

Sound Press

mixing with the right company?

KABZA De Small

on Crafting Sound, Overcoming
Challenges, and Inspiring
the Next Generation

BOTTEGA

VENETA

- ✓ LIMITED EDITION Headphones
- ✓ 15" Speaker FACE-OFF
- ✓ Guitars, Pedals, Audio Interfaces
- ✓ Latest Turntable from Audio Technica
- ✓ AlphaThetas NEW Headphones

**The WORLD
OF MUSICIANS**

A challenging but
rewarding journey

The PATH AHEAD MUSIC Industry Opportunity in South Africa


THE **LIFE OF A DJ** IN SOUTH AFRICA

Pg.9

Cable-free Performances

on stage with the new HDJ-F10
professional wireless DJ headphones



 AlphaTheta

proaudio

WELCOME

to the October 2024 Edition of
proaudio Sound Press Magazine!

This month, we explore the essential gear for your DJ career, diving deep into the right tools to elevate your craft. We also take a trip down memory lane with a legendary battle-mixer that helped shape the art of DJing.

In our gear spotlight, we bring you an epic Face-Off between two titans in the 15" speaker game, comparing the Turbosound NUQ-152AN and the HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi—both powerhouses in the world of live sound.

We also shine a light on the vibrant world of musicians in South Africa, exploring the instruments and equipment that help them make waves in the industry. From Epiphone and Kramer guitars to Blackstar pedals and audio interfaces, this issue is packed with insights into the tools that drive creativity.

On the tech front, we introduce the highly-anticipated Audio-Technica AT-LP8X turntable and the HDJ-F10 wireless DJ headphones, perfect for those looking to take their performances to the next level.

Whether you're chasing your next gig, refining your sound, or just staying up to date with the latest gear, we've got you covered. Enjoy the journey, and let's continue to push the boundaries of music together.

HAPPY READING!

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sound PRESS

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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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Blackstar 64 Introduces - LT Pedals

Series of five compact pedals designed to capture the essence and tonal richness of their iconic HT Pedals, offering players professional-grade boost, overdrive, and distortion in a pedalboard-friendly package.



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The Path Ahead

DJs, Studio Artists, and Sound Engineers on the Rise



THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

in South Africa is filled with opportunity for those willing to put in the effort.

Whether you're behind the decks as a DJ, sitting at the mixing desk as a sound engineer, or producing tracks in a studio, the key is to stay focused, passionate, and always striving for excellence. With brands like **Pioneer DJ**, **AlphaTheta**, **Audio Technica**, **Midas**, **PowerWorks**, and **HK Audio** providing the tools, you have what you need to take your career to the next level.

The music industry in South Africa is a dynamic and ever-evolving space, with DJs, studio artists, and sound engineers at the forefront of creating the sounds that define the culture. Whether you're a DJ spinning at clubs, a producer crafting tracks in the studio, or a sound engineer shaping the live experience, the journey to success in this field is filled with unique challenges and opportunities. As we head toward the end of the year, it's a crucial time for many in the industry to reflect, improve, and set their sights on achieving their goals.



BREAKING

Into the Industry

For many aspiring DJs and sound engineers, the road into the industry can be tough. South Africa's music scene is diverse, covering a wide range of genres from house and electronic dance music to hip hop, gospel, and afrobeat. While this provides ample opportunities for specialization, it also means there's fierce competition.

Getting started often involves a combination of passion, training, and connections. Many South African DJs and producers begin by learning on their own, experimenting with Pioneer DJ controllers or other entry-level equipment, often found through the likes of AlphaTheta, which provides many of the core tools for DJing. Others might attend DJ schools or technical institutes, where they learn the craft of production, mixing, and live performance. For those interested in studio work or sound engineering, internships at local studios or assisting at live events are essential for gaining practical experience and getting your foot in the door.

Tip for Aspiring DJs

Make sure you're continuously learning. The DJ industry is heavily driven by new technology, so understanding your equipment—whether it's a Pioneer DJ controller, AlphaTheta mixers, or new software updates—is key to staying competitive.



THE LIFE OF A DJ in South Africa

For DJs in South Africa, success often means versatility. From throwing down at local clubs to performing at weddings and corporate events, DJs must learn to adapt their setlists and gear to fit different audiences and environments. Many top South African DJs started with smaller gigs, honing their skills on **Pioneer DJ decks** and mixers before moving on to bigger events.

It's important to build relationships with promoters and venues while maintaining a unique sound that sets you apart from others. At the same time, many DJs have diversified by branching out into music production, using DAWs (digital audio workstations) and integrating gear like **Audio Technica microphones** for recording vocals or capturing sounds for their tracks.

Tip for DJs

Stay consistent with your practice and embrace new tools like Pioneer DJ's latest controllers and mixers. These advancements often come with features that can enhance your performance, and mastering them will keep you relevant and sharp.

The Challenges of South African DJs and Sound Engineers

One of the most significant challenges facing DJs, studio artists, and sound engineers in South Africa is access to high-quality gear. Equipment from brands like **Audio Technica**, **PowerWorks**, and **HK Audio** is widely used by professionals, but it can be costly, making it hard for newcomers to invest in the tools they need to succeed. However, with careful planning and saving, or even renting equipment for key gigs or studio sessions, it's possible to make progress.

Another hurdle is exposure. While South Africa's urban hubs like Johannesburg and Cape Town offer a vibrant music scene, it's still difficult to break through to national and international markets. Social media platforms, online streaming, and music production software have opened the doors for many artists, but standing out in the crowd requires more than just talent—it takes branding, networking, and persistence.

Tip for Exposure: Build an online presence by regularly posting mixes, sessions, or behind-the-scenes content of your studio work. Share your journey and don't be afraid to collaborate with others. Cross-promotion with other DJs, artists, and even venues can help expand your audience.



Studio Artists and Sound Engineers: The Behind-the-Scenes Masters

While DJs might get the spotlight, it's the **studio artists** and **sound engineers** who are the unsung heroes behind the sound. Working in the studio often means spending hours perfecting tracks, understanding the nuances of mixing, and creating a final product that stands out. For these professionals, high-quality equipment from brands like **Midas consoles**, **HK Audio** speakers, and **PowerWorks** amplifiers is key to ensuring clean, rich, and balanced sound.

Sound engineers face similar challenges, particularly when managing live events. Working with artists on stage or capturing studio performances means knowing your gear inside and out. Midas consoles, for instance, are renowned for their reliability and precision, making them a staple for many professional engineers. However, keeping up with the technology can be tough, especially as new gear and software hit the market regularly.

Tip for Sound Engineers: Never underestimate the importance of room acoustics in the studio or at live venues. Learning to properly tune a room with the right placement of HK Audio speakers or using soundproofing techniques can make all the difference in the final mix or live sound. Additionally, take the time to experiment with new tech—whether it's a new plugin or hardware—to keep your skills sharp.

TIPS TO HELP YOU **REACH THE TOP**

As we approach the end of the year, now is the perfect time for DJs, producers, and sound engineers to assess where they are and what they need to do to elevate their game.



Here are some practical tips

- 1. Invest in Yourself and Your Gear:** Whether you're using Audio Technica mics for studio recording or working with Pioneer DJ controllers, having reliable, high-quality equipment is essential for getting the best sound possible. However, don't let lack of top-tier equipment stop you—renting or borrowing gear is a viable option until you're ready to invest in your own.
- 2. Network and Collaborate:** South Africa's music scene thrives on connections. Attend events, meet other musicians, and work on collaborations. Whether you're a DJ, sound engineer, or studio artist, collaboration can introduce you to new opportunities.
- 3. Stay Up to Date with Technology:** The rapid advancement of music technology means you must constantly learn new tools and techniques. From Pioneer's latest DJ tech to software updates for your DAW, make sure you're aware of the new features that could improve your performance or production.
- 4. Consistency is Key:** Whether you're releasing new tracks or playing regular gigs, consistency in both your output and practice is crucial. The more you work at your craft, the faster you'll grow and develop.

If you want to be
SUCCESSFUL

You have to be
CONSISTANT







Beats, Hustle, and Authenticity

Kabza De Small's Journey to DJ Stardom and Industry Wisdom

In this exclusive interview, **Kabza De Small**, one of South Africa's most influential and groundbreaking DJs, shares his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to becoming a household name in the music industry.

Known for his unique sound and deep love for music, Kabza opens up about the challenges he faced along the way, the importance of networking, and the mentors who helped shape his career. He also offers valuable advice for aspiring DJs, emphasizing the power of authenticity and perseverance.

Whether you're an up-and-coming DJ or just a fan of his work, Kabza's insights will inspire and motivate anyone looking to make their mark in the ever-evolving world of music.



Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:

What initially inspired you to become a DJ, and how did you take your first steps in the South African DJ scene?

Kabza De Small: My love for music runs deep, and it started when I saw the guys in my hood dancing and jamming records. I remember telling my mom that this is something I wanted to pursue, and she supported me 100%. I used to carry speakers to events in a wheelbarrow! That's how it all began, and the rest is history, hahaha.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in the early stages of your career, and how did you overcome them?

Kabza De Small: There were a lot of challenges—like not having the money to get to shows, asking friends for help, or even performing without getting paid. The come-up wasn't easy at all, but I knew this was my purpose. I pushed through with the support of my family, friends, and just that inner drive to succeed.



Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:

How important is networking and building connections within the music industry for an aspiring DJ?

Kabza De Small: Networking is just as important as knowing how to properly DJ. You have to understand the ecosystem you work in to grow. Especially when starting out, every opportunity can open the next door. Meeting the right people, being in the right spaces, and building those connections are crucial.



Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: *What role did mentorship or learning from other DJs play in your success, and how can young DJs find mentors or guidance?*

Kabza De Small: Mentorship is key, and nowadays it doesn't have to be formal. Your mentors can be anyone willing to give you advice. Go to the nearest tavern, club, or shishanyama and offer your services. Learn from the managers, resident DJs, or even the sound guy. Humble yourself, learn from those around you, and that's how you'll get recommended for more gigs.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: *How did you manage to create your own unique sound, and what advice do you have for DJs trying to develop their own identity?*

Kabza De Small: Finding your sound comes from playing different genres until you discover what resonates with you. Your sound should feel authentic and genuine—when people hear it, they'll know it's real because they can feel the authenticity behind it.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: *What are some key skills or qualities that an up-and-coming DJ should focus on developing to stand out in the industry?*

Kabza De Small: Learning to read the crowd is crucial. You need to know what they want and deliver it. Also, practice your mixing skills. Getting the basics right, like smooth transitions, is so important. Don't rush it; master the fundamentals first.



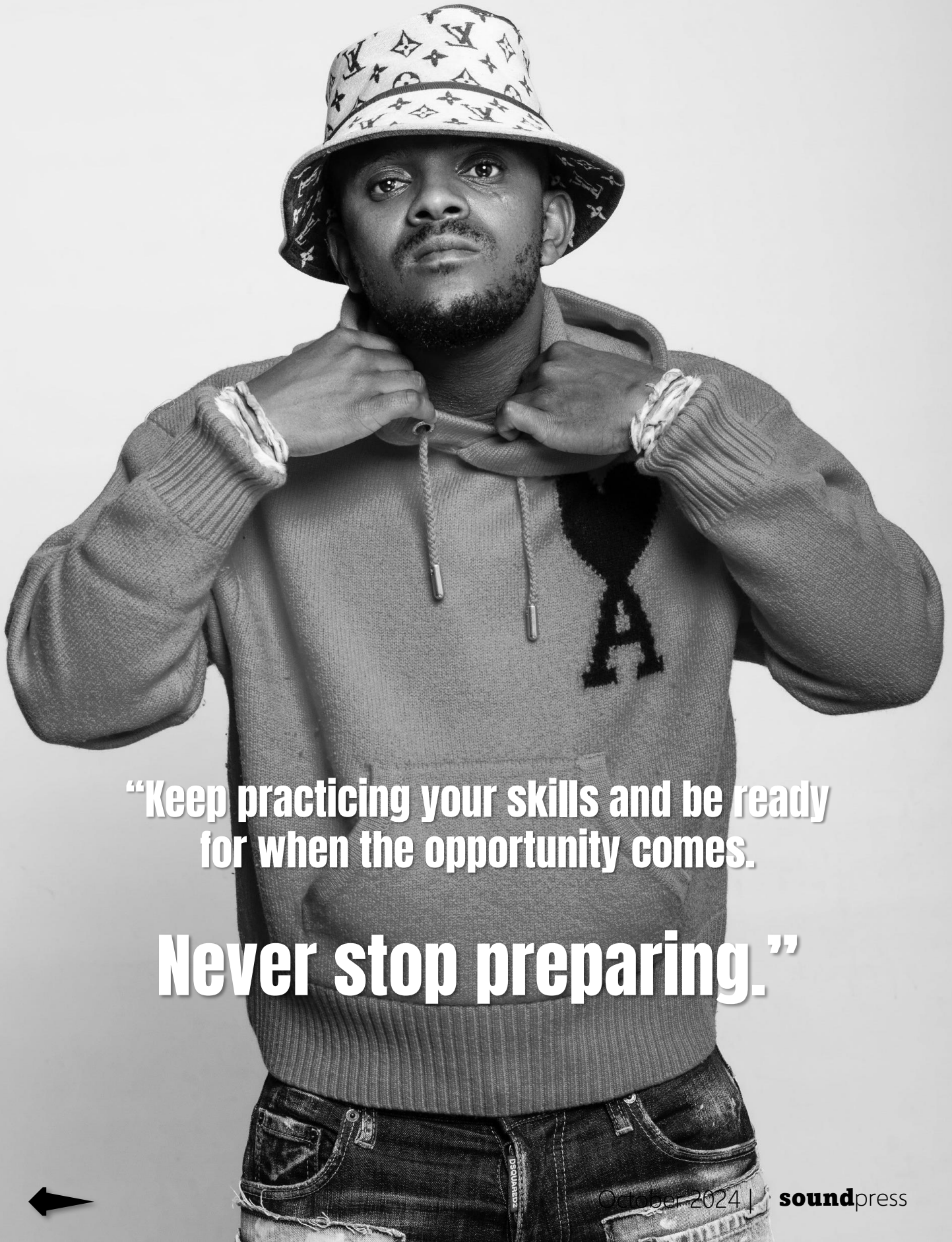
Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: *How do you stay relevant and continue to innovate in such a fast-paced, ever-changing music scene?*

