


**SP**  
proaudio

**MAGAZINE**  
**JAN 2026**

  
**LaTique**

reflects on his  
journey, his creative  
evolution, and the  
mindset driving his  
next chapter.

# 2026 DJ Gear/Life

- **What DJ's Can Expect**
- **AlphaTheta SLAB**
- **AlphaTheta Chordcat**

## Tools That Never Fade

**The Return of the  
Turntable PLX-1000**

## LIVE Mixing

**A Console Built for  
Modern Demands**

## Audio Technica Turntable

**Where Modern Precision  
Meets Vintage Style**



# WELCOME

## to the January 2026 Edition

A new year doesn't arrive quietly in music — it arrives with momentum.

As we step into **2026**, the global DJ and electronic music scene continues to evolve, and South Africa remains firmly at the heart of that movement.

This issue of **Proaudio SoundPress** is a reflection of where the culture stands right now: rooted in craft, driven by innovation, and shaped by artists who understand that music is more than sound — it's experience, emotion, and connection.

Inside these pages, we explore the tools redefining creativity, from next-generation AlphaTheta releases to trusted performance staples that continue to anchor DJ booths around the world.

We sit down with artists who are shaping the sound locally and globally — voices that represent growth, resilience, and authenticity in a constantly shifting industry.



This issue also looks forward. At the start of a new year, DJs everywhere are asking the same questions: *How do I grow? How do I stay relevant? How do I take my craft seriously?* We unpack what 2026 holds for DJs and producers — not as trends to chase, but as skills to master and intentions to refine.

Whether you're an established professional, an emerging artist, or someone deeply connected to the culture, this magazine is here to inform, inspire, and challenge you to raise your standard.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

Here's to a year of purpose, progression, and powerful music.

**Keep the music alive**  
**Proaudio Sound Press Team**

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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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**"The best DJs don't just play tracks—they create moments that stay with you forever."**



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SP MAGAZINE

# PROGEAR

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**LaTique**

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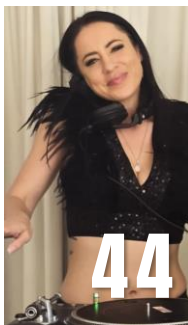
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proaudio




# 2026

## What DJs Can Expect

- And How to Level Up Your Game -





A new year always brings new energy, but **2026 is shaping up to be a defining moment for DJs.** The scene is evolving fast — technology is smarter, audiences are more selective, and standing out now requires more than just good mixing.

The DJs who will thrive this year are the ones who adapt, refine their identity, and treat DJing as both an art and a craft.

Here's what DJs can expect in 2026 — and what they should aim to master to truly step up.

# The DJ Is Becoming a Storyteller Again

In 2026, playlists alone won't cut it. Audiences are craving **journeys**, not just transitions. DJs who can build emotional arcs, control energy, and take people somewhere meaningful will stand out.

## What to work on:

- Reading the room instead of relying on pre-planned sets
- Building tension and release
- Understanding musical storytelling, not just beatmatching

The best DJs don't just play tracks — they *guide experiences*.





# Hybrid Skills Will Separate the Good from the Great

DJing is no longer isolated. The strongest performers are blending skills:

- DJing + music production
- DJing + live performance elements
- DJing + visuals or content creation

In 2026, even basic production knowledge gives you an edge — whether it's editing tracks, creating intro edits, or releasing original music.

**Goal:** Learn just enough production to make your sets *yours*.

# Technology Will Get Smarter – DJs Must Get Sharper

Gear is becoming more powerful and more accessible. Controllers, standalone systems, stems, and performance features are no longer optional — they're expected. But tech won't replace skill.

## DJs should aim to:

- Master stems and live remixing
- Use effects intentionally, not excessively
- Be comfortable on multiple setups
- Understand sound systems, not just decks

In 2026, the DJ who truly understands their gear will always outperform the one who just owns it.





# Your Brand Matters as Much as Your Mix

Being a great DJ isn't enough if no one remembers you. DJs who grow in 2026 will treat themselves like brands.

## **This means:**

- A clear musical identity
- Consistent visuals and messaging
- Active but authentic social presence
- Professional conduct on and off stage

Promoters book reliability and personality just as much as talent.

# Community Will Outperform Competition

The era of lone-wolf DJing is fading. Collaboration is becoming the fastest route to growth.

Expect to see:

- More collectives and crews
- Cross-genre collaborations
- Shared events and pop-up showcases

**What to aim for:**

Build relationships, not rivalries. The DJs rising fastest in 2026 are those who grow *together*.



# What DJs Should Aim to Achieve in 2026

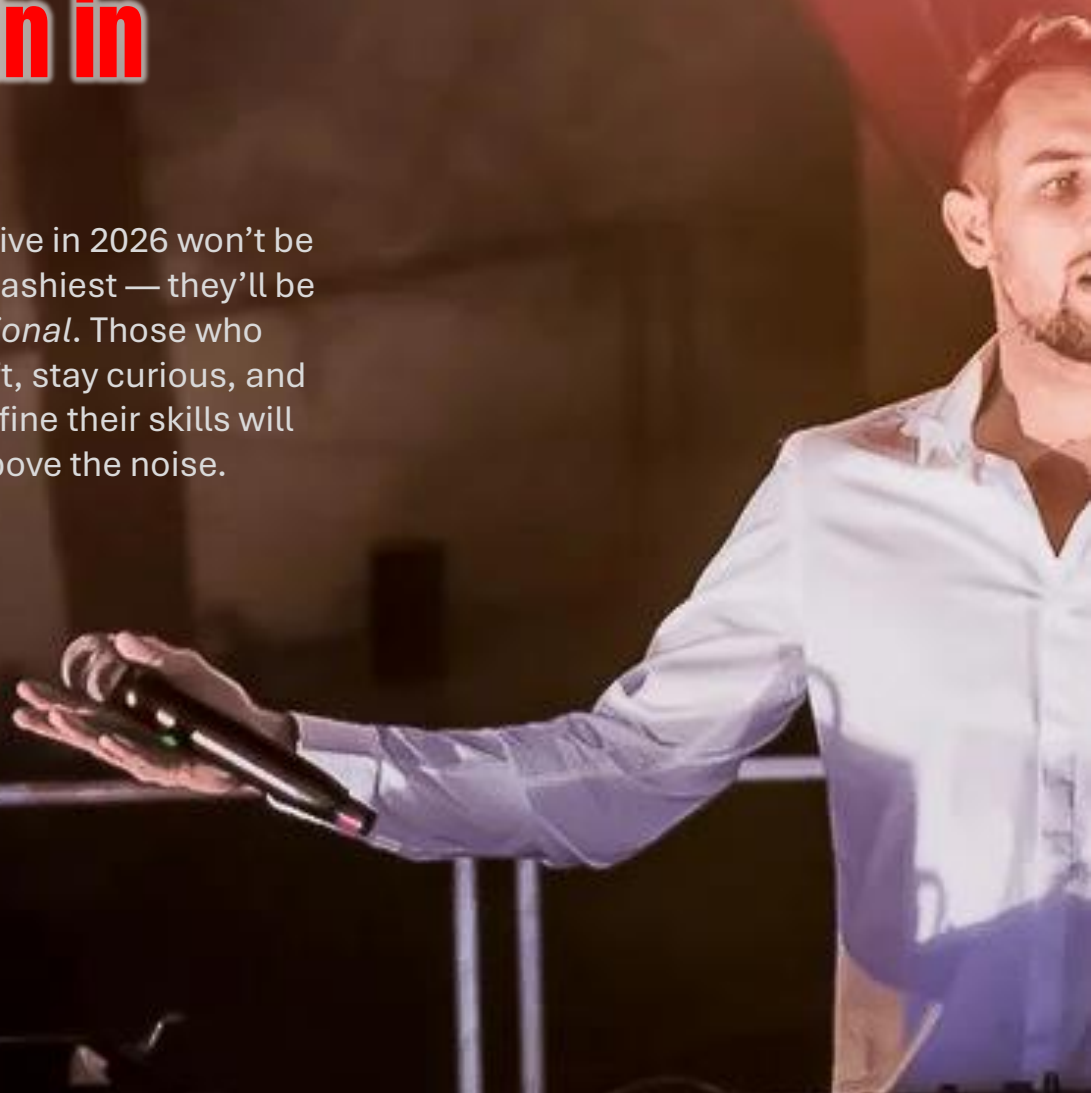
If you want to seriously level up this year, focus on these core goals:

- Develop a recognisable sound or style
- Improve crowd-reading and storytelling
- Learn at least basic music production
- Release original music or edits
- Upgrade performance confidence
- Build a professional image
- Play fewer but better-quality gigs

Progress isn't about doing everything — it's about doing the right things well.

# The DJs Who Will Win in 2026

The DJs who thrive in 2026 won't be the loudest or flashiest — they'll be the most *intentional*. Those who respect the craft, stay curious, and continuously refine their skills will naturally rise above the noise.





**A new year is a reset.**

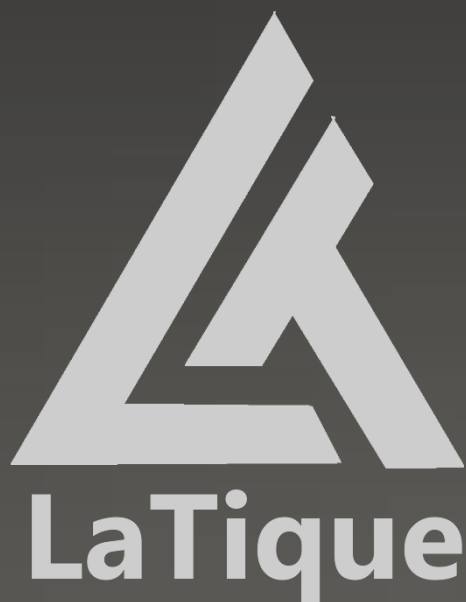
**A new scene is forming.**

**And 2026 is wide open for DJs  
willing to step forward with purpose.**









From Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal to the heart of Johannesburg's music scene, **LaTique — also known as Mr Rare Dub** — represents a new generation of South African house music with depth, soul, and unmistakable identity. Blending deep grooves with rich musicality, his sound has resonated far beyond local dance floors, earning millions of streams and industry-wide recognition.

With the breakout success of the *Nyuku EP*, which surpassed 3 million streams, and the chart-dominating anthem “**Hayibaba**”, LaTique's rise reached a defining moment when the track claimed **Best Dance Song at the Metro FM Awards 2025**.

Now officially signed to **Universal Music South Africa** and collaborating with some of the country's most influential artists, LaTique isn't simply emerging — he's actively shaping the future of the sound.



