DJ LIFE, GEAR, & PROFESSIONAL AUDIO





WELCOME

to the December 2025 Edition

As 2025 draws to a close, this final issue celebrates the pulse of South Africa's DJ culture — the artists shaping rooms and the gear powering their craft.

In our Top 10 DJs of 2025/26 countdown, we honour Black Coffee at Number One, whose career redefined South African house music as a global language. At Number Two, Uncle Waffles represents the energy-first wave that broke barriers for a new generation of African DJs. The countdown also includes influential names like Kabza de Small, DJ Kent, DJ Zinhle, Shimza, Prince Kaybee, Black Motion, Culoe de Song, and Sun-El Musician — artists whose work continues steering sonic identity, cultural momentum, and DJ aspiration.

For the Top 5 DJ Gear in South Africa (2025), we chose the booth ecosystem that refuses compromise — all Pioneer DJ and AlphaTheta. The CDJ-3000X leads, trusted from club to festival to broadcast. The DJM-A9 follows, a console-minded mixer built for control and nuance. In the centre sits the XDJ-XZ, a universal all-rounder for DJs who own their rig. The DDJ-REV7 brings performance physicality without chaos, and the XDJ-700 remains the compact player built for big ambition in smaller rooms.

And, speaking of stages
becoming rooms, the Proaudio
Red Room has rapidly become
one of SA's hottest live-set
incubators, already hosting Lady
Lea, Chunda Munki, DJ Avi, Malik
Faquir, DJ Aidin Caye, DJ Buhle,
VIMO, Skelm, and Les Afrique,
with powerhouse sets coming
soon from the Godfathers,
Tamara Dey, Latique, Jon S,
Austin Cassim, Weston & Engine
next year — plus Abby Nurock
stepping in 2026 and
collaborations already loading.

Thank you for reading, listening, and supporting sound that elevates DJs, inspires engineers, and strengthens the signal into the future.

The room is getting hot.

And 2026 is loading.

Welcome to December SoundPress.

Keep the music alive Proaudio Sound Press Team



Proaudio (+27) 011 608 2099

DIRECTOR Joss Pack (ext. 17)

SALES MANAGER Justin Nel (ext. 14) PRO SALES Gareth J Roberts (ext. 15)

INTERNAL SALES Ivor Pack (ext. 16)
INTERNAL SALES Matthew Huma (ext. 27)

EXTERNAL SALES Sarel Ras (ext. 20)
EXTERNAL SALES Richard Theunissen (ext. 21)
EXTERNAL SALES Graham Lowndes (ext. 12)
EXTERNAL SALES Ridge Hutchinson (ext. 26)

ACCOUNTS Deanne Keiser (ext. 29)
ACCOUNTS Leanne Cohen (ext. 11)
ACCOUNTS Tanya Dos Santos (ext. 23)

SERVICE MANAGER Pieter Preller (ext. 13) SPARES Brandon Schmidt (ext. 24)

RECEPTION Nathon Schmidt (ext. 12)

MARKETING Teagan Cousins (ext. 19) MARKETING Daniel J Bungay (ext. 18)













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.



JGEAR

40 TOP 5

DJ Gear for 2026

Each piece of gear selected in our 2026 countdown reflects a different DJ mandate — from compact studio refinement to battlestyle physicality, monitor clarity under stage pressure, AV backbone reliability, to the fully immersive universe of a professional booth.



Contents

DJLIFE

16 Proaudio RED ROOM

In 2025, the invitation was clear: give DJs a room to record their vision, let the crowd feel it later, and make the booth collaboration ready for artists who refuse technical compromise but demand emotional impact.

32 TOP 10 South Africa DJ's

For the December 2025 SoundPress edition, we selected our Top 10 DJs as a countdown not on hype alone, but on influence, sonic contribution, crowd connection, career impact, and future-shaping consistency.

60 Academy of Sound Engineering

DJ Essentials

In 2025, Academy of Sound Engineering introduced its first flagship DJ programme, shaped by unprecedented demand and high enquiry volumes.

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

ARTS S



South African DJ and producer Nompumelelo Rosetta Hlatshwayo, better known as Rosetta D33P, has emerged as one of the most emotionally resonant voices in the deep house landscape.