Kabza De Small: I stay relevant by listening to all types of music and keeping up with what's trending. It's not about changing your sound to fit what people want—that's not authentic. It's about staying updated with the latest tunes and finding ways to blend them with your unique sound.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: *What advice would you give to young DJs trying to break into the South African music scene today?*

Kabza De Small:
Promote yourself! The internet gives DJs so many opportunities to profile themselves. Network at local events, talk to the right people, and keep pushing. Keep practicing your skills and be ready for when the opportunity comes. Never stop preparing.





**“Keep practicing your skills and be ready
for when the opportunity comes.**

Never stop preparing.”



IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR DJ CAREER,

it's time to invest in the gear that helps you perform like a pro. The **Pioneer DJ XDJ-XZ** gives you the tools you need to improve your sets, whether you're in a packed club or honing your craft in the studio. With the XDJ-XZ, you're not just mixing tracks—you're creating experiences.



For DJs looking to take their skills to the next level, the **Pioneer DJ XDJ-XZ** is the ultimate all-in-one professional system that delivers everything you need to command the room with confidence.

Whether you're performing at events, in clubs, or perfecting your mixes in the studio, the **XDJ-XZ** ensures you're equipped with the features to make every set unforgettable.

Designed with the same professional layout as the industry-standard NXS2, the XDJ-XZ offers a familiar, intuitive workflow that mirrors what you'd expect in top-tier clubs. The full-sized jog wheels give you the precision you need for scratching and cueing, while the **color On Jog Display** keeps crucial track information—waveforms, BPM, and Hot Cues—front and center, allowing you to stay fully immersed in your performance.

With its **14 Beat FX** and **6 Sound Color FX**, the XDJ-XZ offers a creative platform that lets you add depth and flair to your mixes with ease. You'll feel like you're using a full professional setup as the system's layout and controls are designed to optimize your performance and keep you in control, whether you're mixing in a club or handling a complex live set.

The **XDJ-XZ** doesn't just stop at performance; it offers unmatched flexibility when it comes to media. Whether you prefer using a USB drive loaded with rekordbox-analyzed tracks or connecting your laptop via rekordbox or Serato DJ Pro, this system adapts to your workflow. Its flexibility makes it perfect for any DJ who values versatility and wants to play the way they're most comfortable—without limitations.

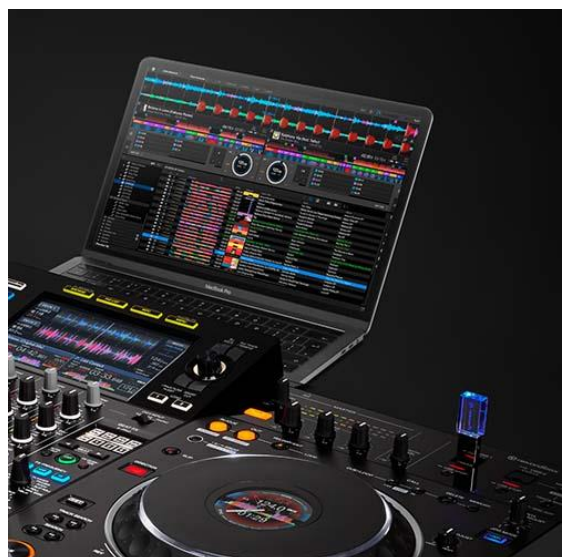


One of the standout features of the XDJ-XZ is its superior sound quality. With a **digital signal processor** ensuring **crystal-clear audio**, every beat hits the way it should, keeping the crowd engaged. You'll also appreciate the **3-band master output EQ**, which allows you to fine-tune your sound to perfection, whether in a small venue or a larger space. And if you've ever experienced mic feedback disrupting your set, the XDJ-XZ's **Feedback Reducer** ensures smooth, distortion-free audio, even when you're working the mic.

For DJs who like to expand their setups, the XDJ-XZ is the first all-in-one system that supports **Pro DJ Link**. This allows you to connect additional equipment like CDJs and sync their audio seamlessly with your mix. You can easily browse libraries from external sound sources through the XDJ-XZ's touch screen, integrating multiple elements into your performance without missing a beat.

The system's **7-inch LCD touch screen** keeps you in control by displaying everything you need at a glance—waveforms, Hot Cues, and BPM. Combined with the **color On Jog Display** on each jog wheel, the XDJ-XZ ensures you have all the track data you need right where you need it, so you can stay focused on delivering an exceptional performance.

With its club-standard layout, professional-grade features, and flexibility in both media and sound quality, the **Pioneer DJ XDJ-XZ** is the perfect investment for DJs who want to take their craft seriously. Whether you're playing in a club, at an event, or honing your skills in a private studio, the XDJ-XZ provides the tools you need to elevate your performances and deliver unforgettable experiences.



The Pioneer DJM-909

A Legendary Battle Mixer That Still Shines Today



Even though it's been around for two decades, the **Pioneer DJM-909** remains a revered piece of DJ gear, especially among turntablists and battle DJs.

Released as one of the most advanced 2-channel mixers of its time, the DJM-909 still holds its ground as an extraordinary tool for creative DJs, boasting an unmatched array of effects and sound-shaping capabilities.

What set the DJM-909 apart from the competition back then—and what still makes it a formidable choice today—is its **highly customizable crossfader**. Pioneer introduced **optical crossfader technology**, allowing DJs to fine-tune both the fader's glide and curve with precision never seen before.

The fader curve adjustments are independent, allowing for non-symmetrical curves that break beyond the standard limitations of conventional mixers. This feature, along with the optical design, gives the crossfader extreme durability, ensuring it doesn't wear out even after years of use.

A key feature of the DJM-909 is its **touch-sensitive screen**, which serves as the control hub for up to **50 different effects**, all BPM-synced, allowing you to push your performance into uncharted territory. The screen gives easy access to a set of 9 pre-selected effects, and you can assign the crossfader or either volume fader to control these effects for quick manipulation.

This setup gives DJs incredible versatility to mix and apply effects in real-time, making it a powerful tool in battle and performance environments.





Another standout feature is the **foot pedal input**, a rarity among mixers, allowing hands-free control of effects. DJs could apply effects using a foot pedal while keeping their hands free for scratching and other controls—a level of flexibility that few mixers offer, even today.



Even more impressively, the DJM-909 allows for **dual effects** on a single track, meaning you can send audio from one channel to the other and layer **multiple effects on the same signal.**

This makes it a dream for DJs who like to get experimental with their sound design, especially in live performances. The Auto BPM Counter is another iconic feature of the DJM-909, offering instant BPM readouts regardless of the complexity of the track, helping DJs maintain smooth transitions between mixes without missing a beat.



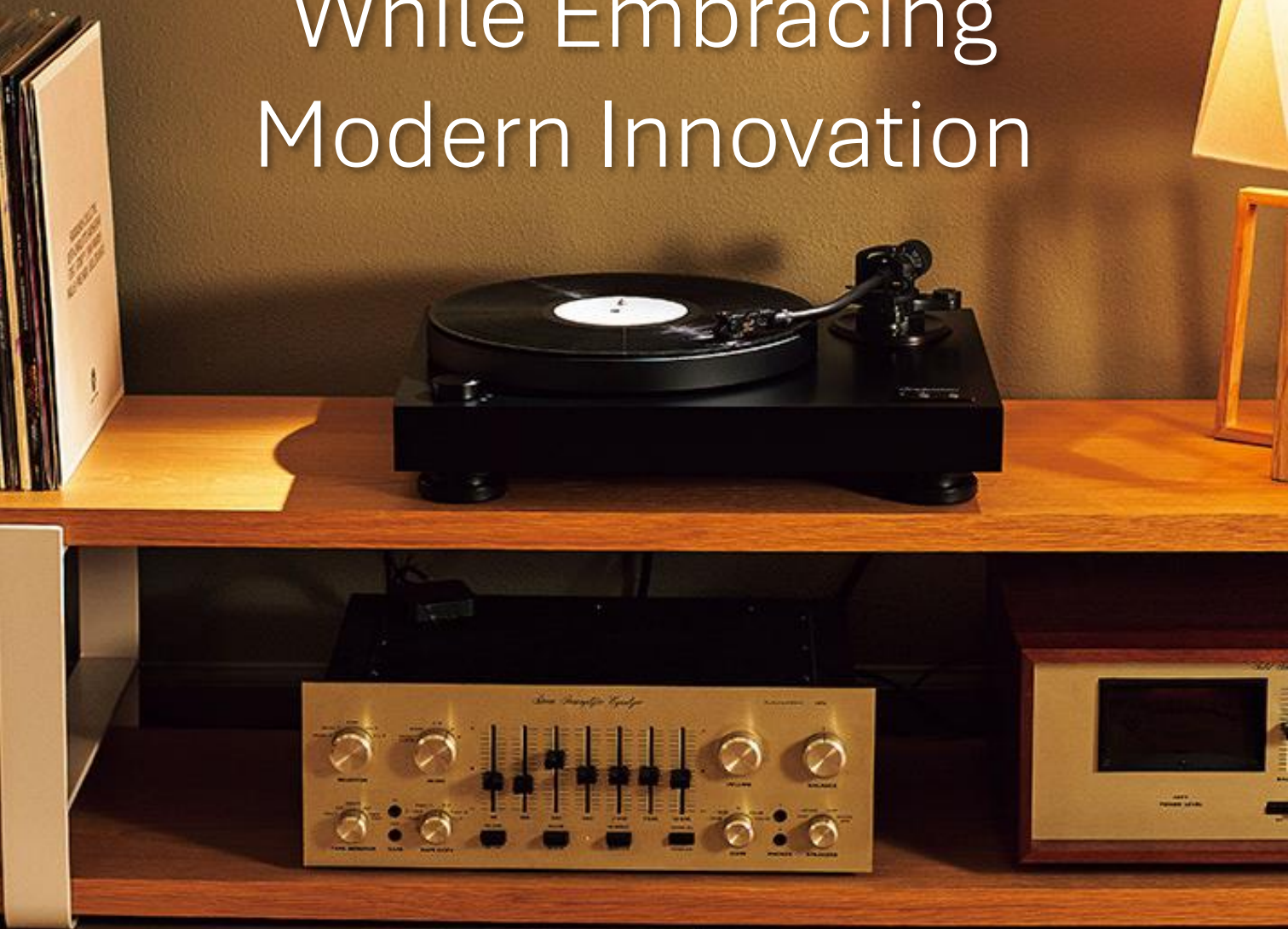
Despite its older design, DJs like **Sticky Dojah** have shown how the DJM-909 can still be a creative powerhouse, using it to craft innovative mixes that gained viral attention during lockdown. DJs who appreciate classic gear or are looking for a robust, battle-tested mixer with timeless features will find the DJM-909 a worthy part of DJ history that still excels today.

The **Pioneer DJM-909** is not just a piece of nostalgia—it's a powerful tool that continues to inspire and shape the performances of skilled DJs, offering them a platform to push the limits of their craft.