In this interview, he reflects on his journey, his creative evolution, and the mindset driving his next chapter.

**SP** LaTique, 2025 was an incredible year for you. For those who may be discovering you for the first time, how would you describe who LaTique is - both as an artist and as a person behind the music?



LaTique is a very talented individual, not just musically, but in a lot of different dynamics, with talent in football, gaming and design. A very respectful human being who was grown in a stable family background. Apart from music, LaTique is very ambitious, with different other objectives he is currently chasing.

**SP** You started in Estcourt, KZN and found your way to Johannesburg's music scene. What were some of the key moments early in your journey that shaped your sound and identity?



With no hesitation, I'd give all the flowers to my big brother "Cilongo", who inspired me at a very young age, from teaching me how to play keys, to teaching me music production. Yes house music has always been playing in my head, as you can imagine, the older brother pumping the sounds all day everyday.

**SP** Your style is known for blending soulful rhythms with deep, unmistakable grooves. How did your signature sound develop over time, and who or what influenced it the most?



Initially, my music had less melodies and more percussions, until I grew into understanding that there's more to music than just dark songs, until I attempted to use the very same keyboard skills to enhance my sound.

Of course over the years, I have been exposed to multiple artists to influence my sound, but one artist that has forever inspired my sound has to be "Da Capo", what an honour to have him on my next project.







**You're now officially part of the Universal Music South Africa roster and collaborating with major industry leaders like Lamiez Holworthy, Kabza De Small, Mdu a.k.a. TRP, and Thakzin. How has joining Universal and working with such big names influenced your growth as an artist and shaped your sound today?**



First and foremost, it is a true honor to be part of the Universal Music Group, this is something I did not expect to be part of so sudden, more especially since I feel like my sound needs lots of improvement ways been great though!

This is a huge opportunity for me as my perspective in music has shifted drastically and I now have a different view and approach to the scene and when even in studio, I am fully motivated to put out my best, especially since I now has access to getting my wish collaborations/artist, but most importantly, it is being around people that motivate me to unleash the best version of myself, I am excited.



**Your Nyuku EP made a huge impact, crossing millions of streams. What inspired the project, and what message did you want listeners to take away from it?**



The song 'Nyuku' was produced at Piano Hub, which gave me so much motivation to produce other songs due to the excitement and the experience i had received with Kabza. Just like that, the whole EP was complete within a single month.

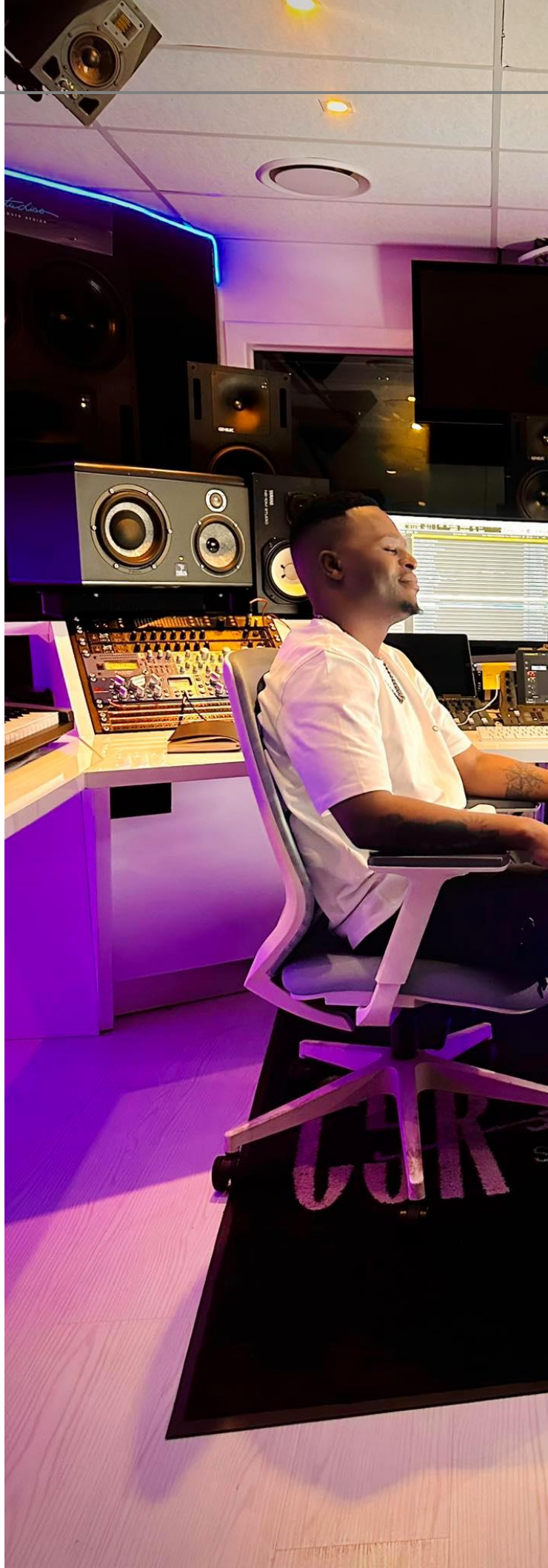
This project was simply to show my audience my full potential and capabilities, and to make them aware that there is more to what they know, and trust, there is still a whole lot more!



**'Hayi baba' became a major anthem across Africa and won Best Dance Song at the Metro FM Awards 2025. What was the creative process behind the track, and did you expect it to blow up the way it did?**



Honestly, the collaboration was not planned at all, it was Chronical Deep And I in studio at Piano Hub, and with other artists around the house, well, Leehleza was gaming in the other room, I called him over to listen and just like that, we has the best dance song of 2025, God is greater by day haha!, and no, non of us expected the song to blow up as much.







**SP** Winning a Metro FM Award and landing a feature on The Circle was a massive moment. How did that recognition influence you personally and professionally?



Well that was a very huge turn in my career, as that is when it sank in my head that I was big artist, I honestly wasn't even thinking of awards at that time, it was God walking overtime. Professionally it influenced me into getting more recognition, especially from people who looked down on me in the game.

Personally it just gave me all the confidence you can possibly think off, I now believe in myself so much, and thank God because this is something I have been struggling with for the longest time.

Speak about 'The Circle' wow man, till this day, that is one of the greatest stages I have been on, and the best set thus far.



With 2026 on the horizon, what can fans expect next from LaTique - new music, collaborations, or any big moves you're excited to share?



There is so much to expect in 2026, A lot of music and collaborations of course, but for now, id like to keep in deep in my chest haha!



“My sound is still growing, but my purpose is clear — to create music that lasts longer than the moment.”

Pioneer Dj

 AlphaTheta

# Bringing Beat-Making Back to Its Roots



SLAVE



# When AlphaTheta and Serato join forces,

the result is never ordinary — and SLAB is proof. As the first-ever MIDI pad controller designed specifically for Serato Studio, SLAB restores beat-making to what it always should be: instinctive, expressive, and deeply hands-on.

It's a return to the raw feel of creating music with your fingers, not your mouse. SLAB isn't about adding more complexity to your setup — it's about giving producers, DJs, and creators a tool that brings them closer to the music.

Every feature is built to sharpen your workflow, speed up ideas, and make creativity feel natural again.

## Pads That Feel Alive

At the center of SLAB are its 16 velocity-sensitive RGB pads. They respond to every touch — soft ghost notes, heavy kicks, fast rolls — giving beat-makers the expressive range they’ve been missing in a laptop-only workflow.

The pad grid doubles as an intuitive step-sequencer, letting you “paint” in beats, adjust swing, tweak velocity, and shape rhythm entirely from the hardware. There’s no setup. No mapping. Just instant connection to your samples and kits.



# A Workflow Designed for Flow

SLAB is built around one idea: keep you in the creative zone.

- **The big multi-function Dial** makes sample browsing, scrubbing, chopping, and editing feel effortless. Hover a parameter in Serato Studio — the Dial takes control of it instantly.
- **Touch-sensitive encoders** give you direct access to EQ, FX, stems, filters, and sound-shaping tools, with clean visual feedback on the built-in display.
- **A long touch strip** lets you sweep filters, bend pitch, modulate FX, or perform transitions with a single finger.

The hardware feels modern, but the workflow brings back everything producers loved about early samplers and grooveboxes: immediacy, simplicity, and instinct.

## Built for Serato Creators

Because SLAB is deeply integrated with Serato Studio, it behaves more like an extension of the software than a separate controller. It instantly controls sampling, sequencing, stems, effects, automation, and performance functions — with almost no learning curve.

For DJs growing into production, this is the bridge they've been waiting for.

For producers wanting to tighten their workflow, SLAB removes friction.

For finger-drummers and pad-players, it feels like home.

It also works seamlessly with Serato Sample and Serato DJ Pro, making SLAB equally comfortable in a studio, DJ booth, or live performance setup.



# Why SLAB Matters

In a world full of controllers trying to be everything at once, SLAB does one thing exceptionally well: it brings you closer to your creativity. It strips away the barriers between your ideas and your music. The pads are expressive, the controls are intuitive, and the workflow encourages experimentation.

SLAB is a reminder of why beat-making took over the world in the first place — because music creation feels best when it's physical, immediate, and emotional.









# JACK EMERY

Few artists rise through the melodic house and techno landscape with as much clarity of purpose and emotional depth as Jack Emery.

A multi-instrumentalist turned producer, Emery brings a rare musicality to the dance floor — blending cinematic atmospheres, expressive vocals, and deep, rolling basslines into a sound that feels both intimate and expansive.

As a key figure within Nora En Pure's Purified Records, he has carved out a space that is unmistakably his own, with performances stretching from Ultra Europe to Miami Music Week and releases championed by some of the biggest names in modern melodic dance music.

Fresh off the success of Halo reaching #1 on SiriusXM Chill and following a series of standout US performances, Emery returns with his newest Purified release, Walked Too Far, a track that reflects the emotional storytelling and production finesse that define his artistic identity.

In this exclusive interview, he opens up about his journey, his creative process, and what fans can expect next.





**For those who are discovering you for the first time, can you introduce yourself and share a bit about what defines your sound and artistic identity?**



I'm currently based in San Diego, California and come from a diverse background of music from playing cello in a symphony to playing guitar in a rock band.

This musical background and knowledge of music theory has shaped my dj and producer career as I've dove fully into melodic house and techno.

Over the past few years I've had several releases on Purified, Nora En Pure's label and performed events including Purified San Diego, direct support for Nora En Pure, Le Youth, and Jerro. I love creating tracks with big emotional vocals, cinematic atmospheres, and deep basses.