AIDIN CAYE



Aidin Caye is a South
African DJ and producer
whose career began at
16 with early residencies
across Johannesburg's
East Rand, where he
learned to interpret
crowds and shape
energy through sound.

ALEX BREITLING



Alex Breitling is a
German DJ and
producer from Koblenz
whose name has
become synonymous
with emotive, bassdriven melodic
electronic music.

PRO GEAR

68 STUDIO MEETS SOUL

In 2025, KRK extended that legacy into the home and project studio space with the Kreate Series, a line designed to bridge accessible design with intentional musical expression.

72 COMPACT AMPLIFICATION

For a generation of audio professionals juggling performance expectations with very real budget limits, the **Lab Gruppen IPX Series** has become a quiet powerhouse that speaks loudly through results, not size.

76 POWER that Thinks, SOUND that Feels.



The Turbosound iQ Series was designed for sound engineers who demand more from their PA than raw wattage.

80 HK Audio Linear 9

A new benchmark for professional sound reinforcement, built for rental companies, touring engineers, DJs, and venues that need serious output, clean fidelity, and flexible deployment.







South African DJ and producer **Nompumelelo Rosetta Hlatshwayo**, better known as **Rosetta D33P**, has emerged as one of the most emotionally resonant voices in the deep house landscape.

Since stepping into the scene in 2019 under the mentorship of the Godfathers of Deep House SA, Rosetta has crafted a signature sound defined by healing, connection, and soulful depth. Her mixtapes have reached millions worldwide, her performances have crossed borders, and her presence has graced platforms from *Uzalo* to *DJ Mix Live* on DStv.

Beyond music, she leads **D33P Matters**, a clothing and events brand rooted in empowerment and community. In this conversation, Rosetta opens up about her journey, her purpose, and the transformative force behind her art.

Setta







Rosetta, thank you for joining us! For those who might be discovering your work for the first time, how would you describe who Rosetta D33P is - both as a DJ and as a person behind the decks?



I am an international DJ, producer, and creative visionary whose sound

transcends borders. My sound is more than music, its energy, healing and connection. Music is my language, my bridge, and my way of connecting with the world without words.

I'm driven by intention. I love doing mixtapes and every mix, every set, every moment behind the decks is designed to shift energy to uplift, to unify, to ignite something real. Music has become my sanctuary, and from that sanctuary I have built a world where others could find their own healing.

My mixtapes have reached millions around the globe, but beyond the numbers, It's the messages from people who felt seen, revived, or inspired through my sound. That is the core of my brand ,Music that moves you-physically, emotionally, spiritually.

I see music as a transformative force, one that heals, empowers, and connects us on a deeper level. Every time I step behind the decks, my intention is to share light, spark emotion, and remind people of their own power.

My mission is to keep evolving, keep learning, and keep using my art to build community, inspire growth, and spread love through sound.

You started your music journey in 2019 under the mentorship of the Godfathers of Deep House SA. How did that experience shape your sound and approach to deep house music?



They played a huge role in shaping my journey. Before I had any audience of my own,

they gave me a platform to showcase my mixtapes. At that time, I didn't have much confidence on myself as an artist. I was just experimenting, learning, and figuring out my sound. But once my mixes went up on their platforms, the response was way bigger than I expected. I received a lot of views, positive comments, support, even gigs.

Seeing those numbers climb in the early days was a turning point. It made me realize that people actually connected with what I was doing. That validation gave me a confidence I didn't have before. It pushed me to keep going, to make more mixes, to develop my style, and eventually to feel comfortable releasing and promoting my own mixtapes independently.

In a way, their platform was a springboard. It helped me understand that my sound had potential and that I could build something real with it. Without that early exposure and the boost it gave me, I probably wouldn't have moved forward with the same drive and consistency. Their support helped me find my direction and stay committed.

I now believe so much in mixtapes because of what I have achieve through them. They made it easy for me to connect with people anywhere in the world.





Your sound feels both refined and deeply emotional - how did you develop that balance between technical skill and soulful expression?



When I'm on the decks, I get to be a completely free person. The music takes

control and moves me. That's where the balance comes from. When you're authentic, you experience the music directly and you express yourself honestly. The technical side becomes second nature.