The Audio-Technica AT-LP8X

A Turntable That Honors Tradition While Embracing Modern Innovation



Audio-Technica

has long been celebrated for its high-quality audio products, and the **AT-LP8X** is a testament to the brand's commitment to combining vintage aesthetics with cutting-edge technology.

This semi-automatic, direct-drive turntable offers vinyl enthusiasts a modern solution with a nod to the past, incorporating features that make it both user-friendly and adaptable for various audio setups.



At the heart of the AT-LP8X is its **newly designed tonearm lift**. This semi-automatic feature elevates the tonearm at the end of a record's side, preventing unnecessary wear and stopping the motor automatically. This is a subtle but important convenience that enhances the overall listening experience, especially for those who want to protect their records and stylus over time.

The **J-shaped aluminum tonearm**, inspired by Audio-Technica's classic models from the 1960s and 1970s, not only provides aesthetic charm but also contributes to superior audio performance. Outfitted with the **AT-LT10 headshell** and **AT-VM95E BK cartridge**, the turntable offers excellent channel separation and low distortion, ensuring that your records sound as good as ever. For audiophiles who like to tweak their gear, the **stylus** is easily replaceable or interchangeable with other styli in the VM95 line, offering versatility for different listening preferences.



For vinyl lovers who appreciate the blend of modern convenience and vintage design, the **Audio-Technica AT-LP8X** stands out as a versatile and reliable choice, delivering top-notch sound quality while honoring the traditions of vinyl playback. Whether you're an audiophile or a casual listener, this turntable offers the flexibility and performance needed to bring out the best in your record collection.

With its capability to play **33-1/3, 45, and 78 RPM records**, the AT-LP8X opens up possibilities for vinyl collectors with diverse record collections. Its **rubber-damped, anti-resonance, die-cast aluminum platter** ensures smooth playback, while the **sensor-monitored motor** guarantees accurate rotation speeds, meaning your vinyl will always sound pitch-perfect.

Audio-Technica also made sure the turntable is well-shielded from external interference. The **MDF box plinth** not only provides a solid, attractive foundation for the AT-LP8X but also absorbs unwanted vibrations. Coupled with **height-adjustable feet**, this design helps ensure that any noise stays out of your music.

Finally, the **AT-LP8X** comes with all the accessories you need for a seamless setup, including a **detachable RCA output cable**, **45 RPM adapter**, and a **removable hinged dust cover** to keep your turntable clean when not in use.



SCOTT STORCH and KRK Systems



In a groundbreaking collaboration, KRK Systems has partnered with legendary producer Scott Storch to release their first-ever limited-edition artist signature studio monitor, the KRK Scott Storch Classic 8ss.



Scott Storch, known for his iconic productions across genres, has brought his signature style to KRK's popular Classic 8 monitors, a tool he has relied on for years in his own studio. This limited-edition release not only celebrates his unique fashion sense but also upholds KRK's legacy of precision and sound quality, tailored to meet the demands of top-tier producers.

At the heart of the new Scott Storch Classic 8ss is a striking Gold Chrome electroplated front baffle, which exudes luxury and refinement. The front also features Scott Storch's signature, while the rear panel bears his logo and autograph, making this a collector's item for any serious music creator.

While the exterior has received a bold and stylish upgrade, all the beloved features of the original Classic 8 remain, delivering the same high-quality performance that has made these monitors a staple in studios worldwide.



Built for Precision and Performance

The KRK Scott Storch Classic 8ss remains true to its sonic roots, offering a precise, flat frequency response designed for critical listening.

This feature ensures that producers and engineers can achieve more accurate mixes, while the option to engage the +2 dB KRK Bass Boost provides the enhanced low-end that KRK monitors are known for, giving flexibility for a wide range of listening environments and genres.

This self-powered, active 2-way studio monitor is built to provide superior sound clarity and accuracy. It incorporates a 1" textile soft dome tweeter and an 8" glass aramid woofer, delivering crisp highs and punchy lows.

With a bi-amped system, the Scott Storch Classic 8ss provides a total of 100 watts of power—75 watts for the woofer and 25 watts for the tweeter—ensuring that every detail of the mix is accurately represented.

Iconic Features, Modern Design

The Scott Storch Classic 8ss retains all the features that have made KRK a leader in studio monitors for over three decades.



These Monitors Come Equipped With:

- **8" glass aramid composite woofer:** Rigid yet lightweight, this driver delivers clear, defined bass with minimal distortion.
- **1" textile soft dome tweeter:** Offering smooth high-frequency extension up to 34.5 kHz, it ensures exceptional clarity and detail in the high-end range.
- **Front-firing port:** This design allows for flexible studio placement without compromising sound quality.
- **Custom bi-amped class A/B amplifiers:** These amplifiers provide high headroom, ensuring low distortion and enhanced sonic accuracy.



Additionally, users can **customize the sound** to suit their studio environment with **dedicated low and high-frequency** adjustment controls, allowing them to **optimize the monitors** for their specific acoustics.

Enhanced Connectivity and Safety Features

The Scott Storch Classic 8ss is engineered for universal compatibility, featuring XLR, 1/4" TRS, and RCA inputs that allow it to interface seamlessly with nearly any mixer or audio interface.

Its system-optimized auto-limiter ensures that the monitor delivers consistent sound at high volumes, while foam isolation pads provide additional clarity by reducing vibrations and protecting surfaces.

With a sleek design, iconic Scott Storch branding, and unbeatable audio performance, the KRK Scott Storch Classic 8ss offers producers a blend of luxury and technical excellence. Whether you're tracking, mixing, or mastering, these monitors provide the sound precision needed for professional work while offering an undeniable visual appeal.

For producers, engineers, and collectors alike, this limited-edition release is a statement of both style and substance, combining Scott Storch's unparalleled legacy with KRK's cutting-edge technology. The Scott Storch Classic 8ss stands as a testament to what can be achieved when innovation and artistry meet.



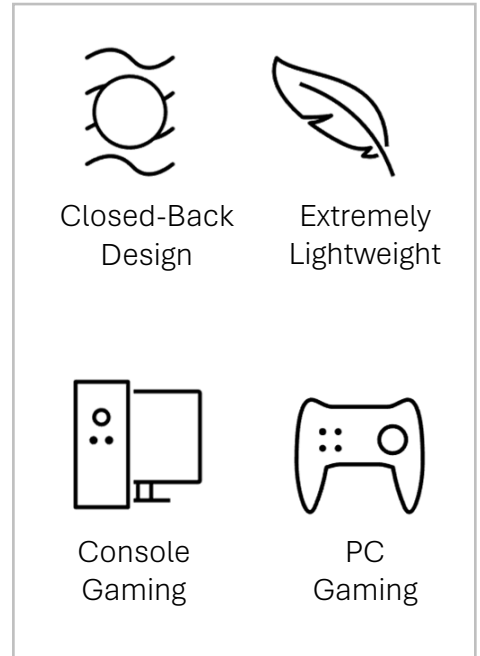
High-Fidelity Headsets for Gamers and Creatives, **NOW IN STUNNING WHITE**



Audio-Technica *ATH-GDL3* and *ATH-GL3*

WHY WHITE IS BEST

The white models of both headsets offer more than just a sleek look—they stay cooler, are easier to locate in dark environments, and bring a fresh, minimalist aesthetic to any setup. Whether you choose the immersive **ATH-GDL3** or the isolating **ATH-GL3**, the white finish enhances both style and performance. Ideal for gaming, streaming, and professional work, these headsets are the perfect companions for anyone who values high-quality sound and sleek design.



The **Audio-Technica ATH-GDL3** and **ATH-GL3** high-fidelity headsets offer gamers, streamers, and professionals unmatched sound quality, comfort, and style. Both models come in a striking white finish, not only enhancing your setup aesthetically but also offering practical benefits. White reflects light and heat, keeping the headset cooler during long sessions, and its bright appearance makes it easier to spot in dimly lit spaces.

ATH-GDL3: Light and Expansive

Inspired by the element of air, the **ATH-GDL3** open-back headset weighs only 220 grams, offering all-day comfort and immersive sound. Its 45 mm drivers deliver an expansive soundstage perfect for gaming, while the flexible, detachable boom microphone ensures clear communication.

The controls for volume and mute are conveniently located on the left earcup, providing easy adjustments on the go. In white, the **ATH-GDL3** not only stands out visually but also stays cool during extended use.

ATH-GL3: Isolated and Grounded

The **ATH-GL3**, inspired by earth, features a closed-back design that provides superior sound isolation. Its 45 mm drivers offer high-resolution audio, and the lightweight design (under 230 grams) ensures comfort for long sessions. The white finish adds a sleek, modern touch, while also reducing heat absorption, making it a practical and stylish choice for extended gaming or creative work.



Audio-Technica

ATH-M50x Limited Edition LAB

Studio-Grade Sound
for Professionals and Enthusiasts



As the most critically acclaimed model in Audio-Technica's M-Series, the **ATH-M50x Limited Edition LAB** headphones set the standard for studio-quality audio at an affordable price.

Designed with professional audio engineers, DJs, and discerning music lovers in mind, these headphones deliver unmatched sound clarity, comfort, and versatility, making them a top choice for both studio and personal use.

UNPARALLELED SOUND QUALITY

The **ATH-M50x Limited Edition LAB** features **45 mm large-aperture drivers** with copper-clad aluminum wire voice coils, delivering deep, accurate bass and precise audio reproduction across an extended frequency range. Whether you're tracking vocals, mixing tracks, or simply enjoying your favorite playlist, these headphones ensure that every note and sound is rendered with remarkable clarity.

Known for their **accurate audio reproduction**, these closed-back headphones isolate the listener from external noise, making them ideal for long sessions in the studio or while traveling. With deep bass response and detailed vocals and instruments, the ATH-M50x provides a rich and immersive listening experience.





COMFORT AND DURABILITY

Constructed with **professional-grade materials**, the ATH-M50x offers both durability and comfort. The plush earpads and padded headband provide long-lasting comfort, even during extended listening or work sessions. The over-ear design contours around the ears, enhancing sound isolation from ambient noise, ensuring that you're completely immersed in your audio.

The **90° swiveling earcups** allow for convenient one-ear monitoring, a feature highly valued by DJs and studio professionals. Additionally, the headphones are collapsible and fold flat, making them easy to transport in the included protective carrying pouch—perfect for professionals on the go.





VERSATILE AND PORTABLE

In addition to studio use, the **ATH-M50x Limited Edition LAB** is highly portable, making it a great companion for everyday listening and travel. The headphones come with three detachable cables: a 1.2 m - 3.0 m coiled cable, a 3.0 m straight cable, and a 1.2 m straight cable. This flexibility allows for easy use with various devices, whether you're in the studio, at home, or on the move.

With included accessories like a **6.3 mm adapter** and multiple cables, the ATH-M50x offers everything you need for a seamless, professional-grade listening experience. Trusted worldwide by professionals and enthusiasts, the **ATH-M50x** is the perfect blend of performance, durability, and portability.

THE TOP CHOICE FOR PROFESSIONALS

The combination of **style, comfort, and studio-grade sound** is what makes the ATH-M50x a favorite among audio professionals and music lovers alike. Whether you're tracking, mixing, DJing, or just relaxing with your favorite tunes, the **ATH-M50x Limited Edition LAB** delivers the high-quality audio experience you deserve.







AlphaTheta HDJ-F10

Revolutionizing DJ Performances with Wireless Freedom

The newly released **AlphaTheta HDJ-F10** wireless DJ headphones bring a new level of freedom and performance to the stage. Designed for professional DJs, the HDJ-F10 is equipped with **SonicLink ultra-low-latency technology**, ensuring that audio is delivered seamlessly and in perfect sync with your movements, all without the constraints of cables.

These high-quality, high-volume wireless headphones are engineered specifically to meet the demands of DJing, offering crystal-clear audio even in loud environments. Whether you're performing on stage or energizing a crowd in a packed club, the HDJ-F10 allows you to move freely, creating an immersive DJing experience.

With superior sound quality, robust wireless performance, and an ergonomic design, the **AlphaTheta HDJ-F10** is the perfect tool for DJs looking to take their performances to the next level, unleashing their creativity without being tethered by cables.