JACK





**You've become a strong presence in Purified Records. How did your relationship with the label begin, and what has it meant for your development as an artist?**



My first house music set I ever attended was a Nora En Pure set at Coachella in the Yuma tent. I was so inspired by her and eventually started producing electronic music.

Once I had enough solid demos, I sent my best demo at the time to her label and that track became my first release "Believe". I was ecstatic to see her playing it live around the world and knew this was a great home for my music.

Since then I've really appreciated the mentorship and freedom the label gives me in my artistic direction and am excited for continued partnership!

EMERY





**Nora En Pure has been a consistent supporter of your music. How has working closely with her and the Purified community shaped your journey in the melodic house and techno scene?**



Her support has meant the world to me. I feel very grateful to have such a legendary pioneer of deep house help guide me and support my growth as an artist and dj.

Our connection continues to grow stronger and I always love performing at her shows and Purified events and testing new demos with the amazing Purified crowd.



**Your new single ‘Walked Too Far’ is releasing on November 28th 2025 via Purified Records. What inspired this track, and how did the initial idea come to life?**



This track started as an idea between myself and the co-producer and vocalist Rob Tirea a few months back. We wanted to blend my deep and melodic style with his signature melodic/indie dance vibe and everything came so naturally between us.

His beautiful, emotional vocal came first and then the bass, atmospheres and synths came to support that amazing vocal. We really wanted a deep and complex track filled with emotion while still keeping some driving dance rhythm.



**SP** The single blends deep basslines, shimmering synth work, and emotive, indie-style vocals. What was your approach to creating this balance of energy and emotional depth?



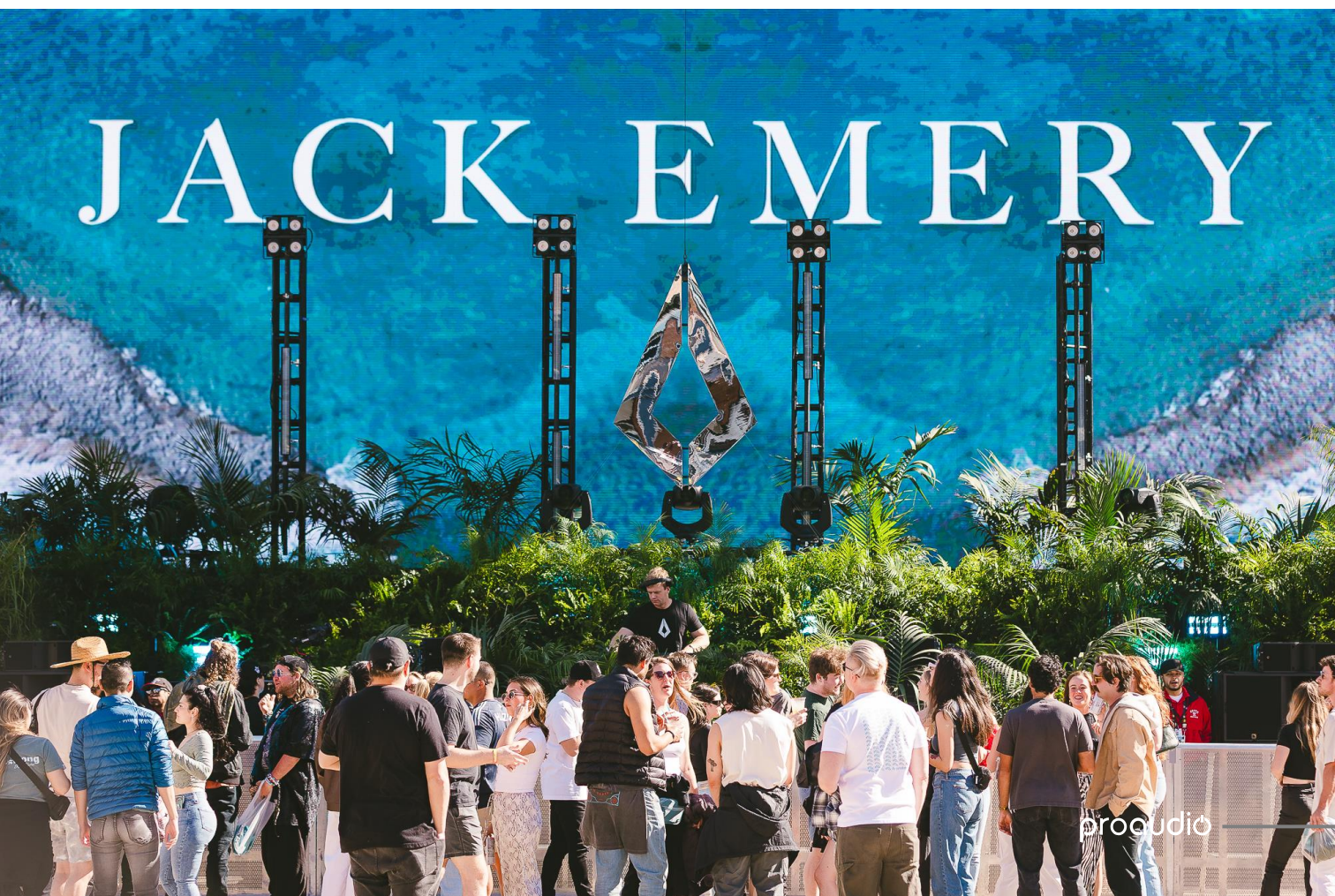
The most important thing was letting that vocal shine through and then layering the synths and basses around that. So I think letting the vocal have its space and then having a contrast to the deep bass was key in this track.

**SP** Your work is said to have an immersive, storytelling nature. What feelings or experiences are you hoping fans take away from ‘Walked Too Far’?



I hope listeners can lean into the themes of light vs dark and loneliness that are central to the lyrics.

Feelings of introspection and deep emotion were key to creating the overall depth of this track.







**The artwork shot by Rachel Moore depicts Aakapa Bay in the Marquesas Islands and ties into themes of Marine life, nature and conservation. How does this visual concept connect to the creative vision behind the single?**



Rachel's work is amazing and I love tying in the ocean in my music. I myself am a scuba diver and also live not far from the ocean in San Diego so this directly translates in my life and music.

The sunset and contrast of the lush palm trees with the power of the ocean waves gives a reminder of the light vs dark theme in the track and the “golden hour” feeling in “Walked Too Far”.

**“I love creating tracks with big emotional vocals, cinematic atmospheres, and deep basses — music that pulls you inward while still moving you forward.”**

*— Jack Emery*





Looking ahead, what can fans expect from you in 2026 any new upcoming releases in the cards after ‘Walked Too far”, tours, or new artistic directions you’re excited about?



Thrilled to end 2025 with a feature on the Purified Chronicles compilation and one final show on NYE in New York City.

Kicking off 2026 with an exciting single paired with a remix from one of my favorite melodic techno producers and looking forward to shows in San Francisco and Denver to start the year.

I’m also super excited about a few collaborations I have ongoing in the melodic techno and melodic house lanes. Can’t wait to share more!

Jack Emery’s momentum shows no signs of slowing. With new releases on the horizon, collaborations across the melodic spectrum, and a growing presence on international stages, 2026 is shaping up to be a defining year for the rising producer.

His ability to merge musical depth with crowd-moving energy continues to set him apart, and *Walked Too Far* stands as another milestone in a career built on intention, emotion, and sonic storytelling.

As Emery steps into the next chapter, one thing is clear: **his journey is only just beginning, and the melodic house world is listening.**



SP MAGE

*Pioneer Dj*

# PLX-1000

# The Return

of Pure Turntable Power



+7.2  
3.3  
0 %  
-3.3



proaudio

33

45



## Some tools never fade — they evolve.

The Pioneer DJ PLX-1000 is a celebration of the classic professional turntable, engineered for the modern DJ who demands precision, durability, and true analog feel. Built on decades of experience, the PLX-1000 revives the golden era of vinyl with the reliability and power today's performance standards require.

From heavyweight clubs to vinyl-focused sets in boutique bars, this turntable has become a go-to for DJs who want the unmistakable connection between hand, platter, and groove.



# A Turntable That Feels Instantly Familiar

The PLX-1000 carries a layout inspired by the industry's legendary designs — everything is exactly where a DJ expects it to be. That familiarity means you can step behind the decks and perform with total confidence the moment the needle drops.

But beneath that classic layout lies a new level of refinement. Every component feels tighter, smoother, and more engineered for precision.

- **High-torque direct-drive motor**  
Delivers lightning-fast start-ups and rock-solid stability — essential for scratching, beat-juggling, and high-energy mixing.
- **Heavy-mass chassis design**  
Built to minimize resonance and vibration, giving DJs clean audio and a stable platform even in loud, high-pressure environments.
- **Multi-pitch control**  
 $\pm 8\%$ ,  $\pm 16\%$ , and  $\pm 50\%$  pitch ranges allow everything from precise beatmatching to extreme creative manipulation.





## Quiet, Powerful, and Built to Last

One of the PLX-1000's greatest strengths is its build quality. This turntable feels like a piece of gear you'll own for decades. The tonearm is smooth and secure, the platter has weight and presence, and the entire unit is engineered to handle club life — bumps, bass-rattle, heat, travel, and constant use.

The internal re-design focuses on reducing vibrations, improving damping, and preserving sound quality. For vinyl DJs, that stability is everything.

## Modern Performance Meets Analog Soul

Vinyl has made a powerful return, and the PLX-1000 is at the center of that revival. It gives DJs the ability to move between traditional vinyl, control vinyl for digital DJing, and hybrid setups with ease.

Whether you're a battle DJ, a house selector, a techno purist, or someone rediscovering the warmth of analog sound, the PLX-1000 delivers the same feeling that built DJ culture — but with modern strength behind it.

# Why the PLX-1000 Still Reigns

In a digital world, the PLX-1000 is a reminder that some instruments never lose their magic. It's powerful without being complicated, reliable without being rigid, and expressive in a way no digital deck can truly replace.





For DJs who want the most trusted, rock-solid, and performance-ready turntable in the Pioneer DJ lineup, the PLX-1000 remains the benchmark.