Once you have a clear emotional direction for your set, everything aligns—the flow, the transitions, the energy. however I still had to study the technical part and practice endlessly. but once the foundation was there, expression became the force that carried everything forward.

Your mixtapes on YouTube have gained a lot of attention and connected deeply with listeners. What do you think makes your mixes so emotionally resonant with your audience?



My mixtapes are the purest form of expression. Growing up, I struggled to express

myself with words, so music became the place where I could finally speak without words. Every mixtape tells a story through emotion, mood, and sound instead of sentences. Music is powerful like that, it reaches people in ways words sometimes can't.

Another thing I love about mixtapes is how they can become part of someone's daily routine. People listen at the gym, on long drives, during late-night studying, even while spring cleaning. For an hour or more, they're basically spending time with me. So I feel like if I'm given that space in someone's day, I want to use it to brighten their mood, give them energy, or inspire them. That's what gives me purpose knowing that the music I make can add something positive to someone's life.

Each mix has real inspiration behind it, which is why I name them after the feeling or story that shaped them instead of using episode numbers. I think listeners can feel that authenticity, and that's what creates the connection.



You've performed on major stages both locally and internationally. Is there a particular performance or event that stands out as a defining moment in your career so far?



I go into every gig with a clean heart, no matter where I am. The location, the size of

the crowd, the prestige of the stage none of that is what truly defines a moment for me. Some of the most powerful, life-changing experiences I've had in my career happened in places I never imagined myself being, sometimes even places I didn't know existed until music brought me there.

What really stands out to me is the connection, the way a song can shift the energy in a room, touch someone's heart, or bring people together who would've never crossed paths otherwise. Those moments remind me why I do what I do.

So rather than pointing to one specific show or city, I'd say the defining moments are the ones where I can feel the impact in real time. It might be on a major international stage or in a small venue somewhere off the map.



When the music resonates, when I see people feeling something genuine that's what stays with me. That's what shapes my journey more than any number or spotlight could.



Winning the Shayin'goma
Smirnoff competition and
appearing on TV shows like Uzalo
and DJ Mix Live must have been
huge milestones. How have
these platforms influenced your
growth as an artist?

Winning the Shayin' Goma Smirnoff competition and appearing on platforms like

Uzalo and DJ Mix Live have been major milestones in my journey. Being exposed to these spaces taught me so much, you meet people who are on the same path, or even those who've already walked it, and that shared journey

These opportunities open your eyes to endless possibilities. They show you the level you can reach and the kind of growth that's possible when you put yourself out there.

That's why I always encourage other artists to get involved in campaigns and platforms that promote music and development. You never come out the same, you always grow, you always improve. For me, these experiences have been the building blocks and the foundation of my career.





Beyond music, you're also the founder and CEO of D33P Matters, your clothing and events brand. What inspired you to start it, and how does it connect to your vision as an artist and healer?

The inspiration behind D33P Matters is, first and foremost it's music. For me, music has always been more than sound. It's a language, a frequency, a form of healing. The brand translates the depth and meaning of music into clothing and experiences that people can connect with in their daily lives. D33P MATTERS is a movement to empower, heal, and inspire through music.

I wanted to create a brand that puts into perspective how I define music: its depth, its emotional power, and the way it can shape us. Through clothing and events, D33P Matters allows people to interact with the same energy and intention that I put into my art.

I'm proud to have built something meaningful and profound that represents who I am and my vision as an artist. My vision has always been to transmit the positive side of music — to heal, to empower, and to transform lives. D33P Matters is an extension of that mission.

It's a platform where creativity, intention, and positive impact come together, all rooted in the belief that music can change us for the better.



Looking ahead, what's next for Rosetta

D33P - musically, personally, or in

terms of your brand and future projects?