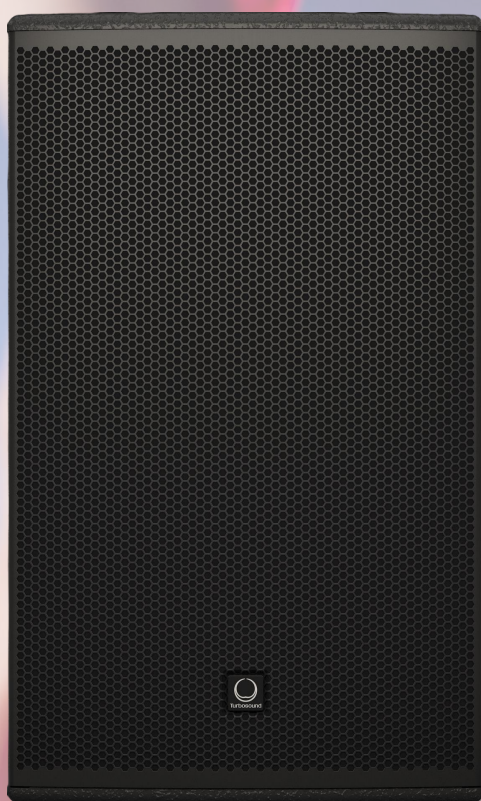
15" FACE-OFF

Turbosound NUQ-152AN

VS.

HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi

Which Active Speaker Reigns Supreme?



When it comes to active speakers in the South African market, the Turbosound NUQ-152AN and HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi are heavy hitters, but which one is the best fit for your events? Let's break it down in a head-to-head comparison.



Round 1: Power and Performance

- **Turbosound NUQ-152AN:** Equipped with 2,500 watts of power and Klark Teknik Class-D technology, this speaker delivers an earth-shaking performance for large venues. The 15" carbon fiber woofer and 1" compression driver push deep, powerful bass and crisp highs, making it ideal for concerts or large events.
- **HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi:** The SONAR 115 Xi brings 1,200 watts of peak power, with a 15" woofer and 1" HF driver delivering a max SPL of 130 dB. It's designed for smaller to medium-sized events but still packs a serious punch, especially for DJ sets, fitness classes, and parties.

WINNER: Turbosound NUQ-152AN – Its sheer wattage and power edge out the SONAR 115 Xi for larger venues.

Round 2: Features and Connectivity

- **NUQ-152AN:** Featuring Klark Teknik DSP for system control and ULTRANET networking, this speaker excels in pro-level audio setups. It also has an LCD interface for precise control.
- **SONAR 115 Xi:** With Bluetooth 5.0 and True Wireless Stereo (TWS), the SONAR 115 Xi is perfect for modern wireless setups. It includes 3 input channels, a 3-band EQ, and can be remotely controlled via the SONAR app, offering great versatility for DJs and performers.

WINNER: HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi – The wireless connectivity and app control make it a more flexible and modern choice.

Round 3: Portability and Build

- **NUQ-152AN:** Built tough with a 15 mm birch plywood enclosure, it's durable but heavy, making it less portable.
- **SONAR 115 Xi:** Weighing only 19.5 kg and featuring SingleGrip handles, the SONAR 115 Xi is much easier to transport for mobile gigs.

WINNER: HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi – Its lighter weight and portability make it ideal for mobile events.


Round 4: Best Use Cases

- **NUQ-152AN:** Best for large-scale events, live performances, and permanent installations where power and precision are key.
- **SONAR 115 Xi:** Ideal for DJs, fitness instructors, parties, and smaller bands needing versatility and wireless connectivity.

WINNER: It's a Tie – The NUQ-152AN dominates big events, while the SONAR 115 Xi is the champion for mobile and versatile setups.

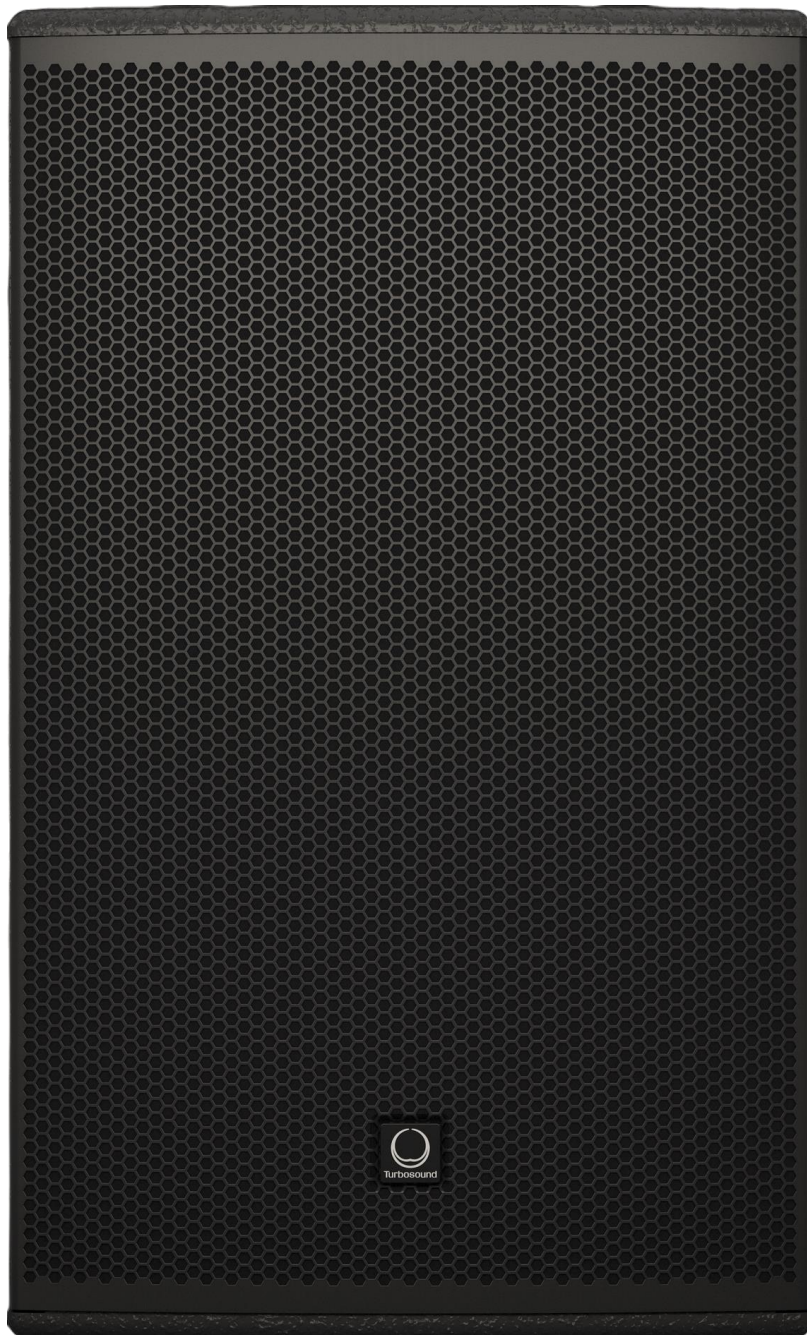
FINAL VERDICT:

For maximum power and pro-level control, the Turbosound NUQ-152AN takes the crown. But for portability, modern wireless features, and value in a variety of scenarios, the HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi is unbeatable for DJs and entertainers on the move.

Check over the next few pages for an in-depth look into these awesome speakers. 

Turbosound NUQ-152AN

The Best Value for Money
in South Africa for All Event Needs



When it comes to delivering exceptional sound quality for a wide range of events,

the Turbosound NUQ-152AN stands out as the best value for money in the South African market. With its powerful 2,500 Watt output, advanced **Klark Teknik DSP Technology**, and versatile features, this full-range powered loudspeaker is ideal for everything from large-scale events to smaller, intimate gatherings.

Powerful Sound for Any Scenario

The NUQ-152AN is equipped with a 15" carbon fiber-loaded low-frequency driver and a 1" neodymium compression driver, offering crisp, clear audio across the frequency spectrum. Whether you're providing sound for live performances, DJ sets, or corporate events, this speaker ensures high-quality sound that reaches every corner of the venue.

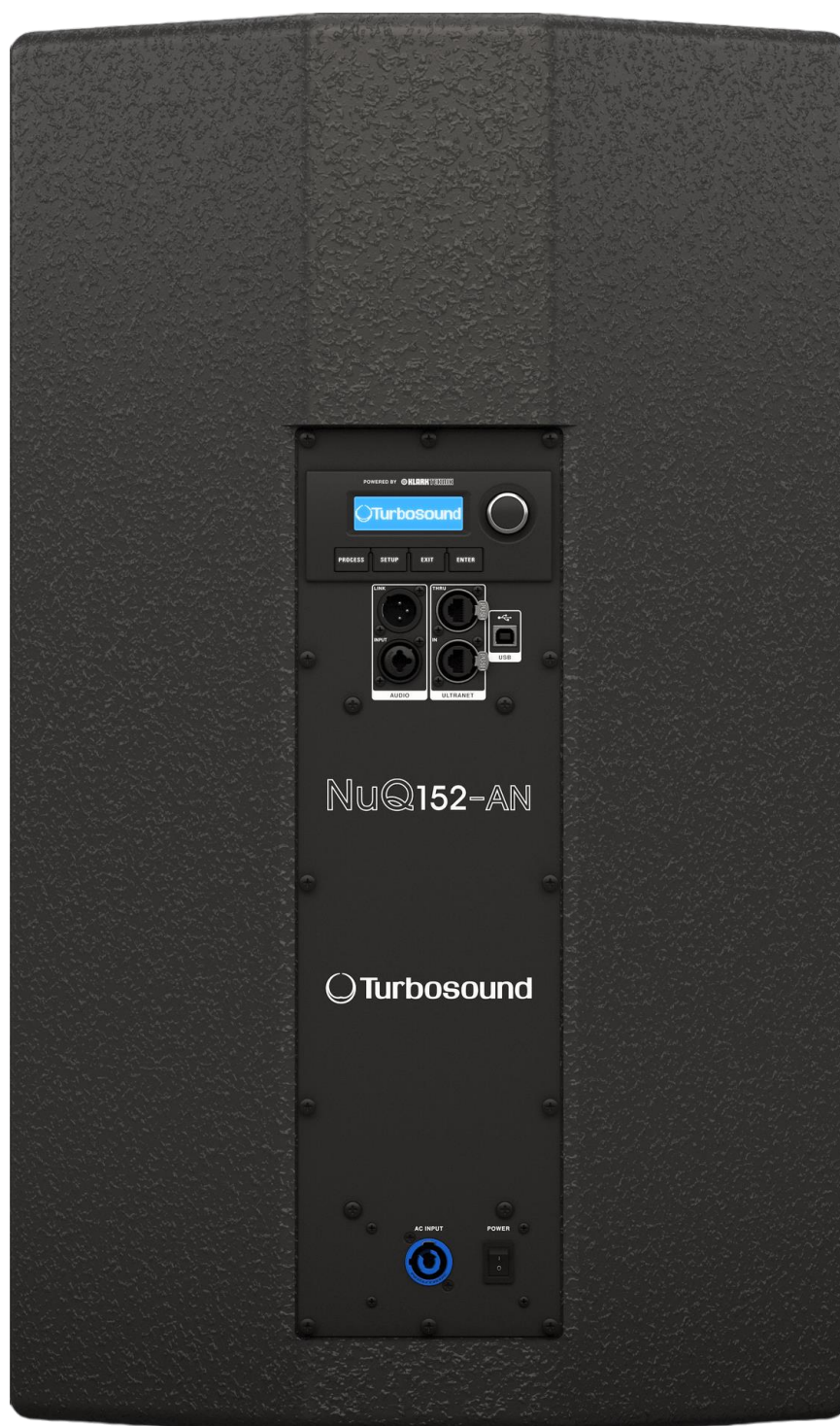
Its **Klark Teknik Class-D amplification** delivers up to 2,500 Watts of power, providing impressive volume and clarity without distortion, making it perfect for both portable PA setups and permanent installations. The built-in **Klark Teknik DSP** allows for total system control, optimizing the sound for any event or acoustic environment.

Easy to Use and Highly Versatile

The Turbosound NUQ-152AN is designed with the user in mind. It features a user-friendly **LCD display** and an intuitive interface for easy navigation and control. The **ULTRANET digital audio networking** ensures seamless connection to mixers and other audio sources, simplifying setup and minimizing the need for extra cables.



Constructed from durable **15 mm birch plywood** with a semi-matt black finish, the NUQ-152AN is rugged enough for frequent use and transport. Its versatile design includes **multiple rigging points** for easy suspension and mounting, as well as a **35 mm pole mount** for flexibility in any venue or event setting.





Why the NUQ-152AN is the Best Value?

In terms of price-to-performance ratio, the Turbosound NUQ-152AN simply can't be beaten in South Africa. Offering premium features like Klark Teknik DSP technology, ULTRANET networking, and a carbon fiber-loaded driver, this loudspeaker provides top-tier performance at a competitive price point.