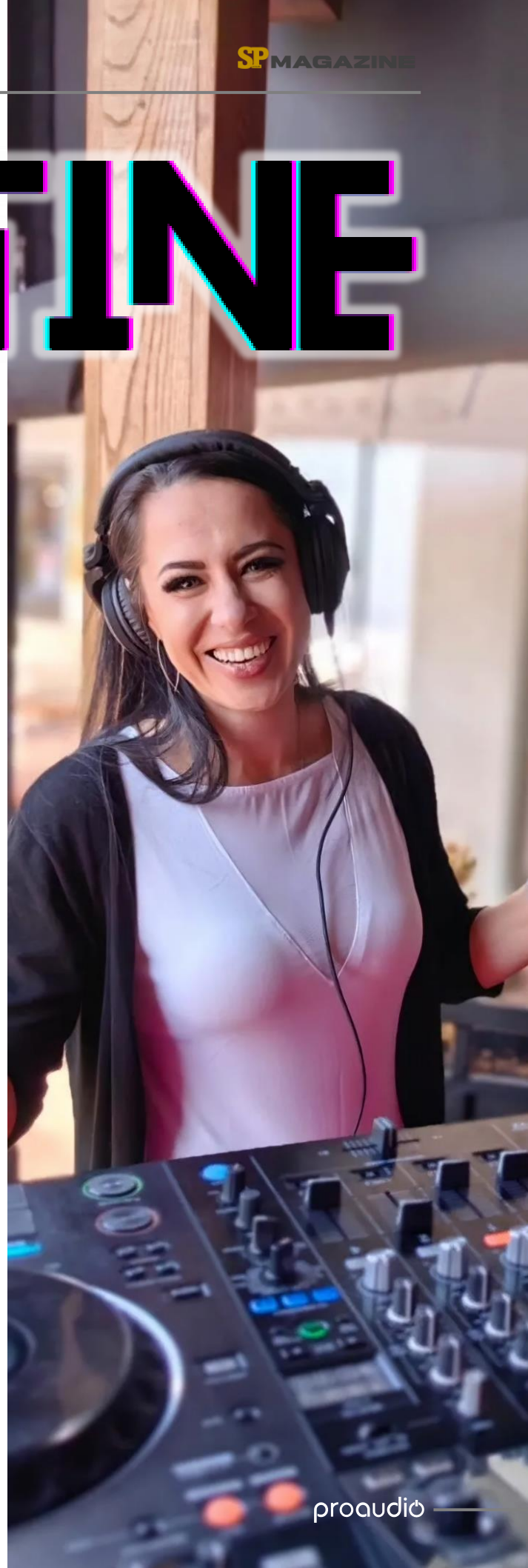
# JUSTINE

From the heart of Tshwane emerges a DJ whose mission is more than entertainment — it's emotional transformation. **Justine Winterboer**, professionally known as **DJ Justine**, has become one of South Africa's most compelling sonic storytellers, crafting euphoric journeys that move effortlessly between melodic trance, techno, EDM, and house.

Mentored by the iconic **Lady Lea** and shaped by the influence of DJ Surge, DJ Dizzy, DJ Morgan, and Dirkie Coetzee, Justine channels mentorship, passion, and raw musical instinct into a sound that is both powerful and deeply personal.

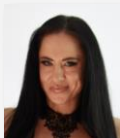
Her performances at **We Are Trance**, **Trancemission**, **NYE Decades of Dance 2024**, **Re-En-Trance**, and other major events have earned her a reputation for turning dance floors into spaces of connection, release, and healing.

Diverse, emotive, and unapologetically expressive, DJ Justine represents a new wave of artists who treat DJing as an art form — one rooted in storytelling, transformation, and shared human experience.





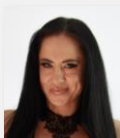
**Justine, for those discovering you for the first time, how would you describe the essence of your sound and the energy you bring to every set?**



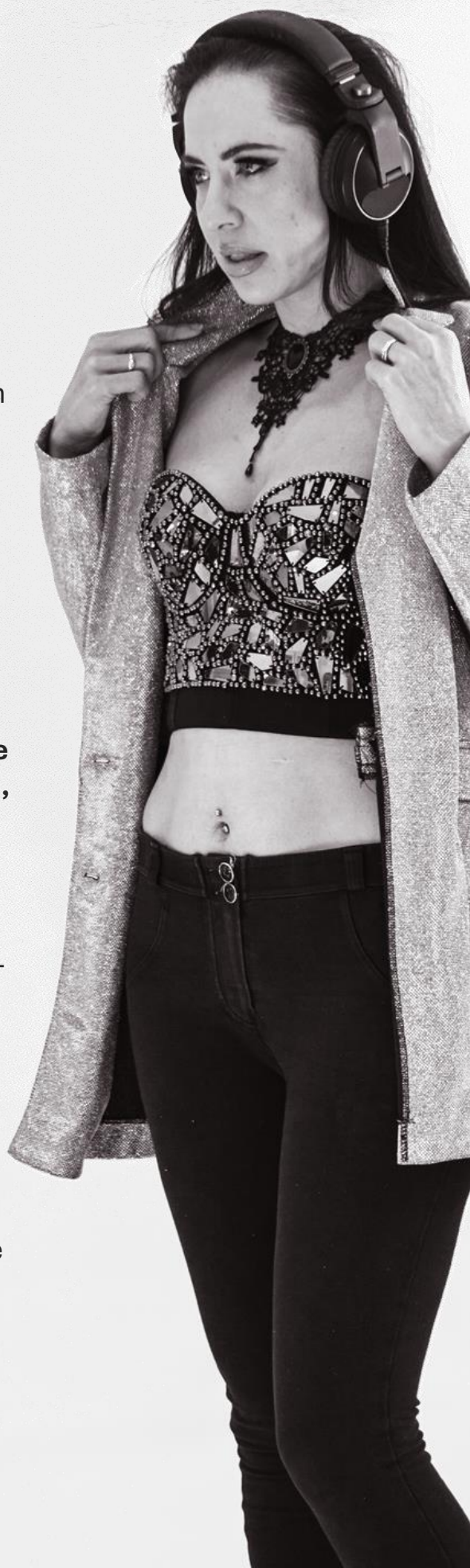
My sound is rooted in emotion—melodic trance at its core, but always infused with the pulse of techno, EDM, and house. I want every set to feel like a journey, where the crowd is lifted, challenged, and ultimately healed through rhythm. The energy I bring is high-voltage yet deeply human: it's about connection, about creating a space where people can lose themselves and find themselves at the same time.



**You've carved out a unique space in the realms of melodic trance, techno, EDM, and house. How did your journey into DJing begin, and what drew you to these genres specifically?**



My journey began with pure fascination—watching how music could transform a room, shift moods, and unite strangers. Trance drew me in first with its emotional depth, then techno and house added grit and groove, while EDM gave me accessibility and reach. I didn't choose genres so much as they chose me. Each one offered a different emotional language, and together they became the palette I use to paint my sets.







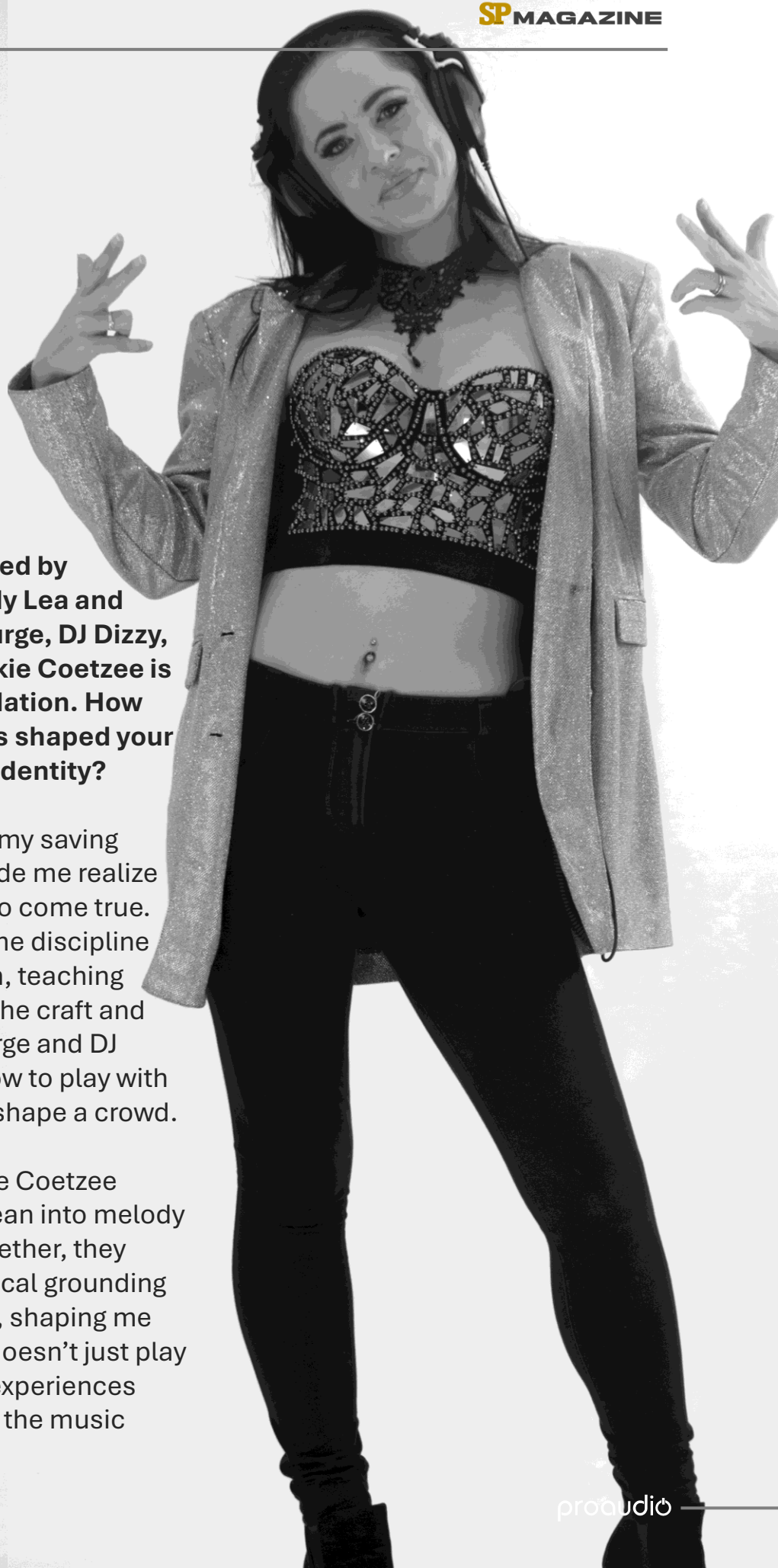
**Being mentored by icons like Lady Lea and influenced by DJ Surge, DJ Dizzy, DJ Morgan, and Dirkie Coetzee is an incredible foundation. How have these mentors shaped your sound and artistic identity?**



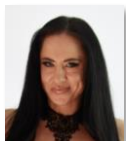
Lady Lea was my saving light—she made me realize that dreams do come true.