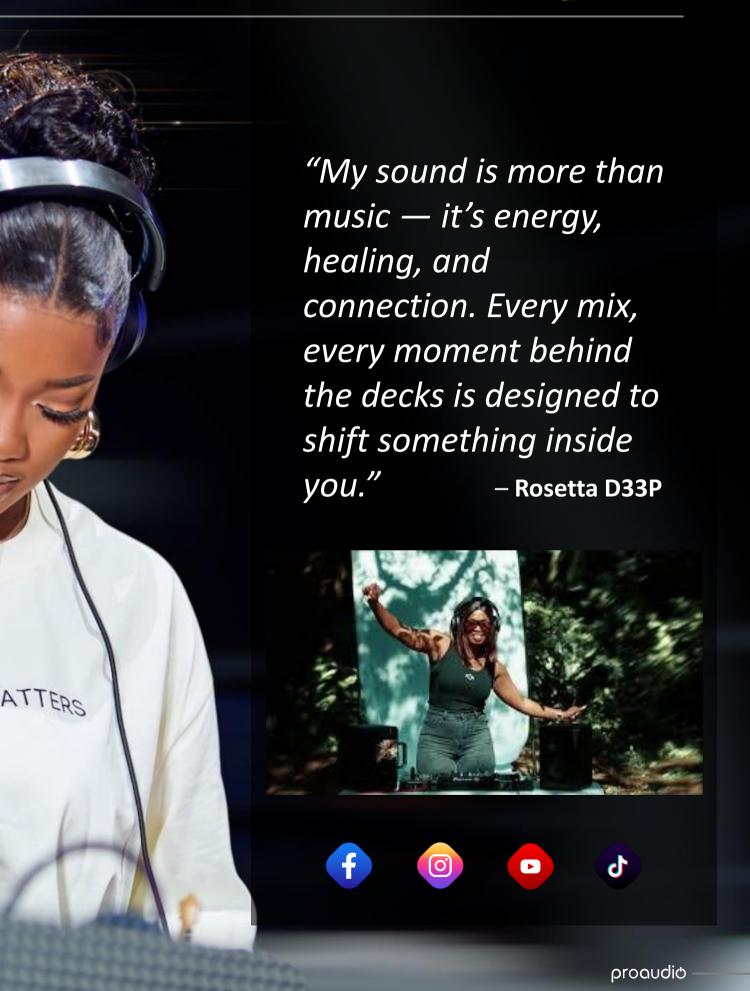
Looking ahead, Rosetta D33P is all about growth musically, personally, and professionally. I'm currently setting up my own recording equipment so I can produce mixtapes anytime without needing to hire from someone, giving me more creative freedom. This setup will also allow me to help other DJs who want to record for radio or online platforms, because I know firsthand how vital it is to have the tools to share your sound and i got that kind of assistance at the early stage of my music career.

Mixtapes have become a huge part of my life, and I want to explore more horizons, experimenting with new sounds within the house space, collaborating with other artists, and releasing more music. I also aim to grow "D33P Matters" into a bigger brand, encompassing events, merchandise, and more.

On a personal level, I want to travel the world and share the gospel of house music, spreading the passion and energy that drives me. Ultimately, I want to transform my life and create a better future for my family through my music and my brand. I want to collaborate with profound brands, be on billboards and get gigs worldwide.











When Proaudio opened the doors to the RED ROOM, it wasn't intended as just another branded studio corner. It was designed as a cultural pressure chamber for DJs and producers — a place where sound isn't simply played, but proven, tested, and translated into identity.

In 2025, the invitation was clear: give DJs a room to record their vision, let the crowd feel it later, and make the booth collaboration-ready for artists who refuse technical compromise but demand emotional impact.

The Red Room has delivered exactly that — and faster than most expected. Artists like Lady Lea, Chunda Munki, DJ Avi, Malik Faquir, DJ Buhle, VIMO, Aidin Caye, DJ Aidin Caye, Skelm, and Les Afrique have already stepped inside the space, each bringing different textures of South African and global electronic sound, yet all sharing something in common: the decks became part of their voice, not an obstacle between it.

The Red Room quickly evolved into a place where DJs could express confidence without needing an expensive external studio, allowing them to record live sets that sound broadcast-ready from the moment the play button is hit.



But what makes the Red Room impressive is not just the calibre of the artists who've been in there — it's what happened to the students and the scene around it.

The ASE DJ Essentials students repeatedly referenced the hardware experience in that room as career-changing — a rare moment where practice on gear transitions directly into professional confidence. For newcomers, the Red Room doesn't feel intimidating, it feels aspirational. For intermediate and professional DJs, it feels like stepping into a booth that finally speaks their language of intention.