For anyone looking to invest in a reliable, high-performance sound solution, the NUQ-152AN is ideal for a wide range of events—from concerts and parties to corporate events and installations. Its combination of power, clarity, durability, and ease of use makes it the best choice for professional sound applications in South Africa.



HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi

The Best Active Speaker for Entertainers, DJs, Bands, Clubs, Fitness, and Parties in South Africa



For anyone in the **ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS** —whether you're a DJ, band, fitness instructor, or club

owner—the HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi stands out as the best value for an active speaker in the South African market. With its powerful sound, versatility, and advanced features, this state-of-the-art loudspeaker delivers top-notch audio quality for all kinds of events and settings.

Powerful Sound with Punchy Bass

The SONAR 115 Xi is engineered to provide outstanding sound performance, whether you're using it as a full-range speaker, a stage monitor, or as part of a larger setup with a subwoofer. The **15" woofer**, combined with HK Audio's meticulous acoustic engineering, delivers deep, punchy bass that fills any room—no need for a separate subwoofer unless you're going for even more low-end power. With **1200 watts** of peak power and a maximum **SPL of 130 dB**, the SONAR 115 Xi ensures that your audience gets clear, powerful sound at any event.

Easy to Use, Flexible Inputs

This speaker features **three input channels**, including two for microphone or line signals and one AUX channel that supports both analog signals and Bluetooth 5.0. You can stream music in stereo to two SONAR Xi speakers using **True Wireless Stereo (TWS)**, creating an immersive audio experience. The intuitive **colour display** and **rotary control** make adjusting volume and EQ settings easy, and if you prefer, you can control everything remotely using the free **SONAR app** on your iOS or Android device.



PERFECT FOR ANY EVENT

Whether you're a DJ playing at a club, a band performing at a gig, or hosting a fitness class or party, the SONAR 115 Xi adapts to your needs. It features **multiple sound modes** including Live, DJ, and Monitor, making it suitable for a variety of scenarios. Its **Bluetooth 5.0** capability allows for seamless streaming and remote control, while the **rigging points** and **pole mount** options provide flexibility in setup. With **3-band EQ** on each channel and powerful, clear sound from **50 Hz to 20 kHz**, this speaker delivers impressive performance every time.






Built for Durability and Portability

Despite its powerful output, the SONAR 115 Xi weighs only **19.5 kg** and is easy to transport, thanks to its **SingleGrip carrying handles**. The durable **moulded plastic housing** and **metal grille with black acoustic foam** ensure that the speaker can withstand the rigors of frequent use, whether indoors or outdoors.

The Best Value in South Africa

With its combination of power, versatility, and ease of use, the **HK Audio SONAR 115 Xi** offers unbeatable value for entertainers, DJs, bands, clubs, fitness instructors, and party planners in South Africa. Whether you're performing live, hosting a fitness class, or setting up sound for a party, the SONAR 115 Xi is the perfect active speaker to deliver top-quality sound and performance at a great price.





For South Africa's guitarists, keyboardists, and vocalists, the world of music is a challenging but rewarding journey, and the right gear plays a crucial role in their ability to make a difference.

Whether they're playing in a township, a jazz club, or a stadium, these musicians are finding ways to blend tradition with innovation and leaving a lasting imprint on the world of music.

The Gibson logo is written in its signature script font, slanted to the right.The Epiphone logo is written in its signature script font, slanted to the right.The Kramer Guitars logo features the word "KRAMER" in a bold, blocky font with a horizontal line through it, and "Guitars" in a script font below.The Blackstar Amplification logo features the word "Blackstar" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "AMPLIFICATION" in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font below it.The Carry-on logo is written in a cursive, script font.The Nord logo is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

The World of Musicians in South Africa

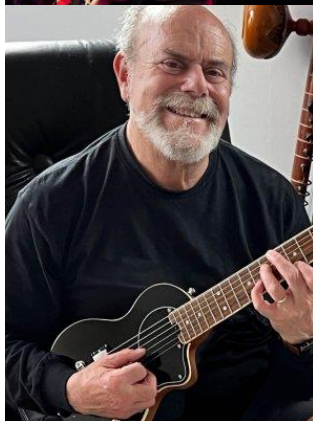
Instruments, Inspiration, and Innovation

South Africa's music scene is a vibrant and dynamic tapestry of genres, cultures, and creativity. From the bustling urban streets of Johannesburg to the scenic coastlines of Cape Town, musicians across the country find their unique sound by blending global influences with local flavor. And in this sonic landscape, the instruments they choose play a crucial role in shaping their sound and musical expression.

For many South African musicians, the choice of instrument is as much about tradition as it is about innovation. Guitars, amplifiers, pedals, and keyboards form the backbone of their setups, allowing them to perform across genres like rock, jazz, gospel, and afrobeat. Let's take a closer look at the gear that these musicians use to bring their creative visions to life.

Icons of the South African Music Scene

In the hands of a skilled guitarist, brands like **Gibson**, **Epiphone**, **Kramer**, and **Carry-on** deliver the tonal richness and playability needed for all types of music.



Gibson guitars have long been favored by South African musicians who appreciate the heritage, craftsmanship, and legendary tones associated with the brand. Whether it's a **Gibson Les Paul** or an **SG**, these guitars are essential for rock and blues players, offering that thick, warm tone that has shaped iconic albums worldwide. South African rockers in particular gravitate towards the Les Paul for its powerful sound and sustain, perfect for the heavy riffs and solos that dominate the local rock scene.

Epiphone delivers many of the same legendary tones as its Gibson counterparts but at a more accessible price point, making it a popular choice for emerging musicians. The **Epiphone Les Paul** and **J-200** series have a growing presence in the local scene, particularly for guitarists in the alternative and indie rock spaces. Whether performing live or recording in a studio, Epiphone's reliability and quality make it a go-to brand for many.

Kramer guitars, with their iconic double-cut design, cater to those seeking high-octane performance. South African metal and hard rock musicians often turn to **Kramer Baretta** models for their fast necks, high-output pickups, and sleek designs. These guitars are built for speed and precision, making them perfect for shredders who need a guitar that can handle intricate solos and heavy distortion.

Carry-on guitars are growing in popularity due to their portability and unique sound. Their compact size makes them ideal for the travelling musician, and in South Africa, where music often finds its way into the streets and intimate venues, these guitars are practical yet powerful. They are becoming favorites among session players and buskers alike, allowing musicians to carry their music wherever they go.



The Powerhouses Behind the Sound

An essential part of every guitarist's rig is the amplifier, and **Blackstar Amplifiers** are leading the charge in South Africa. Blackstar's **HT series** and **ID amps** offer the versatility and power needed to perform across genres, from the soulful sounds of jazz to the aggressive tones of metal.

Blackstar's **Pedals**, known for their valve-driven tones, allow guitarists to shape their sound with precision, while the **LT Pedals** provide a more compact option for those looking to boost, overdrive, or distort their tone without sacrificing space on their pedalboards.

The Blackstar **POLAR** USB audio interface has also become a key tool for South African musicians working in the studio. With features like the "Enhance" switch, it brings the warmth and dynamics of real valve amplifiers to digital recordings, ensuring that guitar tones remain rich and authentic even in the recording process.

Shaping the South African Sound

South African guitarists love to experiment with effects, and **pedals** are a major part of their soundscapes. Blackstar's **LT Pedals**, in particular, are widely used for their simplicity and tonal depth. Whether they're crafting a subtle blues overdrive or a face-melting distortion, guitarists rely on these pedals to sculpt their perfect tone.

Pedals are especially important in genres like indie rock, gospel, and experimental music, where musicians use delay, reverb, and modulation effects to add atmosphere and texture to their sound. This willingness to experiment has led to a wide variety of pedalboards on stages across South Africa, each one customized to fit the specific needs of the artist.



nord®

Nord's Red Beast

In the world of South African music, Nord keyboards are affectionately known as the "red beasts" and have become a must-have for professional musicians across the board. Known for their versatility, rich sounds, and build quality, Nord keyboards find their way into the hands of jazz pianists, gospel musicians, and electronic music producers alike.

For gospel musicians in particular, Nord keyboards have become almost a standard due to their exceptional organ and piano sounds, which perfectly complement the soulful and energetic style of South African gospel music.

The **Nord Stage** and **Nord Electro** series offer an unparalleled range of sounds, from classic pianos to synths, making them indispensable for musicians who need to adapt to different genres on the fly.



The Life of a South African Musician

Musicians in South Africa often navigate a world that's filled with passion, diversity, and challenge. They are constantly evolving and adapting, creating music that is deeply rooted in African traditions but infused with modern global influences. Their choice of gear reflects this versatility—whether it's an Epiphone for smooth jazz chords or a Blackstar amp cranked to 11 for a rock gig, South African musicians know how to get the best out of their instruments.

Despite economic and logistical challenges, South African musicians continue to make their mark on the global stage, using brands like **Gibson, Epiphone, Kramer, Blackstar, and Nord** to craft sounds that are both unique and universal. Their instruments are more than just tools; they are the vehicles through which they express their creativity, culture, and passion.

For South Africa's guitarists, keyboardists, and vocalists, the world of music is a challenging but rewarding journey, and the right gear plays a crucial role in their ability to make a difference. Whether they're playing in a township, a jazz club, or a stadium, these musicians are finding ways to blend tradition with innovation and leaving a lasting imprint on the world of music.





FOR MUSICIANS
LOOKING TO
TAKE THEIR
PLAYING TO THE
NEXT LEVEL,

the Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Radio Blue Metallic is a guitar that blends timeless Les Paul craftsmanship with modern innovation.

Crafted with a chambered mahogany body, the Les Paul Muse delivers rich, resonant tones with increased sustain, making it adaptable to a wide range of genres from rock to blues, jazz, and beyond. The maple cap adds brightness and clarity, balancing the natural warmth of mahogany. The sleek, metallic gloss finish in Radio Blue turns heads on stage, while its chambered design makes it lighter, ensuring longer play sessions without fatigue.



It's designed for players who not only seek the iconic Les Paul tone but want to explore new creative territories with enhanced versatility, comfort, and style.

At the core of the Les Paul Muse's sonic capability are the Epiphone Alnico Classic Pro humbuckers. These pickups are built to replicate the revered vintage PAF humbucker sound, offering the rich, warm tones that have defined generations of music. But what sets the Muse apart is its modern twist—coil-splitting and phase switching features that allow you to dial in a wide array of tones. With the push/pull function, you can switch from humbucking to single-coil sounds, providing the brightness and sharpness when needed while maintaining the depth and power of a full humbucker.

The 22-fret Indian laurel fingerboard and mahogany neck, carved in a comfortable Custom C shape, ensure easy playability and smooth navigation across the fretboard. Whether you're shredding or playing intricate lead lines, the pearloid trapezoid inlays help guide your way with style. The 24.75" scale length and medium jumbo frets make this guitar an excellent fit for players who demand precision without sacrificing comfort.



SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE:

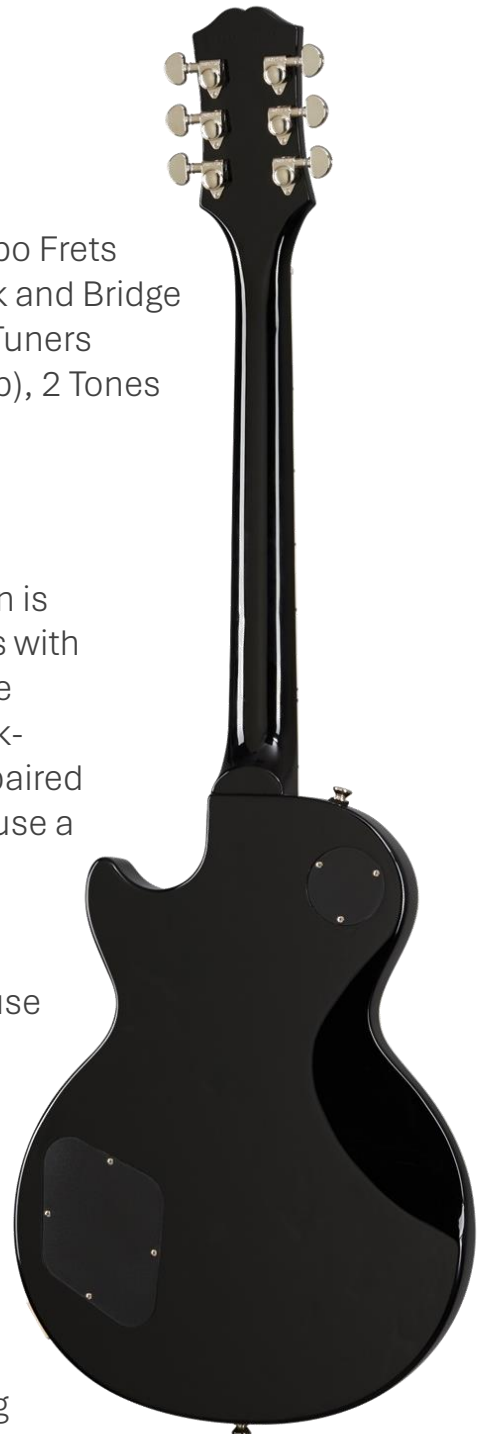
- **Body Type:** Solidbody, Chambered
- **Body Material:** Mahogany with Maple Cap
- **Neck Material:** Mahogany
- **Fingerboard:** Indian Laurel, 22 Medium Jumbo Frets
- **Pickups:** Epiphone Alnico Classic Pro™ Neck and Bridge
- **Hardware:** Nickel with Grover® Rotomatic® Tuners
- **Controls:** 2 Volumes (with Push/Pull Coil-Tap), 2 Tones (with Phase Switch)
- **Finish:** Radio Blue Metallic

Not only does this guitar deliver sonically, but its design is full of player-friendly features. Grover Rotomatic tuners with an 18:1 ratio ensure tuning stability, while the LockTone Tune-o-Matic bridge and stop bar tailpiece provide rock-solid intonation and sustain. The Clear Speed knobs, paired with vintage-style nickel hardware, give the Les Paul Muse a retro vibe while keeping control at your fingertips.