Her guidance gave me discipline and professionalism, teaching me to respect both the craft and the audience. DJ Surge and DJ Dizzy showed me how to play with energy, to read and shape a crowd.

DJ Morgan and Dirkie Coetzee encouraged me to lean into melody and storytelling. Together, they gave me both technical grounding and artistic courage, shaping me into someone who doesn't just play tracks, but creates experiences that linger long after the music stops.



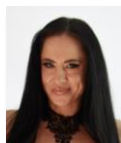
**SP** You've performed at landmark events like We Are Trance, Trancemission, and NYE Decades of Dance 2024. Looking back, which moment in your career felt truly defining - where you realised, "This is exactly where I'm meant to be"?



Performing at NYE Decades of Dance 2024 was a turning point, but playing at H2O was truly a dream come true. That stage had always been on my horizon, and stepping onto it felt like a milestone I'd been chasing for years.

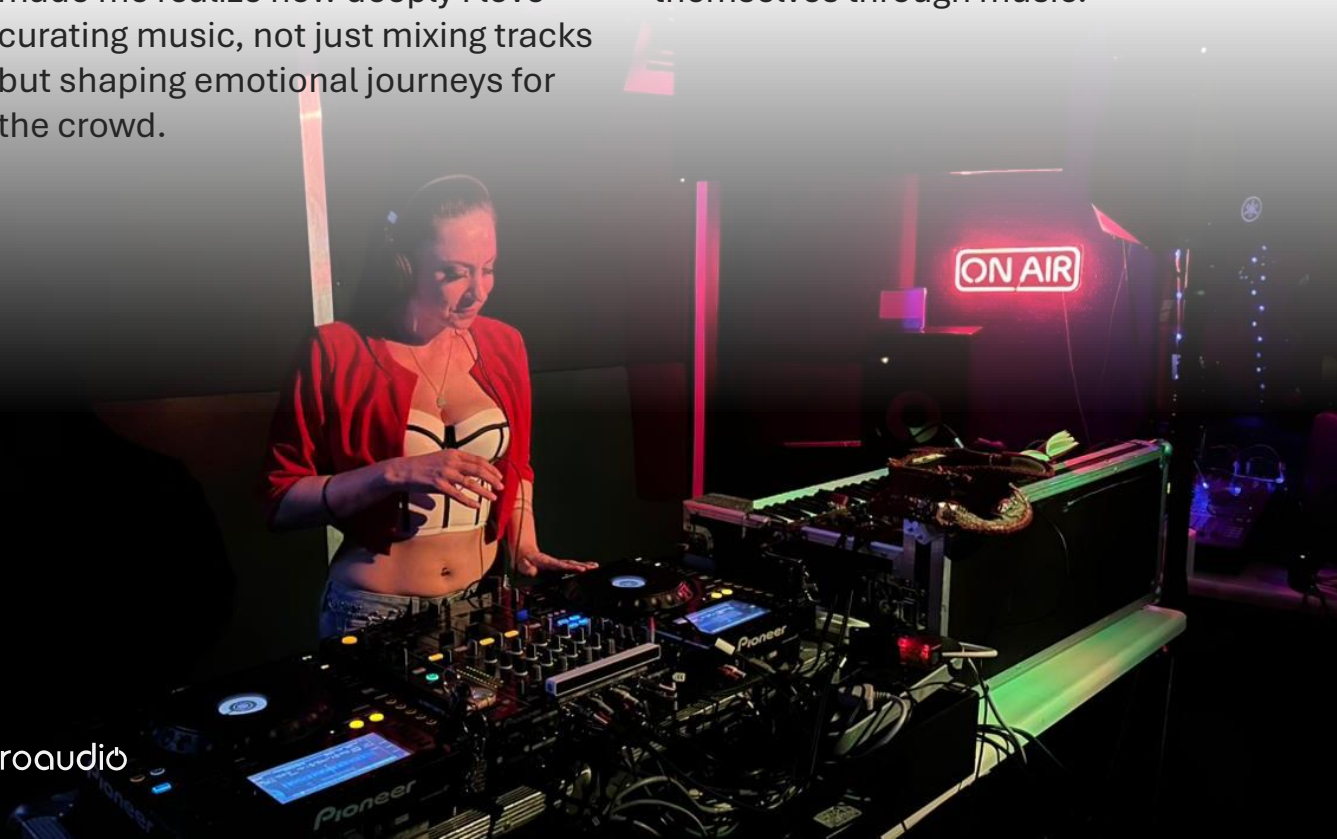
Another defining moment was playing alongside DJ Dirkie Coetzee at We Are Trance—that collaboration made me realize how deeply I love curating music, not just mixing tracks but shaping emotional journeys for the crowd.

**SP** Your sets are described as emotional journeys and even therapeutic experiences. How do you approach crafting a set that resonates so deeply with your audience?



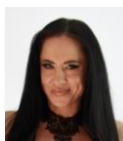
I approach every set like writing a story. There's a beginning that invites, a build that excites, a climax that liberates, and a resolution that soothes. I think about how people might feel when they arrive, and where I want them emotionally by the end.

It's less about technical perfection and more about creating a safe, immersive space where people can let go, heal, and celebrate themselves through music.





**SP** You're known for being incredibly diverse across genres. How do you balance experimenting with new sounds while staying true to the core of who you are as an artist?



Experimentation is essential—I'm always exploring new sounds, textures, and rhythms. But my anchor is melody and emotion. That's the compass that keeps me true to myself.

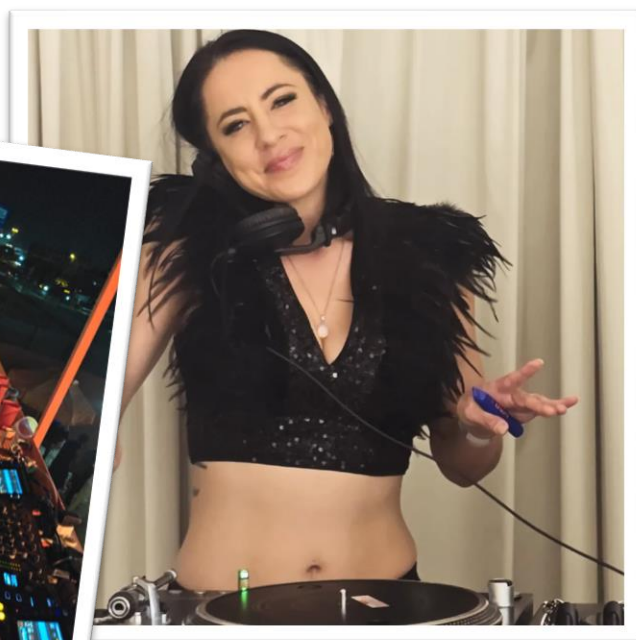
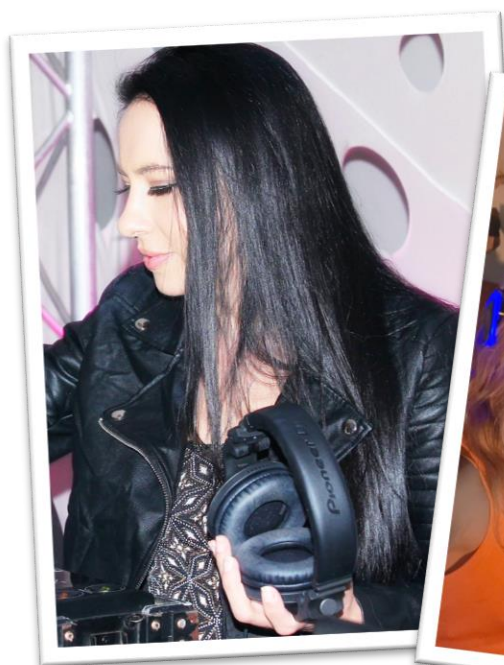
No matter how far I push into techno's intensity or house's groove, the thread of storytelling through sound remains constant. It allows me to evolve without losing the essence of who I am as an artist.

**SP** From intimate crowds to massive festival stages, your energy always connects. What do you find most rewarding about performing live?



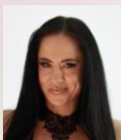
The most rewarding part is connection. Watching a crowd move as one, seeing someone close their eyes and surrender to the music—that's magic. Whether it's fifty people in an intimate club or thousands at a festival, the shared energy is unforgettable.

It's not just performance; it's communion. That exchange of energy between artist and audience is what keeps me chasing the next stage.





**As you continue pushing creative boundaries, what exciting projects, goals, or evolutions can fans look forward to from DJ Justine in 2026?**



In 2026, my focus is firmly on trance—my niche, my heartbeat. I'm working on producing my own track to bring fresh life back into the genre while staying authentic and true to my roots. Fans can expect to see me at more events and clubs, and yes, I'm pursuing the dream of playing at H2O again—hint hint!

Another big dream is to share the stage with my female DJ idol, Nifra, who's set to play at We Are Trance on January 31st, 2026. For me, it's about authenticity, passion, and keeping trance alive in every set.



**“I want every set to feel like a journey — a place where the crowd can lose themselves and find themselves at the same time.”**

*— DJ Justine*

Her authenticity, emotional depth, and unwavering passion set her apart, and each performance becomes another chapter in a story she's writing in real time.

For fans and newcomers alike, DJ Justine is not just one to watch — she's one to experience.

AlphaTheta



## Unlock Instant Inspiration

Music creation has never been more accessible, and AlphaTheta's ChordCat arrives as the tool designed to make songwriting effortless, musical, and fun. Whether you're a DJ stepping into production, a beginner learning harmony, or a seasoned creator looking for fast inspiration, ChordCat gives you the power to build rich musical progressions with just a touch. It isn't just a MIDI controller — it's a musical companion that turns ideas into harmony instantly.





# Harmony at Your Fingertips

ChordCat is built around a simple idea: anybody can make beautiful chord progressions.

With its intuitive button layout and cleverly designed chord engine, it becomes easy to explore new musical ideas without needing deep theory knowledge.

Press a button, and suddenly you're playing lush major chords, emotional minors, suspended textures, extended harmonies, and more.

Stack them, rearrange them, experiment — everything is designed to keep creativity moving.

ChordCat removes the fear of “What chord comes next?” and replaces it with “What can I discover next?”



## A Perfect Fit for Modern Producers

In production, speed matters. When you feel an idea, you want to capture it instantly — not get stuck searching for chords or scrolling menus.