Looking ahead into 2026, the Red Room is loading heat, voltage, anticipation, collaborations, and legacy all at once. Confirmed names still to record sets include the Godfathers, Tamara Dey, Latique, Jon S, Austin Cassim, and the powerhouse duo Weston & Engine — all expected to shape moods that will leave rooms replaying their melodies long after venues close for the night.







Add to that Latique, Jon S, Austin Cassim, and Austin Cassim, and Weston & Engine whose influence sits naturally inside both series of DJs and engineers who take intention seriously, and you have a lineup that is more than plausible — it's inevitable.

For 2026, Skelm and Les Afrique will continue pushing sonic borders, while artists like Jon S, Austin Cassim, and Weston & Engine bring considered DSP emotional sculpting to mixes that don't interrogate ears, they nourish them. On the lifestyle tip, Tamara Dey, Tamara Dey, and Latique add melodic warmth and identity-first colour to performance mixes. And with Weston & Munki mixing ideas across generational voices the way Weston & Engine check each other in production, the scene can expect something new: collaboration chemistry that becomes releases, not side notes.

Throw in that the Red Room has already slated Abby Nurock into 2026, and the message becomes even clearer. This room isn't cooling down. It's heating up. With collaborations already rumoured and confirmed internally by teams and artists alike, 2026 looks less like prediction, and more like next chapter loading.



And then there's Jamie-Lee Sexton to record in 2026 her entry into the Red Room reflects a new mandate: early identity, consistent momentum, and the belief that emerging DJs should be given platforms before they need to beg for them.

With her scheduled recordings next year, the Red Room continues its evolving role not just as a gig recorder, but as a scene incubator, a career springboard, and an industry signal generator that influences gigs, studios, developing DJs, producer confidence, and the next class of South African melodic house and electronic export voices.



The RED ROOM is indeed getting hot.

There are collaborations already on the way. The scene is evolving, compressing, expanding, and preparing to load something bigger.

In 2026, this platform will continue to do the logical thing — give DJs a room to record, let engineers trust what they drive, and let the next generation build identity from it.







Aidin Caye is a South African DJ and producer whose career began at 16 with early residencies across Johannesburg's East Rand, where he learned to interpret crowds and shape energy through sound.

His 2019 independent breakout **Hypnotize** — surpassing a

million streams and earning

national radio traction —

marked the moment he stepped
into his own identity as an artist.

Alongside refining his sound through collaborations with Ziyon, TiMO ODV, and Markus, he released his debut EP **Connections** in 2020, integrating his experience in songwriting and vocal coaching.

Beyond the decks, Aidin produced the documentary **The State of the Arts**, spotlighting South Africa's creative community during lockdown — advocacy that continues through his label **Midnight Children Records**, where he champions emerging electronic talent into 2026.

You've been part of the South African electronic scene for over a decade, starting with your early residencies on the East Rand. Looking at where you stand in November 2025, how do you feel those early years shaped the artist you are today?

I started out quite young, while still in high school, so finding places to play was a challenge since I wasn't legally allowed into most venues. I took any gig I could get, which exposed me to all kinds of crowds and energy, and that carried through as I grew older.

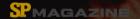
Playing for different audiences and gaining that experience was invaluable. Being able to interpret a crowd's energy and what they will be receptive to is part of every DJs toolkit, and being able to develop that from such an early age has definitely shaped my DJ sets and overall music palette.

Your debut single
Reflections with Ziyon
marked your entry into
production, later gaining even
more traction when reimagined
with Mark DVB. How do you see
that release now, and what
impact do you think it had on
your growth as a producer?

I'd had some experience making music prior to that, and I'd experimented with a few different aliases before landing on Aidin Caye in 2015. "Reflections" was the first single under that moniker, and to collaborate with Ziyon, who I'd been a fan of for so long, was a privilege.

Over the course of the last 10 years, I have really pursued collaborations with other artists, whether they were further ahead in their musical journey and talents, like Ziyon and TiMO ODV, or artists who were newer to the industry and finding their feet, like Markus.

Having the opportunity to work with other artists really helped progress my knowledge and understanding of production and songwriting.