Whether you're performing on stage, recording in the studio, or jamming at home, the Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Radio Blue Metallic is a guitar built for the musician who wants more out of their instrument. It's more than just a guitar; it's a tool to help you make your mark in the musical world.

If you're ready to up your game and make a lasting impression, the Les Paul Muse is your partner on the journey. Versatile, inspiring, and bold—this guitar will help you unlock new creative possibilities while staying true to the legendary Les Paul sound.

The Epiphone Les Paul Muse is your gateway to sonic exploration, with unmatched versatility and a striking finish. Make your next musical statement in style.





Compact Tone Powerhouses for Every Player





Blackstar has become a name synonymous with innovation in guitar tone, and their award-winning, valve-driven HT Pedals have long been a staple on pedalboards around the globe.

Now, Blackstar introduces the LT Pedals range—a series of five compact pedals designed to capture the essence and tonal richness of their iconic HT Pedals, offering players professional-grade boost, overdrive, and distortion in a pedalboard-friendly package.

Whether you're a seasoned performer or a hobbyist guitarist, the Blackstar LT Pedals range brings versatility and tone-shaping power to your setup. Each pedal is powered by a 9V battery and features Blackstar's patent-applied-for clipping circuit, ensuring that the tone and response closely match their valve-driven counterparts. Let's take a look at each pedal in this exciting lineup.



LT-BOOST

The LT-BOOST is the ultimate tool for shaping your sound with precision. Whether you're looking to drive the front end of your amp harder or add a clean boost to your tone, the LT-BOOST delivers. Its patent-applied-for clipping circuit mimics the response of Blackstar's valve pedals, providing you with the warm, organic feel of a tube amp. The Bass and Treble controls allow for fine-tuning, giving you the power to dial in the perfect boost for any rig. Whether you want to add subtle warmth or push your signal into overdrive, the LT-BOOST is your go-to pedal for refined tone control.





LT-DRIVE

For players in search of classic overdrive tones with minimal fuss, the LT-DRIVE offers an effective, easy-to-use solution. Its simple Gain, Level, and Tone controls allow you to dial in everything from smooth, creamy overdrive to gritty crunch with ease. The patent-applied-for clipping circuit ensures the same valve-like response, delivering a dynamic and responsive overdrive experience in a compact form. Ideal for blues, rock, and everything in between, the LT-DRIVE makes it easy to find that sweet spot and elevate your sound.



LT-DIST

When it's time to push your sound further into distortion territory, the LT-DIST brings heavy-duty gain and tonal flexibility to your rig. Equipped with Gain, Level, and Tone controls, plus Blackstar's patented ISF (Infinite Shape Feature) control, the LT-DIST allows you to shape your distortion from tight, focused tones to loose, resonant crunch. The ISF control takes you from American-style distortion to British-flavored tones with just a twist, giving you unmatched versatility in a single pedal. Whether you're playing classic rock or modern metal, the LT-DIST has the punch and precision to meet your needs.

Take Your Tone to the Next Level Each pedal in the Blackstar LT range is designed with the same attention to detail and tonal precision that made the HT Pedals legendary. Whether you're looking for subtle boosts or crushing distortion, the LT Pedals deliver valve-like response, tonal versatility, and simplicity in a compact, road-ready form.





LT-METAL

For those who crave crushing, high-gain tones, the LT-METAL is the pedal to take your sound to extreme levels. With the same Gain, Level, and Tone controls as the LT-DIST, plus the patented ISF control, the LT-METAL gives you the ability to shape your metal tone with precision. From tight, percussive chugs to wide, saturated lead tones, this pedal delivers high-gain distortion that cuts through any mix. The LT-METAL's clipping circuit ensures valve-like response, giving you the power and clarity you need for modern metal performances.



LT-DUAL

For players seeking ultimate flexibility, the LT-DUAL offers two channels of gain in one compact pedal. Each channel is equipped with its own Gain and Level controls, allowing you to switch between two distinct tones on the fly. A shared Tone control, paired with Blackstar's patented ISF control, ensures that you can shape your sound to perfection, whether you're switching from clean boost to overdrive or from crunch to full-blown distortion. The LT-DUAL is ideal for musicians who need versatility in a live or studio setting, offering a wide range of tones at your fingertips.

For the guitarist ready to up their game and unlock new creative possibilities, the Blackstar LT Pedals range offers a path to sonic exploration.

From boost to overdrive, from distortion to metal, these pedals are built to inspire and perform.





FOR THE MUSICIAN READY TO PUSH THEIR *CREATIVE BOUNDARIES,*

the Epiphone J-200 EC Studio Parlor in Vintage Natural offers a unique blend of classic design, modern features, and professional-grade electronics.

The Epiphone J-200 EC Studio Parlor in Vintage Natural is more than a guitar—it's an instrument built for musicians who are serious about their craft. Whether you're composing, recording, or performing, this guitar will inspire you to elevate your sound and stand out on your musical journey. It's time to up your game with the rich tones, stunning design, and professional features of the Epiphone J-200 EC Studio Parlor.

The parlor-sized cutaway design ensures excellent projection while allowing easy access to higher frets, making this guitar a versatile choice for lead players and fingerstyle enthusiasts alike.

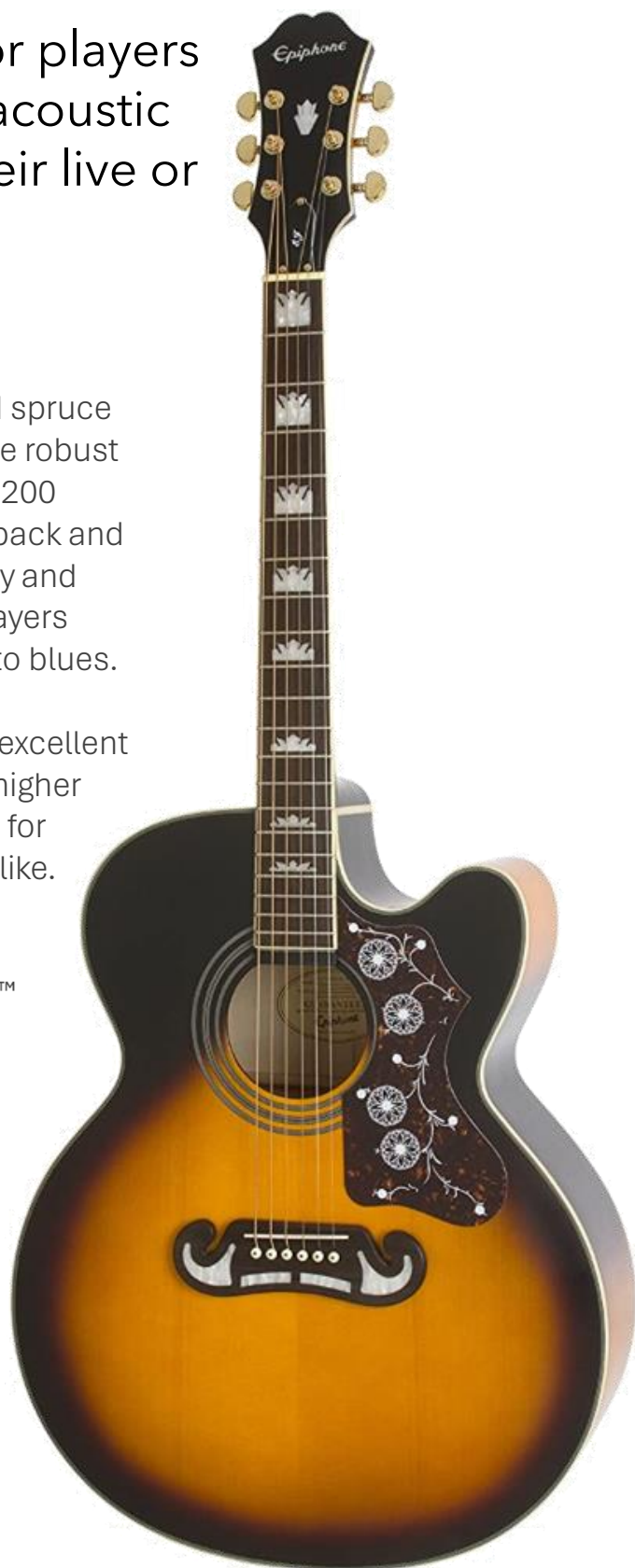


It's the perfect guitar for players looking to refine their acoustic sound and enhance their live or studio performances.

With its Super Jumbo body style and solid spruce top, the J-200 EC Studio Parlor delivers the robust and resonant tones that have made the J-200 iconic. The combination of select maple back and sides enhances both the guitar's durability and tonal brightness, making it suitable for players across genres, from folk to rock, country to blues.

The parlor-sized cutaway design ensures excellent projection while allowing easy access to higher frets, making this guitar a versatile choice for lead players and fingerstyle enthusiasts alike.

The neck of the J-200 EC Studio Parlor is crafted from hard maple with a SlimTaper™ D-shaped profile, offering a comfortable and fast-playing experience. Paired with a 20-fret Pau Ferro fingerboard, this neck is designed for precision and ease of play, allowing musicians to explore their full range of techniques. The pearloid "Crown" inlays add a touch of elegance while ensuring easy fret navigation.



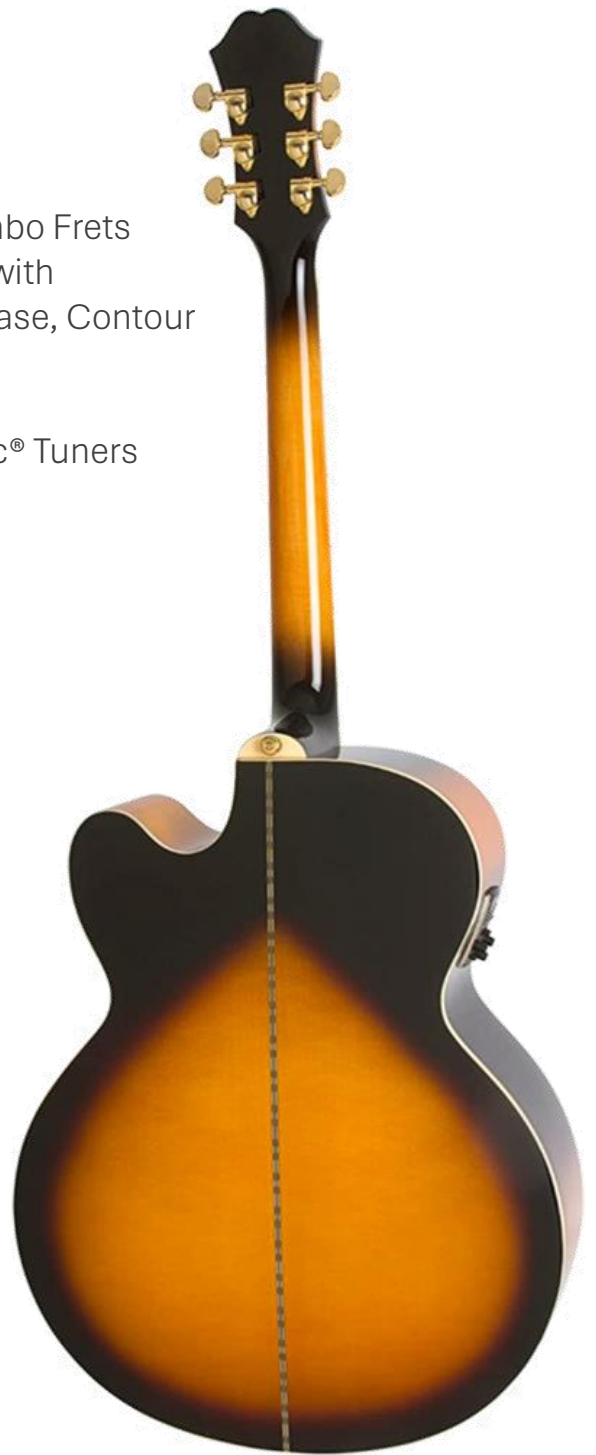
SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE:

- **Body Style:** Super Jumbo, Cutaway
- **Top:** Solid Spruce
- **Back and Sides:** Select Maple
- **Neck:** Hard Maple, SlimTaper™ D profile
- **Fingerboard:** Pau Ferro, 20 Medium Jumbo Frets
- **Pickups/Preamp:** Fishman® Sonicore™ with Fishman® Presys™ Preamp (Volume, Phase, Contour switches, and LED Tuner)
- **Bridge:** Pau Ferro, Moustache™ shape
- **Hardware:** Gold with Grover® Rotomatic® Tuners
- **Finish:** Vintage Natural Gloss

When it comes to live performance, the Fishman® Sonicore™ under-saddle pickup combined with the Fishman® Presys™ preamp system offers exceptional amplified sound. Whether you're performing on stage or recording in the studio, the built-in volume, phase, and contour controls give you complete tonal control. The addition of a built-in tuner with an LED display ensures you're always perfectly in tune, allowing you to focus on your performance without missing a beat.