ChordCat gives producers a quick, tactile way to shape musical foundations:

- Build chord progressions in seconds
- Trigger inversions, variations, and voicings effortlessly
- Lay down harmonic ideas before inspiration fades
- Explore new emotional palettes you may not have discovered on your own

It's a workflow enhancer for beat-makers, singer-songwriters, electronic producers, and anyone who wants richer musicality in their tracks.







## Designed to Learn With You

One of ChordCat's biggest strengths is how naturally it supports learning. As you experiment, you begin to understand what different chords *feel* like, how progressions move, and why certain combinations create certain moods.

It's a hands-on music theory teacher without ever feeling like one.

**Beginners use it to learn.**

**Intermediate creators use it to grow.**

**Professionals use it to work faster.**

## Integration That Just Works

ChordCat plugs into your DAW or production setup and instantly becomes part of your creative workflow.

It's lightweight, compact, and built for portability — perfect for bedroom studios, live performance rigs, DJ booths, or producers who create on the move.


**Its simplicity is its power:** no complex setups, no overwhelming software layers, just a clean, inspiring interface.

## Why ChordCat Matters

In a world full of powerful tools, ChordCat stands out because it delivers something often overlooked in music creation: **musical confidence**.

- It gives beginners the courage to explore.
- It gives producers new pathways to inspiration.
- It gives professionals a faster route from emotion to execution.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand, with a finger pointing at a button on a black MIDI controller. The controller features a grid of buttons, some with green LEDs, and a central touchpad. The background is a dark, textured surface.

ChordCat turns harmony into a playground  
— and every button is an invitation to create.







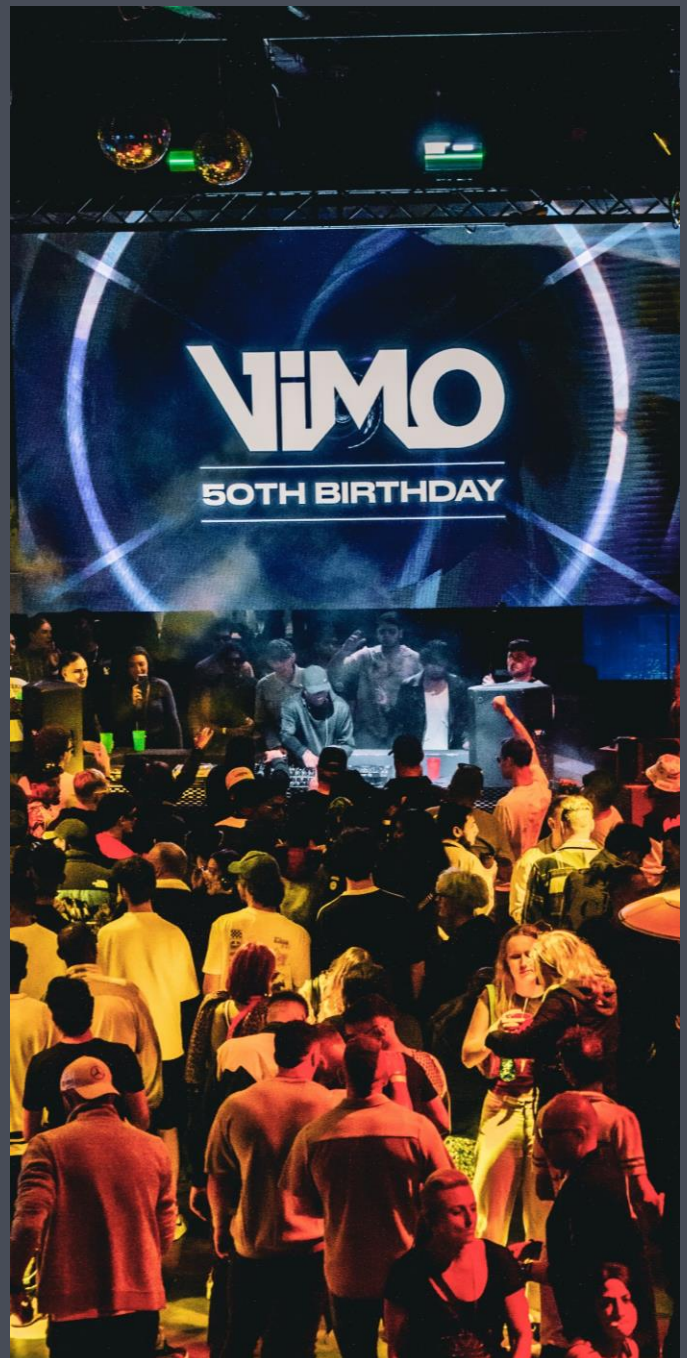
# VIMO

From the early days of Port Elizabeth's underground scene to dance floors across the world, **Vimo** has built a career defined by consistency, evolution, and an unwavering love for house music.

With roots in iconic local institutions like **Sugar Sundays at Truth Nightclub**, his journey mirrors the growth of South Africa's electronic music culture itself — resilient, forward-thinking, and globally respected.

More than two decades behind the decks have shaped Vimo into more than just a DJ. He is an artist, a tastemaker, and a brand — known for bouncy, uplifting energy that connects instantly with the crowd while staying true to the essence of authentic house music.

In this interview, Vimo reflects on his journey, the evolution of the scene, and the mindset that keeps him relevant in an ever-changing industry.



**SP** Your journey started in Port Elizabeth and eventually took you to global stages. Looking at where you are now, how do you feel your sound and identity as an artist have evolved over the years?



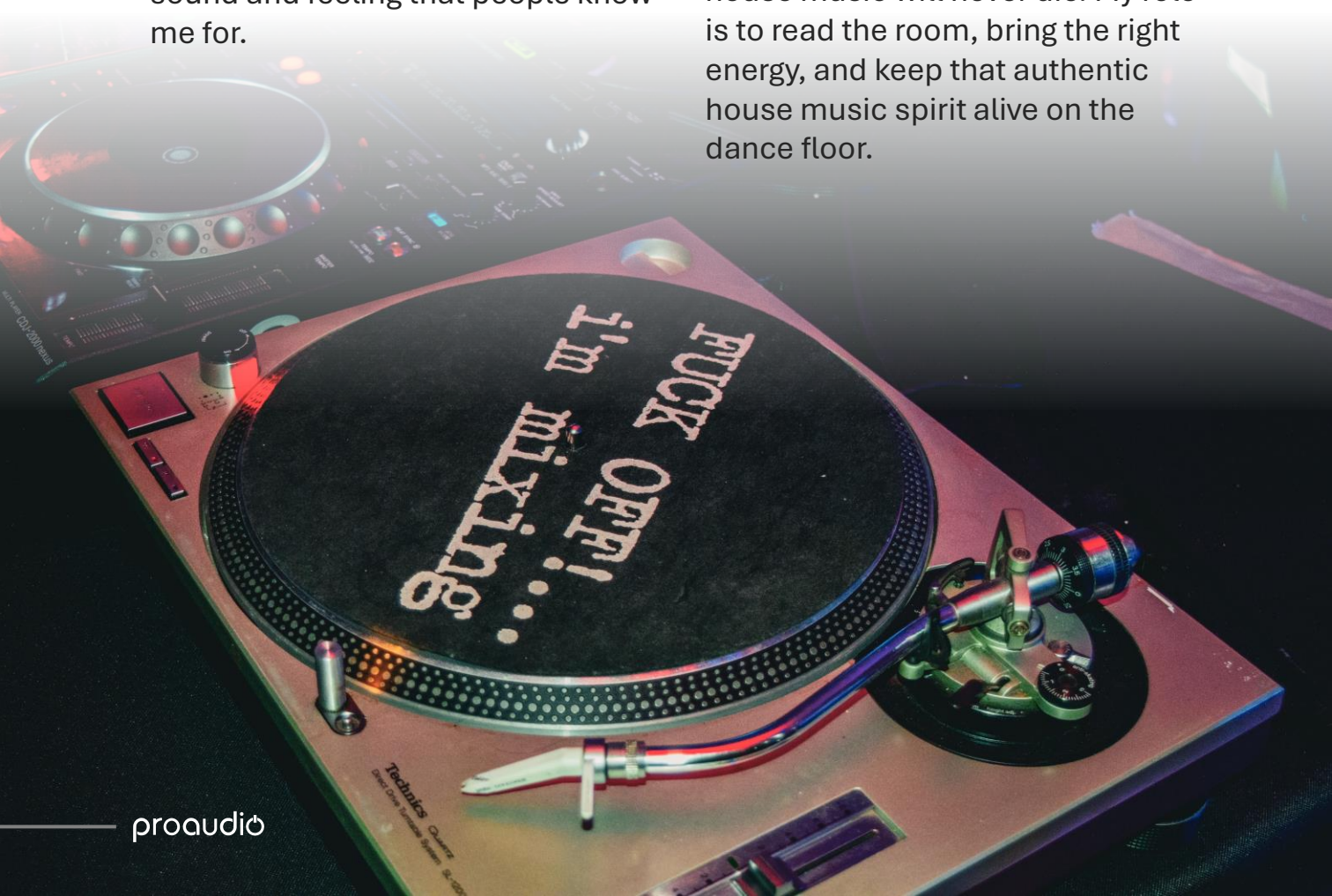
My sound has always carried a certain energy, bouncy, uplifting and made for people who are up for it on the dance floor. Over the years, my identity has grown beyond just being a DJ.

I've evolved into both an artist and a brand, while still staying true to the sound and feeling that people know me for.

**SP** From “Sugar Sundays” at Truth Nightclub to the current South African nightlife scene – how do you think the culture and energy of local dance floors have changed, and what role do you feel you play in shaping that energy today?



The culture, sound and vibe are always changing, especially with trends and what's popular at the time. The key is adapting your sound without losing your identity. Music will always evolve, but I truly believe house music will never die. My role is to read the room, bring the right energy, and keep that authentic house music spirit alive on the dance floor.







**You've played in countries like Dubai, Hong Kong, Vietnam and more. Are there any new international destinations or recent tours that have influenced your approach to DJing in 2025?**



South Africa has a very strong and influential music culture, and honestly, I haven't felt the need to change my approach based on international trends. We're quite forward-thinking here, and our sound often leads rather than follows. That confidence in our local music continues to shape how I play, wherever I am in the world.



**After such a long and varied career, what currently inspires you the most behind the decks, and how do you keep your sets feeling fresh and relevant for today's audiences?**



It's always been the music. That hasn't changed. Keeping my sets fresh comes down to constant research and digging for the newest, freshest beats. I've always believed that as DJs, part of our job is to educate the crowd musically while still making sure everyone is having a good time.