Your time touring and collaborating with TiMO ODV helped refine your sound behind the scenes. In what ways do you feel those years influenced the music you're creating now?

Musically, TiMO and I have a lot in common, but we also differ in many ways. When we work together, we're able to bring out the best in each other while keeping each other in check, too.

Working with him has definitely helped me to grow as a producer and songwriter. We have a great friendship, so we're consistently challenging each other in some way, too.

When Hypnotize broke through independently in 2019 - amassing over a million streams and becoming one of the most Shazamed songs in the country - it was a turning point. How has that success continued to influence your direction as an artist?

I would say that although I'd been making music for quite a few years already, I only began to take myself seriously as an artist, and not a producer, in 2019.

"Hypnotize" was the first solo single I had any radio airplay with, and it really built up my confidence to keep pursuing this dream. The streaming numbers didn't matter as much as the fact that people actually enjoyed what I made, and I've just tried to remain consistent with making sure I keep making music people enjoy.



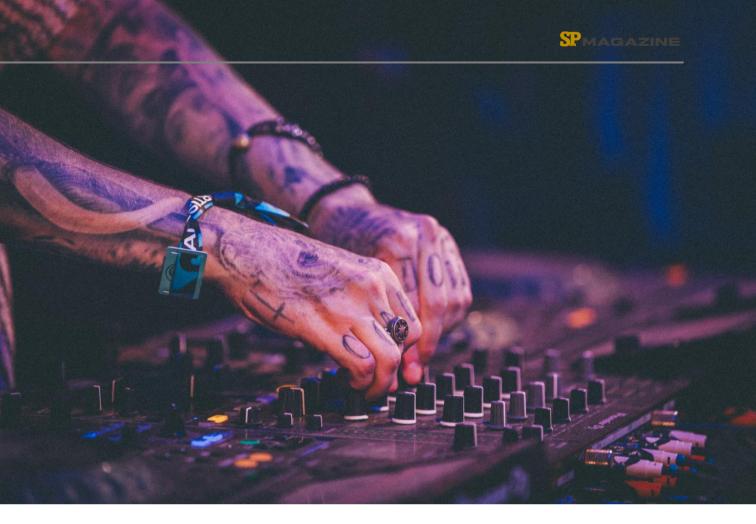
Your debut EP Connections arrived during a difficult period for the industry in 2020.
Looking back from today, how do you feel that project contributed to your evolution?

Being locked down like that gave me the opportunity to explore my sound and

develop my own style. There were a few songs on the Connections EP that featured my own vocals. Not many people know this, but at that point, I'd been doing vocal coaching for almost 4 years.

Writing my own songs, with lyrics and melodies I had written, really pushed me to grow as an overall artist, and I take many of those lessons into the studio with me now.





The State of the Arts documented the struggles of the creative industry during lockdown and sparked important national discussions. Now that we're in 2025, what reflections do you have on that project and its lasting relevance?

I've always been passionate about advocating for the creative community, and

seeing how our industry was treated during that time hit me hard. That project was my way of shining a light on what artists were going through, especially around mental health, and those conversations are still necessary today.

People often see the highlight reel: the shows, the flights, the lifestyle. But the reality is that the industry can take a massive toll on the people in it. I still believe we need far more support structures for artists who are struggling behind the scenes.



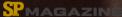
Midnight Children Records continues to champion rising talent and experimental sounds. What role do you see the label playing in shaping South African dance music in 2025?



For me, owning a label is about giving artists the kind of support I wish I had when

I was starting out. South Africa has a lot of talented producers who just need the right platform or a bit of guidance to take the next step.

In 2026, I want the label to keep creating those opportunities, whether that's through mentorship, helping artists shape their sound, or connecting them with the right people. If we can help even a few young artists grow and find their voice, then we're doing our part in pushing the scene forward.



As you continue pushing boundaries with your music, events, and Midnight Children Records, what can fans expect from you in 2026?

I feel like I'm really stepping into my identity as an artist right now, and I'm loving the music I'm creating. Fans who've been with me for a while will hear a clear evolution of what the Aidin Caye sound has become.

Beyond the music, I'm focused on helping grow the industry for the next wave of producers and artists. Supporting the future of the scene is a big priority for me moving forward.