The J-200 EC Studio Parlor also shines in its aesthetic appeal. The vintage natural gloss finish highlights the beauty of the select maple and spruce, while gold hardware adds a luxurious touch. The iconic Moustache™ bridge and imitation tortoise pickguard with J-200™ graphics give the guitar a timeless look, paying homage to the legendary J-200 design.

Tuning stability is critical for any serious musician, and the Grover® Rotomatic® tuners with an 18:1 ratio offer unmatched precision. Whether you're playing in a standard tuning or experimenting with alternate tunings, you can rely on these tuners to keep your sound dialed in perfectly.





The *Ultimate*

USB Audio Interface for Guitarists



For guitarists seeking the perfect recording setup, the Blackstar POLAR is a game-changer. Designed by guitarists for guitarists, POLAR stands out as the audio interface built to bring back the coveted feel, response, and tone of a real valve amplifier, right into your digital recordings. With high-headroom FET instrument inputs, the "Enhance" feature, and studio-quality preamps, POLAR ensures that your guitar DI signal is captured with the same warmth and dynamics you'd expect from a classic valve amp, making it the ultimate tool for achieving professional-grade recordings at home or in the studio.



For guitarists ready to take their recording to the next level, Blackstar POLAR is the perfect audio interface. With its high-headroom inputs, valve-like response, and full suite of recording software, it's the ultimate tool to capture the best tone possible—whether you're tracking guitar solos, layering acoustic arrangements, or recording vocals.



The Power of "Enhance": Your Real Amp Sound in a DI

The standout feature of the POLAR is its proprietary "Enhance" switch. When activated, "Enhance" introduces a unique circuit that mimics the input stage of a real valve amplifier, replicating its natural non-linear behaviors. The result? The touch, feel, and response of playing through a tube amp are restored, adding warmth, dynamics, and air to your DI signal.

With "Enhance" engaged, you can record your guitar without worrying about digital clipping, allowing you to drive the POLAR's preamps as you would a real amp. This feature gives you the freedom to focus on your performance rather than obsessing over levels, and it smooths out the handling of dynamic guitar signals, avoiding harsh or thin tones that can ruin a take. And the magic of "Enhance" doesn't stop at guitars—use it on vocals, acoustic instruments, or any source to gently lift the top end and add natural clarity and air, bringing your performances to life.

Studio-Quality Mic Preamps and FET Instrument Inputs

Inspired by the world's most renowned vintage studio preamps, POLAR's microphone inputs are designed to capture warmth, richness, and character. Whether recording a vocal take or mic'ing up an acoustic guitar, the mic preamps provide a full, authentic tone that adds depth to any performance.

For guitarists, POLAR's FET instrument inputs offer ultra-low noise and high headroom, providing the perfect sonic foundation for your guitar signal. These inputs are built to handle a wide range of instrument types, effects pedals, and even microphones, ensuring that your signal is captured cleanly and with plenty of headroom.



The Perfect Interface for Recording Guitarists

The POLAR 4 is a 4-channel USB audio interface designed specifically for guitarists. With four high-headroom FET input channels that accommodate instruments, microphones, and line inputs, it delivers pristine sound quality and versatility. Whether you're recording multiple guitars, vocals, or integrating effects, POLAR handles it all.

The interface also includes two high-output headphone outputs for precise monitoring, +48V phantom power for condenser microphones, and balanced outputs for professional studio monitors. The visual level meters allow for easy tracking of your input levels, and a MIDI In/Out port offers seamless MIDI integration for controlling virtual instruments or external gear.

Everything You Need to Start Recording

POLAR doesn't just stop at great hardware—it also comes bundled with a powerful software suite to kickstart your recording sessions. The full St. James Plugin Suite, Ableton Lite, ReLab LX480 Essentials, Melodyne Essential, and more come included, giving you all the tools you need to capture, edit, and produce professional-grade recordings right out of the box. With POLAR Control mixing software, you can fine-tune your levels, panning, and routing with precision, giving you full control over your monitoring setup. And best of all, POLAR is powered by USB 2.0, making it easy to integrate into any recording environment.



Specifications at a Glance:

- **4 Channel Audio Interface:** Designed for guitarists, featuring high-headroom FET inputs for instruments, line, and microphones.
- **“Enhance” Feature:** Replicates the sound of a classic valve amp and prevents digital clipping, delivering natural clarity for guitars, vocals, and more.
- **Mic Preamps:** Based on renowned vintage studio preamps, delivering rich, authentic tones.
- **MIDI Integration:** MIDI In/Out port for seamless integration with external gear.
- **Comprehensive Software Suite:** Includes St. James Plugin Suite, Ableton Lite, ReLab LX480 Essentials, Melodyne Essential, and more.
- **USB Powered:** Operates on USB 2.0 bus power with +48V phantom power for condenser microphones.





Power Up
Your Playing,
the Kramer Baretta
Special in Ebony
delivers the power,
simplicity, and
playability to make a
lasting impact on your
musical journey.



The Kramer Baretta Special in Ebony is designed for the player who wants a no-nonsense instrument with professional features at an accessible price. If you're serious about upping your game and want a guitar that combines style, power, and versatility, the Baretta Special is your ticket to making an impact on your musical journey. It's time to turn up the volume and let your playing speak for itself.

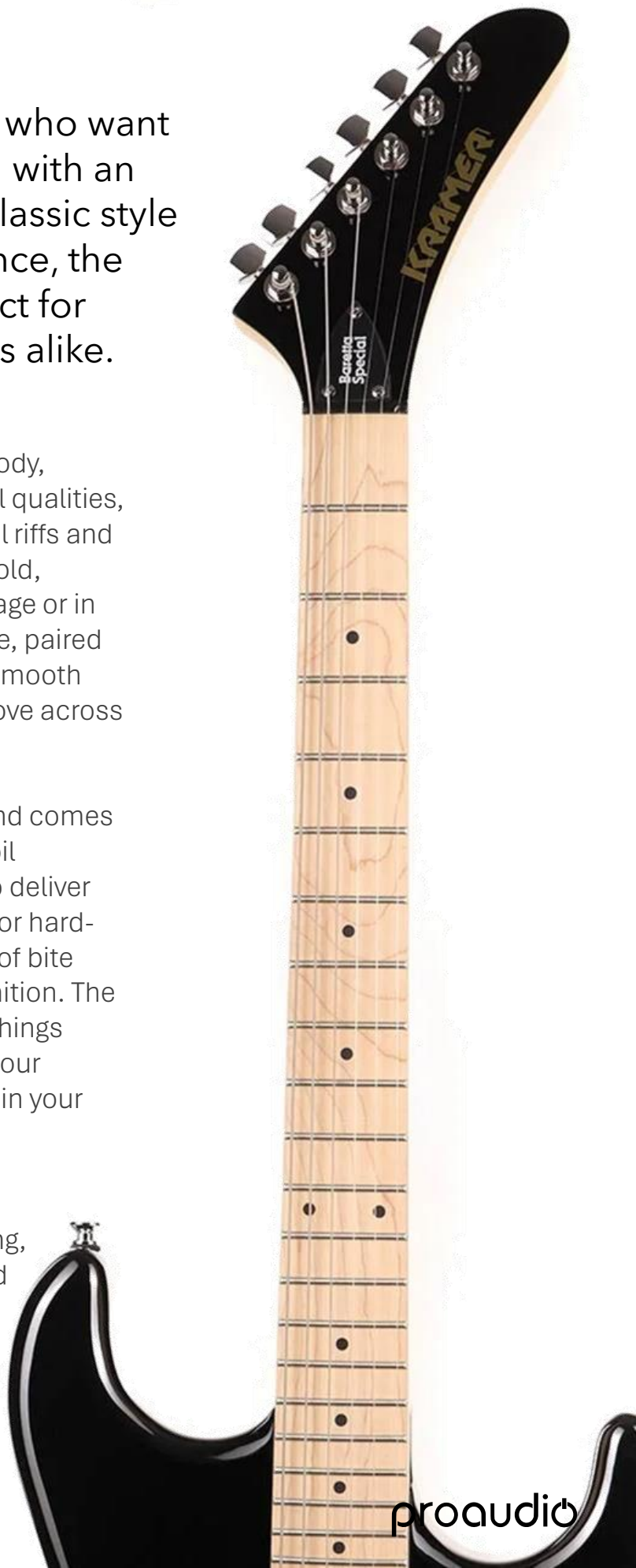


Designed for guitarists who want to enhance their sound with an instrument that offers classic style and modern performance, the Baretta Special is perfect for rockers and metalheads alike.

The Baretta's double-cut mahogany body, known for its warm and resonant tonal qualities, provides a rich foundation for powerful riffs and solos. Its sleek gloss finish gives it a bold, polished look that will stand out on stage or in the studio. The Slim maple neck profile, paired with a bolt-on construction, ensures smooth and fast playability, allowing you to move across the 22 medium jumbo frets with ease.

The heart of the Baretta Special's sound comes from its high-output Alnico 5 Zebra Coil humbucker. This pickup is designed to deliver the aggressive, cutting tones needed for hard-hitting rock and metal, offering plenty of bite while still maintaining clarity and definition. The simple master volume control keeps things straightforward, so you can focus on your playing without any distractions—dial in your sound and let the Baretta do the rest.

The Kramer Traditional tremolo bridge adds an expressive edge to your playing, allowing for subtle pitch variations and fluid vibrato effects.



SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE:

- **Body Style:** Double Cut, Baretta
- **Body Material:** Mahogany
- **Neck:** Maple, Slim Profile with Bolt-on Construction
- **Fingerboard:** Maple, 22 Medium Jumbo Frets
- **Pickup:** Alnico 5 Zebra Coil Humbucker
- **Bridge:** Kramer Traditional Tremolo
- **Hardware:** Nickel with Deluxe Die-Cast Tuners (14:1 ratio)
- **Controls:** Single Master Volume
- **Finish:** Gloss Ebony

Whether you're bending notes or adding dive bombs to your solos, the tremolo system ensures smooth operation without sacrificing tuning stability, thanks to the deluxe die-cast tuning machines with a 14:1 ratio. The result is a guitar that can keep up with your most dynamic performances while staying in tune under pressure.

With its 25.5-inch scale length and 12-inch radius maple fingerboard, the Kramer Baretta Special offers a comfortable playing experience for shredders and rhythm players alike. The black dot inlays give a minimalistic yet classic touch to the design, keeping your focus on the fretboard.

Designed for guitarists who want to enhance their sound with an instrument that offers classic style and modern performance, the Baretta Special is perfect for rockers and metalheads alike.







The Young DJ Bringing Afrikaans Kids' Songs into the EDM/Techno World

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: DJ Blertsie, you're just 9 years old, but you've already achieved so much! What first sparked your interest in remixing Afrikaans kids' songs like "Dapper Muis" and "Bobbejaan Klim Die Berg"?