**You've always been a strong supporter of South African music. How do you see the local electronic music scene right now, and what excites you most about where it's heading?**



South African electronic music is globally recognised, and the level of talent here is incredible. There are so many producers and DJs pushing boundaries, and I'm excited to see what the next generation comes up with. The future of our scene looks very strong.



**Electronic music has shifted a lot with the rise of streaming, AI tools, and evolving sub-genres. How have you adapted your creative process to stay fresh while keeping your signature sound?**



Streaming has become a big part of how I discover and access music. That said, I'm still very old school in many ways. I haven't really used AI in my music, and I still rely on methods that have worked for me over the years. It's about adapting to new technology where it makes sense but ultimately doing what works for you as an artist.







**With decades of experience behind you, how has your creative mindset changed when preparing for sets or new music compared to earlier in your career?**



To be honest, my set preparation hasn't changed much over the years. I've developed a simple method that works for me, and I stick to it. Experience has taught me to trust my instincts more and let the music guide the journey.



**You've built a loyal fanbase over two decades. What message do you have for your supporters, and what exciting projects, releases, or events should we look forward to from Vimo in the near future?**



I just want to say thank you to everyone who supports me. Without you, there's no DJ, no vibe and no parties. Your support means everything. I've got some really exciting projects in the works for next year, so keep an ear out, there's a lot more coming.

With decades of experience guiding his instincts, Vimo remains deeply rooted in what matters most: the music, the crowd, and the shared energy of the dance floor.

His respect for South African sound, combined with an openness to evolution without compromise, continues to define his presence both locally and internationally.

As he looks ahead to new projects and performances, one thing is certain — Vimo's journey is far from over.

Grounded, grateful, and still driven by the same passion that started it all, he continues to prove that longevity in electronic music is built on authenticity, trust in your craft, and never losing touch with the people who dance to your sound.

Pioneer

proaudio

Pioneer Dj





**“Music will always evolve, but house music will never die — it’s about adapting without losing who you are.”**

*— Vimo*

Pioneer Dj

 AlphaTheta

# The Art of Mixing, Reimagined

Every so often, a mixer arrives that changes the landscape — not by reinventing the wheel, but by refining every surface, every texture, every sonic decision with purpose.

The **AlphaTheta Euphonia** is exactly that: a rotary mixer crafted for DJs who value musicality, nuance, and the emotional flow of a set above all else.

Euphonia is not built to impress with complexity. It's built to make music feel *alive* again.





## Where Craftsmanship Meets Performance

At first glance, the Euphonia stands apart. Its rotary knobs, warm color palette, and elegant layout echo the philosophy of classic rotary mixers — but with the precision, DSP innovation, and reliability that define the AlphaTheta brand today.

This is a mixer created for DJs who want deeper connection, smoother transitions, and a more expressive way to sculpt sound. Every knob feels deliberate. Every curve feels musical.

## A Signature Sound Engine

Euphonia's sound is unmistakably rich. AlphaTheta developed a custom audio architecture designed to deliver detail, warmth, and dynamic presence — the kind of character vinyl selectors, deep house DJs, and techno purists crave.

- **Pristine, transparent highs**
- **Warming, musical mids**
- **Tight, controlled low-end response**
- **A harmonic depth that lifts every transition**

It isn't just about mixing tracks — it's about blending emotion.

# The Beauty of Rotary Control

Rotary mixers have always offered a unique, fluid feel, and Euphonia refines that experience.

Its large knobs allow smoother blends, more delicate transitions, and a sense of performance that fader-based mixers can't quite replicate.

**Each movement feels intentional.**

**Each adjustment shapes the atmosphere.**

**The mixer responds like an instrument rather than a machine.**

For long-form mixing, deep grooves, and immersive sets, rotary control is simply unmatched.



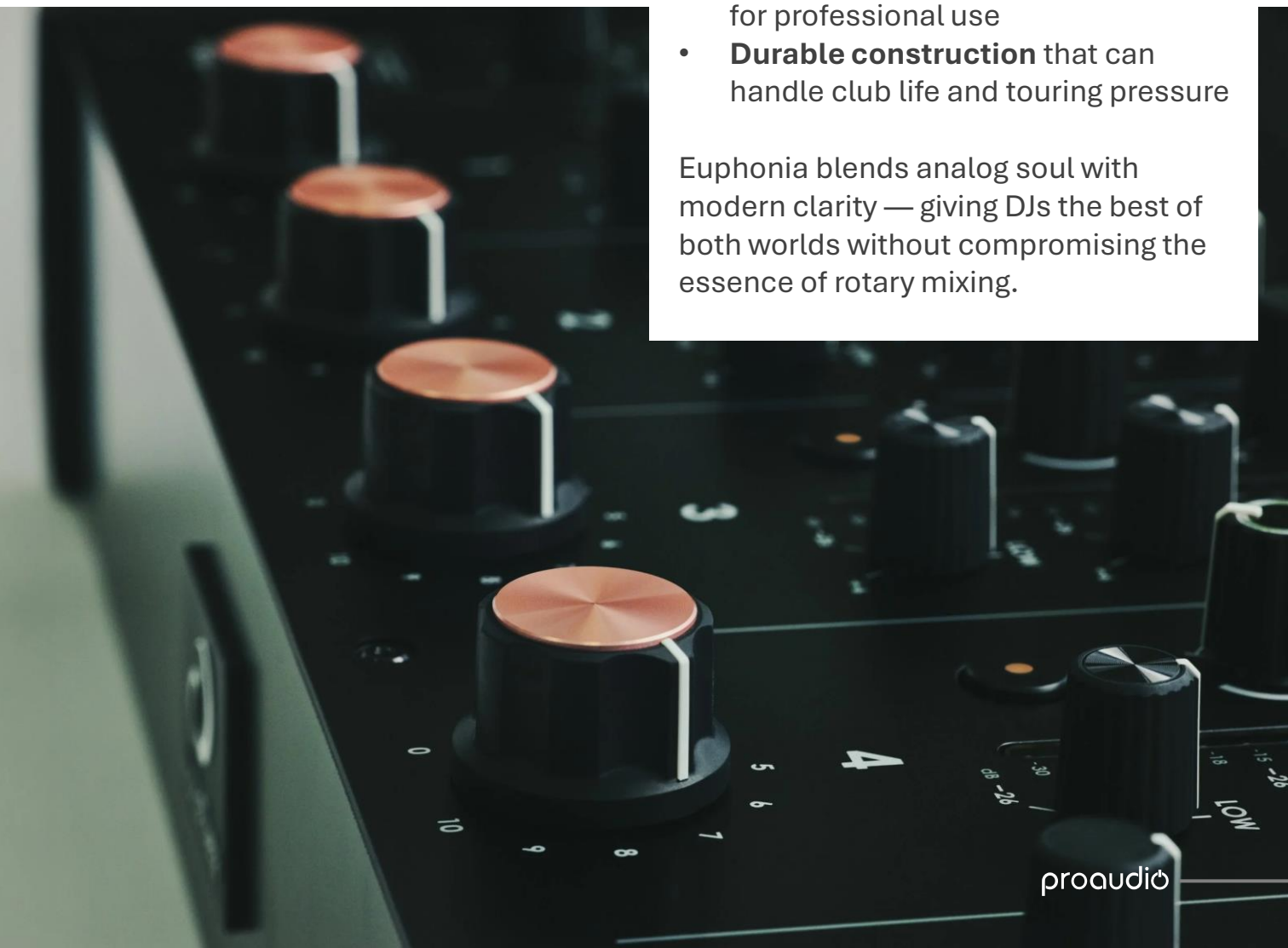


## Modern Tools Where They Matter

While its design honors the past, Euphonia brings powerful contemporary features to the table:

- **High-resolution digital processing** for pristine sound
- **Smooth 3-band isolators** for sculpting energy across the spectrum
- **Thoughtfully placed FX routing** for creative expression
- **A robust input/output stage** built for professional use
- **Durable construction** that can handle club life and touring pressure

Euphonia blends analog soul with modern clarity — giving DJs the best of both worlds without compromising the essence of rotary mixing.







## A Mixer Made for Atmosphere Architects

Euphonia is aimed at a special kind of DJ — those who shape environments, not just playlists. It's for deep lounges, vinyl bars, underground rooms, sunset sessions, and festival moments where the mix itself becomes the performance.

If your style is about layering grooves, building tension, and crafting emotional arcs, Euphonia becomes an extension of your musical identity.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a black mesh top and large headphones, is focused on her DJing. She is positioned behind a wooden desk that holds a Pioneer DJ turntable with a vinyl record, a mixer, and a CD player. The background is a large wooden shelf filled with hundreds of vinyl records. To the right, a small potted plant sits on the desk. The overall atmosphere is warm and professional.

## Why Euphonia Matters

In a DJ market filled with screens, layers, modes, and endless digital possibilities, Euphonia is a quiet revolution.

It simplifies in order to elevate. It slows you down so the music can breathe. It invites intention, feel, and presence back into the booth.

Euphonia reminds us that mixing is an art — and the right instrument makes all the difference.





## **PowerWorks Groove-Box Duo – Portable Power for Any Performance**

The **PowerWorks Groove-Box Duo** is a compact yet powerful portable PA system designed for musicians, DJs, presenters, and small event setups.

Featuring **two 12" 2-way vented speakers** and a versatile **8-channel mixer**, it delivers an impressive **200W RMS** of clear, reliable sound powered by a built-in Class AB amplifier.





The mixer gives you everything you need to shape your performance:

- **8 mic/line inputs**
- **USB/SD MP3 playback**
- **Per-channel bass and treble EQ**
- **Built-in echo effects**
- **5-band graphic equalizer** for overall tone control



With a wide **45Hz–20kHz frequency response** and **95dB sensitivity**, the Groove-Box Duo produces punchy lows, clean mids, and crisp highs — ideal for live music, speeches, parties, and outdoor events.

Easy to transport and quick to set up, it includes the mixer, speakers, and all necessary cables.

The Groove-Box Duo offers a complete, portable sound solution for performers who need great audio anywhere.

# A DJ Headphone Built for Real-World Mixing

PowerWorks HPW-1000







## Every DJ knows that one ear tells the crowd's story, and the other tells yours.

The **PowerWorks HPW-1000 Mono Hand-Held DJ Headphone** is designed for that moment — the split-second decisions, the tight transitions, and the constant movement behind the decks.

Built for comfort, clarity, and flexibility, the HPW-1000 gives DJs the confidence to stay locked into their mix no matter how loud the club gets.