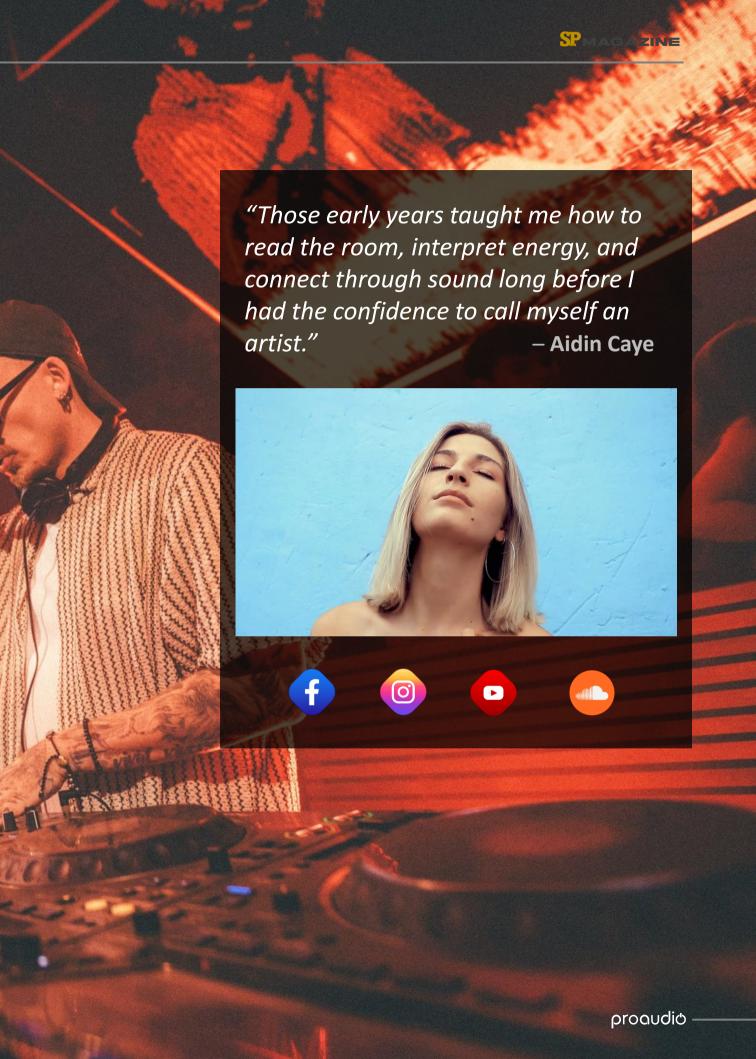




As he moves toward 2026, Aidin Caye carries his years of experimentation, collaboration, and crowd-led intuition into a clear artistic identity — one built on consistency, connection, and the belief that music should feel real to those who hear it.

Through Midnight Children Records, he continues opening doors for emerging producers, mentoring the next wave of South African electronic voices, and shaping a stronger ecosystem of support for the industry he loves.

His journey is proof that growth isn't only measured in streams or stages, but in impact — and in staying true to the sound that connects us all.







South Africa's electronic and DJ culture is not just a genre movement — it's a national language.

From the deep Afro-house rhythms of the 2000s to the global explosion of Amapiano, the South African dance music scene has always carried two defining DNA strands: emotional storytelling and movement-driven energy. The DJ isn't just someone who plays tracks here — the DJ conducts a room, narrates identity, and often breaks artists before radio ever gets involved.

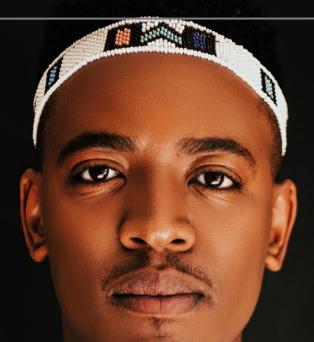


For the December 2025
SoundPress edition, we selected our Top 10 DJs as a countdown not on hype alone, but on influence, sonic contribution, crowd connection, career impact, and future-shaping consistency.

Each name represents a chapter in South African electronic music — some the architects, some the narrators, some the disruptors, all shaping culture-forward sound. This list also holds a deliberate balance between legacy champions and identity innovators, showing who built the foundation and who is expanding the frontier.







