass line and a meandering string section that makes it both a contemplative house joint as well as an essential for the club floor.



Culoe De Song

100 Zulu Warriors

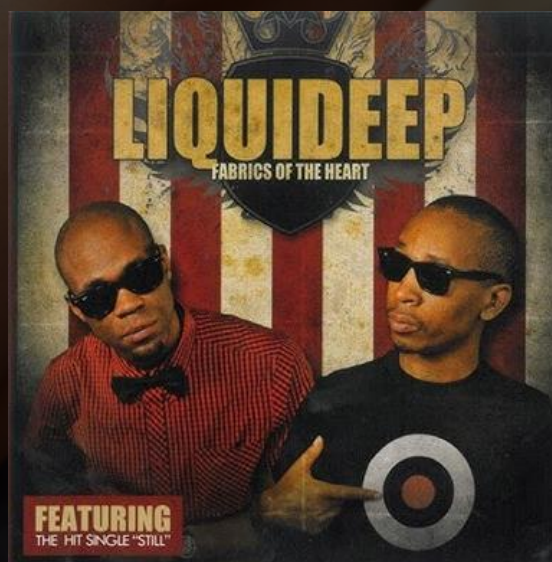
As far as first impressions go, Culoe De Song couldn't have chosen better than "100 Zulu Warriors." With its hissing strings and xylophone taps the song introduced the world to Culoe's brand of tribal house and led him to be discovered by Black Coffee. A version of the song later made its way to Black Coffee's 2007 release Have Another One, but the original is still a classic in its own right.



DJ Fresh & Kyllex Ft Thabiso

Stay Real

DJ Fresh is an artist who needs little to no introduction in South Africa's house scene. He's rightly considered one of the most important architects of the scene and you only need to take a listen to his Fresh House Flava and Definition of House series to find out why. "Stay Real" saw him team up with local producer Kellex and head behind the boards for a song that would easily fill any dance floor to this day. "You are who you are, don't change" goes the song's chorus over a slow-moving chord section. Ultimately, the song is about maintaining one's sense of self amidst all the bullshit people throw your way.



Liquideep

Fairytale

Liquideep was a soul and House duo formed in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007. The group was formed by Ziyon (artist/songwriter/producer) and Ryzor (DJ/producer). Its members were signed to independent record label Mentalwave Records and afterwards released their record-setting debut album Oscillations in 2009. In 2010 they cemented their place in history with the multi-platinum selling album Fabrics of the Heart.

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You Missed the Previous Editions



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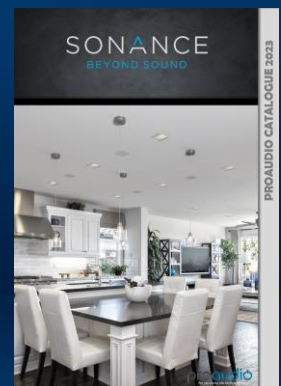
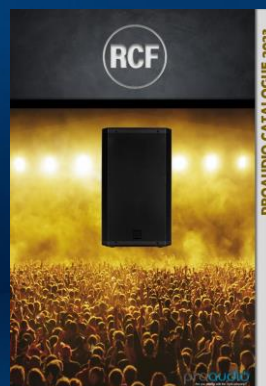
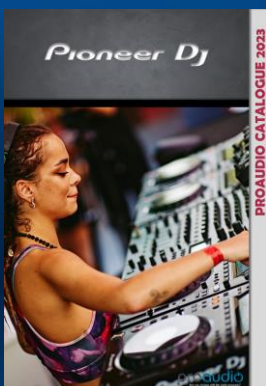
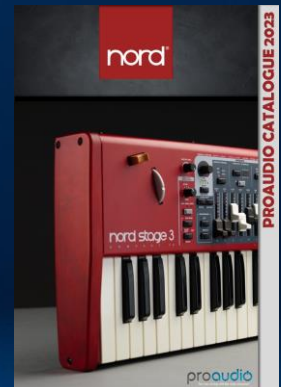
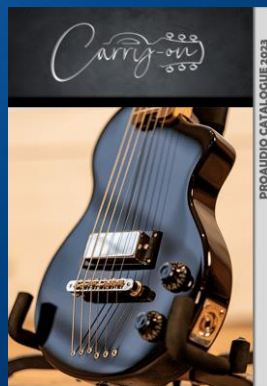
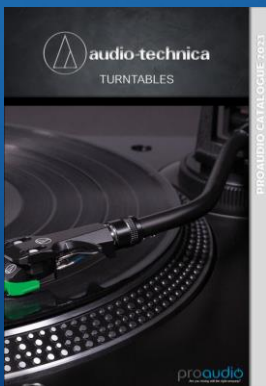
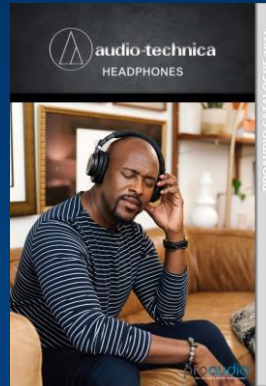
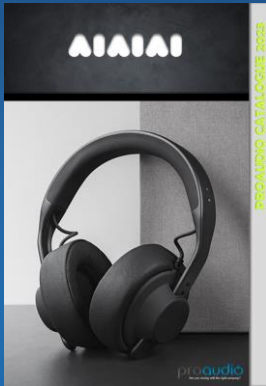
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