DJ BLERTSIE: I love to sit with my dad when he plays and makes music. The songs I've chosen are some of my favorite ones growing up, and my mom even said she used to sing along to them when she was in school.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Your remixes have a fresh, energetic sound that resonates with kids and teens. How do you decide which songs to remix, and where do you get your inspiration?

DJ BLERTSIE: I get my inspiration from my dad, and it's easy because I just choose my favorite songs.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Your latest remix of "Dapper Muis" with a 2024 techno touch is getting a lot of buzz. Can you tell us what inspired you to put this modern twist on such a classic track?



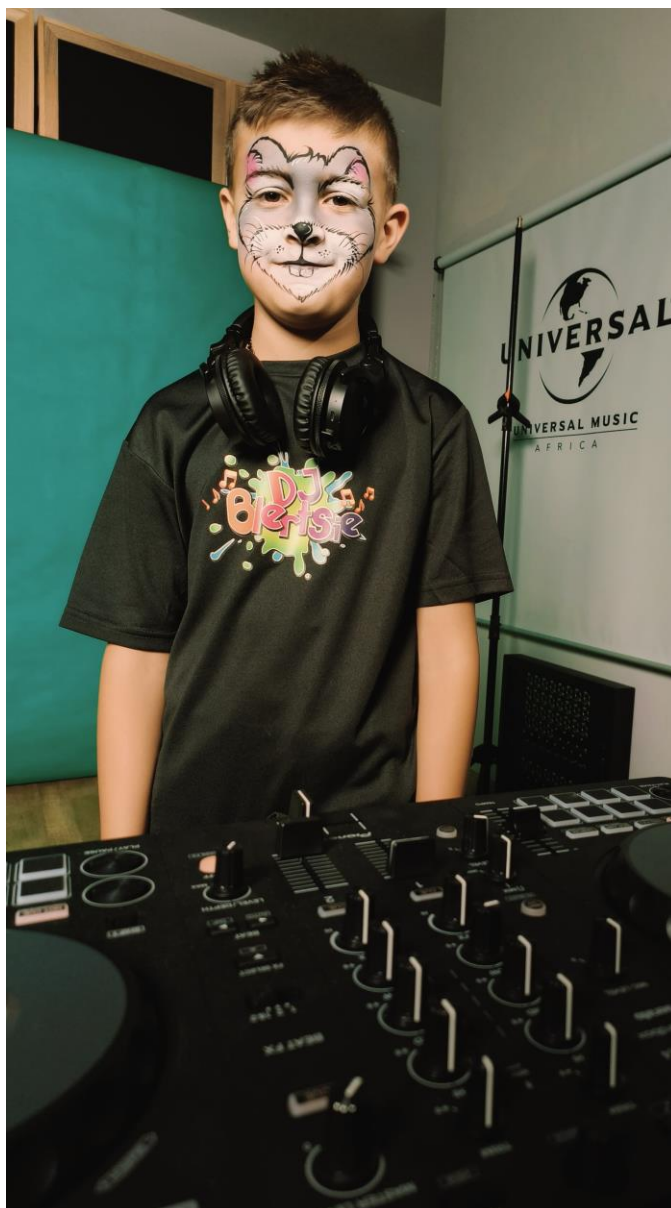
DJ BLERTSIE: I recently started watching TikTok and saw some trends there. I do enjoy dance music and the big EDM stage performances, so that gave me the idea to add a modern twist to it.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: You recently received some incredible gear from Pioneer DJ, including the DDJ FLX4 controller, Pioneer DM40D Monitors, and a set of HDJ Cue1 headphones. How has that equipment changed the way you approach your music and DJing?

DJ BLERTSIE: Being able to practice at home makes a big difference. After DJ lessons at the DJ school, I come home and practice what I've been taught. It also allows me to be creative when no one else is around, and that's important to me because if you don't have this space, you'll sound like all the other DJs out there.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: You've already had five tracks accepted for release by Universal Music—an impressive feat for someone your age! How do you feel about your music reaching an even wider audience?

DJ BLERTSIE: I think it'll be so cool if they play my remixes at all the schools. Then I can make all the kids dance to these classic songs.



Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: With your mask and energetic style, you've become a cultural icon for young Afrikaans speakers. How do you balance being a fun, relatable character while also pushing boundaries in your music?

DJ BLERTSIE: BE YOURSELF!



Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:

You're still learning to DJ, currently at lesson 3 out of 8 at the DJ and Music Production Institute. How has that journey been for you so far? What's the most exciting thing you've learned?

DJ BLERTSIE: Sjoe, the first few lessons are tough! I just started learning how to beatmatch. I used sync before, but now learning to count beats and not look at the PC screen is tough. With help from the lecturers and practice at home, I'll be ready to DJ very soon.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:

You've been really active on social media with dance challenges and fan engagement. How important is it for you to connect with your fans, and what's been your favorite interaction so far?

DJ BLERTSIE: Hearing older people like my music as much as my own generation does.

Proaudio Sound Press Magazine: Your music is all about spreading joy and excitement. What do you hope kids and teens feel when they listen to your remixes?

DJ BLERTSIE: When I make music, it's always about having fun, and I believe that translates onto the dance floor. I hope kids can look back at the old kids' stories and songs that their parents watched and listened to. Imagine a dance floor full of kids with their parents dancing along—how cool would that be?

Reach **DJ BLERTSIE** here:



LUMINYT

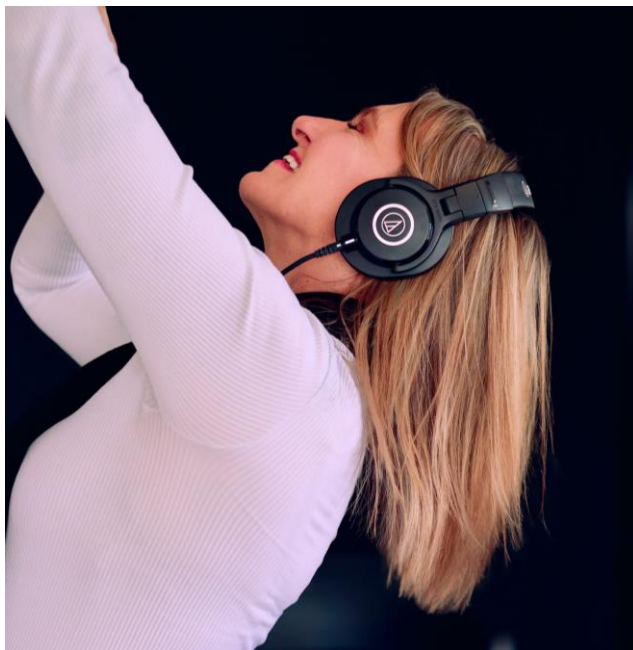
An Exclusive Interview With DJ Luminyt: PART TWO

Proaudio Sound Press: *You started your DJ journey later in life compared to many others. How has your diverse professional background benefited your growth and perspective as a DJ?*

DJ Luminyt: Starting my DJ journey later has given me a lot of perspective. Running my own events company taught me the importance of planning and logistics, which directly applies to DJing where precision is key. My marketing background has helped with branding myself, promoting my music, and connecting with audiences. Together, these experiences have shaped how I approach performances, allowing me to create engaging, memorable sets.

Proaudio Sound Press: *What was it about your first club experience 17 years ago that made you fall in love with the DJ scene?*

DJ Luminyt: That first club experience was like a lightning bolt! I saw Fabio & Moon perform, and the energy was contagious. Those DJs had total control over the room, and it felt like magic. Everything seemed chaotic, but it was also perfectly orchestrated, just how I like it, all in sync. That night, I realized the power music has to bring people together, and it sparked my passion for DJing, which still drives me today.



Proaudio Sound Press: *You're currently taking an advanced course at Pioneer DJ Institute. How has this education influenced your skills and approach to DJing?*

DJ Luminyt: The course has been a real game-changer for me. It's helped me master advanced techniques like mixing and creative transitions, allowing me to craft sets with a better narrative flow. I've also learned troubleshooting skills, which means I can handle technical issues more confidently. The education has made me more creative, boosted my confidence, and opened up new ways to experiment with my sound.



Proaudio Sound Press: *Balancing a full-time job in marketing at a mining company with your DJ career must be challenging. How do you manage your time and maintain your passion for music?*

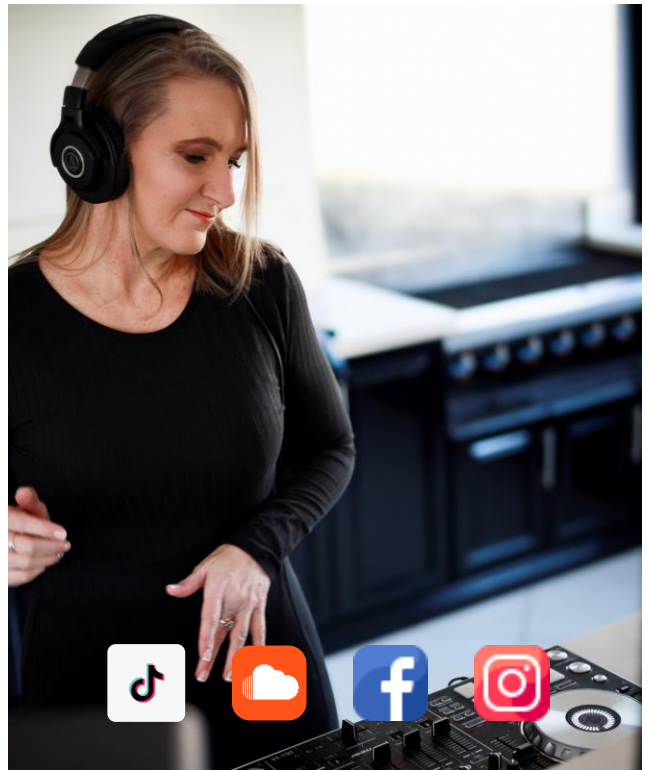
DJ Luminyt: It's definitely a challenge! Balancing both requires strong time management, so I've developed a routine where I dedicate specific times for work and DJing. I use evenings and weekends for DJ practice and gig prep. My passion for music is what keeps me motivated—it energizes me even when things get busy. The key is to stay organized and make the most of every moment.

Proaudio Sound Press: *What has been the most rewarding moment of your DJ career so far?*

DJ Luminyt: I haven't been doing this for long, but so far, the most rewarding moment has been landing a permanent residency on a UK radio station. I have two slots—one on Wednesday evenings and another on Saturday afternoons, where I do a two-hour back-to-back set with Solomon John. It came out of nowhere and felt like a huge opportunity. I've learned a lot and loved every minute of it. It's definitely been a highlight!

Proaudio Sound Press: *Do you find any similarities between performing in a classical orchestra and DJing in a club? How do these experiences compare?*

DJ Luminyt: Yes, there are definitely similarities! Absolutely!! In an orchestra, you work as part of a team, syncing up with other musicians to create harmony, much like DJs working together to keep the vibe going.



DJing, on the other hand, is more solo, where you're in control of guiding the crowd. Both require a feel for timing and crowd engagement. So, even though one involves reading sheet music and the other involves reading the crowd, both are about creating a shared experience.

Proaudio Sound Press: *What advice would you give to someone who dreams of becoming a DJ but feels it might be too late to start?*

DJ Luminyt: It's never too late! The music world is open to everyone, no matter when you start. Every DJ has a beginner phase, and I've met plenty of people who started later in life and are now doing great. It's all about passion, practice, and persistence. Embrace the learning process, experiment, and don't be afraid to make mistakes. DJing is about the journey, so dive in, enjoy it, and trust that there's always space for you on the dance floor.



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AS SOUTH AFRICANS,
Heritage Day is more than just a public holiday—it's a day that resonates deeply within all of us.

WE SPEAK TO: DJ LUMINYT, DJ SILVERFOX, DJ SOPHIA



JUST INCASE

You Missed the Last Months Edition

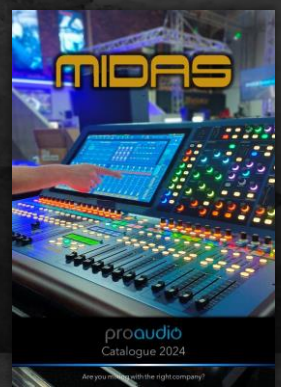
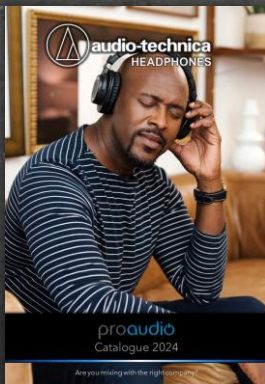
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