Lightweight, durable, and engineered with precision, this headphone is the perfect companion for professionals and aspiring DJs who need reliability without compromise.



## Engineered for Clear, Powerful Monitoring

The heart of the HPW-1000 is its **Ø 45mm neodymium driver**, a powerful transducer capable of delivering the punch DJs need when cueing the next track.

Expect:

- Deep, controlled bass
- Clean mids
- Crisp highs
- A rich, balanced tone across genres

With a frequency response of **10–22,000 Hz**, the headphone captures everything — from sub-bass rumble to bright melodic detail. Combine that with its **96 dB/mW sensitivity**, and you get loud, clear sound even without high output levels. Ideal for any mixer or controller.

## Flexibility That Matches Your Mixing Style

DJs all monitor differently — some on the ear, some off, some holding the cup like an instrument.

The HPW-1000 embraces that diversity.

- **Movable earpiece** for perfect angle positioning
- **Ergonomic padded handle** for a secure, comfortable grip
- Lightweight build at just **152g**

The result is a headphone that feels natural in your hand and adapts to your workflow, not the other way around. Whether you're beatmatching, cueing vocals, or catching a quick loop transition, the HPW-1000 moves with you.



## A Cable Built for Movement

DJs aren't static, and neither should their cables be. The **4m spiral cable** gives plenty of freedom to move around the booth without feeling restricted. Its stretch and flexibility make it excellent for active DJs, scratch artists, and performers who work across larger setups.

The connection is equally reliable, featuring:

- **XLR to 6.3mm stereo jack**

A strong, secure connection perfect for mixers, interfaces, and professional sound systems.

You plug it in once — and trust it all night.

## Why DJs Love the HPW-1000

The PowerWorks HPW-1000 stands out for one simple reason: it was designed from a DJ's point of view. Everything — from the driver size to the handle grip — exists to make monitoring fast, precise, and enjoyable.

DJs will appreciate:

- Clear monitoring in loud venues
- Extremely comfortable handling
- Lightweight design for long sets
- Versatility across all genres
- Rugged build for club and touring use

For DJs stepping into their first gigs or for professionals who want a reliable mono handheld headphone in their arsenal, the **HPW-1000** is an essential, dependable tool built to perform night after night.





**audio-technica**

**Where Modern Precision  
Meets Vintage Style**





## A Turntable That Looks as Good as It Sounds

One of the first things people notice is the turntable's elegant **walnut veneer plinth**. It gives the AT-LPW40WN a warm, vintage feel that fits perfectly into any living room, studio, or entertainment space.

But the plinth isn't just about looks — its dense construction helps reduce vibration, allowing the stylus to track cleanly and deliver clearer, more natural sound.

### This is design with purpose.

The return of vinyl has reminded the world of something important: music isn't just heard, it's *felt*. And few turntables capture that feeling better than the **Audio-Technica AT-LPW40WN** — a beautifully designed, easy-to-use turntable that blends warm analog sound with modern engineering.

It's perfect for listeners who want premium audio without complicated setup or high-end pricing.

From its sleek wooden finish to its high-fidelity components, the AT-LPW40WN is built to make every record sound alive again.



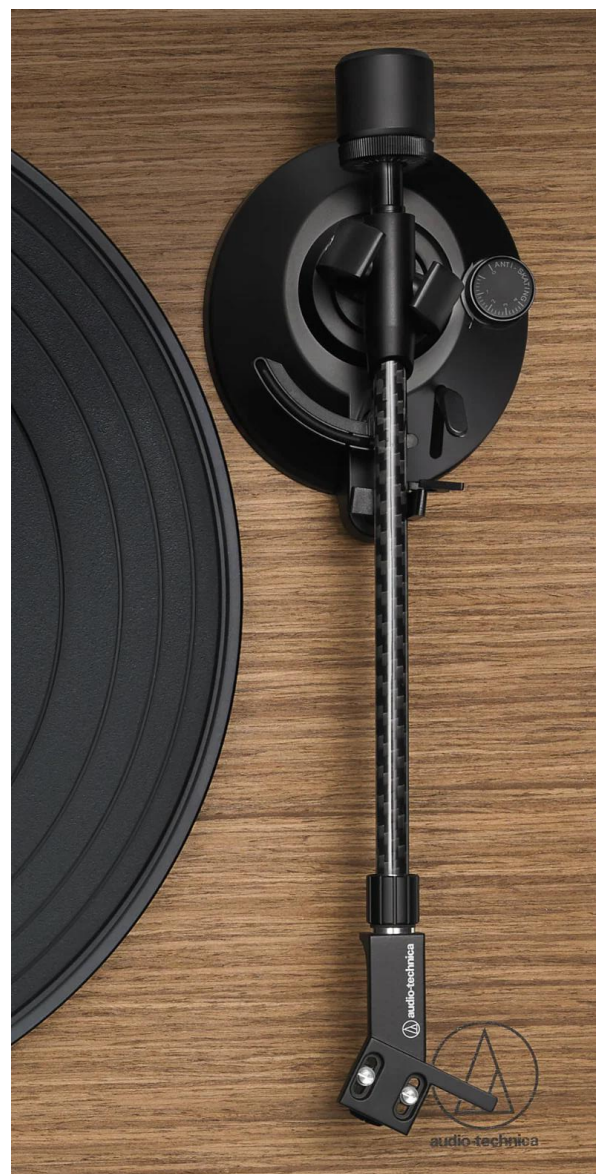
## High-Fidelity Performance, Made Simple

Audio-Technica built this turntable for true music lovers — whether you're new to vinyl or rediscovering your collection.

Here's what makes it shine:

- **Fully manual belt-drive operation**  
Gives you direct control for a pure, analog listening experience.
- **Carbon-fiber tonearm**  
Lightweight, stable, and designed to reduce distortion.
- **AT-VM95E cartridge (pre-installed)**  
A highly respected cartridge known for crisp detail and accurate sound.
- **\*\* Adjustable anti-skate and dynamic control\*\***  
Ensures smooth tracking and minimal wear on your records.

You get audiophile-level performance in a setup that anyone can master.







## Modern Convenience, Vintage Soul

While the AT-LPW40WN is a fully analog turntable, it includes smart features to make everyday listening easy:

- **Built-in switchable phono preamp**  
Connect it to almost any sound system — powered speakers, receivers, DJ gear, or home audio setups — without needing extra equipment.
- **Two playback speeds (33⅓ and 45 RPM)**  
Perfect for LPs and singles.

This combination of analog sound and modern flexibility makes it ideal for both casual listeners and serious collectors.



## The Sound: Warm, Detailed, and Truly Alive

At its core, this turntable is all about delivering the emotional richness of vinyl:

- Full, warm low-end
- Clear, expressive mids
- Smooth, detailed treble
- A balanced, natural sound signature

The AT-VM95E cartridge captures nuances many digital listeners forget existed — from subtle room reverb on acoustic recordings to the depth of classic soul and jazz.

It's the kind of sound that makes you want to sit down, relax, and listen to an entire album from start to finish.



## Why the AT-LPW40WN Is Worth It

The Audio-Technica AT-LPW40WN hits a rare sweet spot: premium sound, stunning aesthetics, and user-friendly design — all at a price far below many audiophile turntables.

It's perfect for anyone who wants a reliable, great-sounding turntable that's built to last, without the complexity or cost of higher-tier models.

For music lovers looking to elevate their home listening experience, the AT-LPW40WN is a beautiful place to start.





# MIDAS

The Next Evolution of Live Mixing





For decades, Midas has been synonymous with world-class sound, rugged construction, and legendary mixing consoles.

The **Cobalt** series continues that legacy — but with a modern philosophy that pushes live sound engineering into a new era of power, speed, and simplicity. Engineers who step behind a Cobalt console don't just mix.

They *command* the room.

## A Console Built for Modern Demands

Live events have become more complex, more dynamic, and more technically demanding. Midas designed Cobalt to meet this challenge with next-generation processing, ultra-fast workflow tools, and a sound engine that carries the unmistakable warmth and precision Midas is known for.

Every control, every layout decision, and every DSP pathway exists for one reason: **To give engineers total confidence under pressure.**



## The Signature Midas Sound, Reinvented

At the heart of Cobalt is a pristine sound architecture built to deliver clarity and musical depth across every input and output. This is where Midas has always excelled — and Cobalt raises the bar.

- Rich, natural preamps with incredible headroom
- Transparent, detailed mids
- Tight, controlled low frequencies
- Smooth, musical dynamics
- Studio-grade effects and processing

Whether you're mixing orchestras, rock bands, worship events, or touring productions, Cobalt produces a sound that feels both modern and unmistakably Midas.

## A Workflow Designed for Speed

Cobalt consoles are built for engineers who need fast access, clear visibility, and intuitive control during high-pressure shows. From its streamlined UI to its deep routing flexibility, every part of the workflow is designed to reduce thinking time and increase mixing time.

- Clear, touch-enabled interface
- Lightning-fast navigation
- Smart layer management
- Seamless access to processing, routing, and FX
- Instant recall for shows, scenes, and presets

When the crowd is loud, the lights are bright, and timing is critical, Cobalt stays calm — and keeps you in control.





## Powerful DSP for Serious Performance

Under the hood, Cobalt features a high-performance DSP engine capable of handling demanding input counts, complex effects chains, and modern live production requirements.

Engineers get the freedom to run deep processing without worrying about hitting limits.

From large festival stages to corporate AV, Cobalt delivers the horsepower needed for today's events.

## Built to Tour, Built to Last

True to the Midas name, Cobalt consoles are built for real-world conditions — dusty stages, hot tents, cold arenas, long nights, and constant travel. The chassis is solid, the controls are rugged, and the internal architecture is engineered for reliability.

For rental companies, production houses, touring engineers, and fixed installs, Cobalt offers long-term value backed by the durability Midas is known for.



# Why Engineers Choose Cobalt

Cobalt succeeds because it blends three crucial elements:

- **The legendary Midas sound.**
- **A faster, more intuitive workflow.**
- **And the power required for modern productions.**

It's a console designed not just to meet industry standards, but to elevate them — giving engineers the precision, musicality, and confidence they need to deliver unforgettable shows.





SP MAGAZINE

# COBALT

HyperMac to USB3 Converter  
with up to 192 Bidirectional  
Channels and Sample  
Rate Conversion

MIDAS COBALT

Single Single USB  
best of show 2024  
HyperHyperMac  
stat status  
Winner  
24-bit 24-bit a  
switchable

ection  
nt  
HyperMac  
EDS

on with  
sample rate of  
team

MIDAS



# proaudio

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 **audio-technica** **dBTechnologies**



**MIDAS**



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