Sun-El Musician

Sun-El blends DJ craft with producer intentionality, creating sets that feel warm, melodic, and emotionally driven. His music has shaped a vocal-rich Afro-house sensibility, influencing how young producers think about chord movement in compact rooms. On stage, he always balances elegance with unity, refusing to let the mix feel lightweight or rushed.



Culoe built his career on soulful Afro-house mixing that invites deep listening and emotional presence. His decade-plus presence in the scene continues to influence DJ palettes, especially for selectors who want their sets to feel story-driven instead of just track-driven. He crafts a sound that travels globally while still sounding rooted locally, inspiring engineers and DJs alike.

proaudio





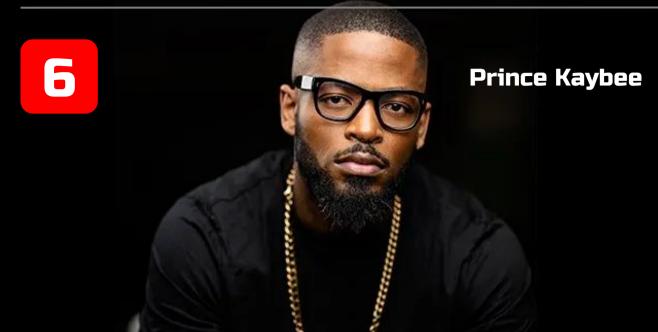
Shimza refined DJ identity in South Africa by turning technical precision into an experience brand. His One-Man-Show legacy proved that a DJ can become the headline act without relying on theatrics alone. Beyond the hype, his consistency in delivering immersive Afro-house and club-grade sonic structure keeps him relevant to stadiums, clubs, and broadcast platforms.



Black Motion fused ancestral rhythm into house music in a way that never felt experimental for experiment's sake but intentional and bodily engaging. Their live-DJ energy influenced an entire generation of percussion-led electronic mixing. They remain a benchmark for DJs who respect heritage but refuse nostalgia, pushing energetic live-club translation into larger outdoor stages.

proaudio





Prince Kaybee turned mass commercial appeal into DJ credibility, showing that mainstream hits don't have to collapse into superficial sound. His catalogue helped bridge radio, clubs, and festival environments. He embodies the DJ-producer duality that made SA dance music chart-friendly while still groove-disciplined and emotionally accessible.





DJ Kent

DJ Kent shaped early DJ professionalism on radio and in clubs, influencing what broadcast-level mixing should feel like long before streaming counted the numbers. His role in breaking South African dance music on televised and radio platforms cannot be understated. He remains a voice of credibility for DJs evolving in 2025, especially those who come from the club-to-radio pipeline.



Zinhle is not just a DJ — she is one of South Africa's most important cultural pioneers behind the decks. She built an empire of aspiration, brand evolution, and club credibility for African women DJs long before advocacy had a billboard. Her career continues to influence identity and entrepreneurship for young DJs entering music, proving that visibility followed style, not the other way around.

3

Kabza de Small

Kabza defined a generation by reshaping South Africa's dance music DNA through Amapiano production and DJ visibility. His sheer output influenced gig culture, production standards, and how 4-deck ecosystems feel when played properly. He champions evolution through collaboration, sonic reinvention, and performance credibility that transcends province and language.

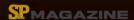
progudio











DJ Gear for

proaudio

By 2026, DJ gear has reached a defining moment in South Africa and globally — compact systems must be intelligent, mixes must feel cinematic, and hardware must translate across home studios, monitor rigs, corporate AV rooms, clubs, and festival booths without compromise. In a world where DJs evolve faster than the environments that try to contain them, the importance of selecting the right booth ecosystem has never been greater.

For this SoundPress edition, we chose to spotlight Pioneer DJ and AlphaTheta exclusively — not on fanfare alone, but on the clarity of their mandate. Their gear continues to serve the DJ who thinks like an engineer, feels like an artist, and performs like an atmosphere conductor.

These are the units that create a collaborative relationship between the DJ and the booth instead of a combatitive one, where reliability, emotional colour, bass integrity, browsing efficiency, and PRO DJ LINK compatibility must shake hands instead of wrestle.



Each piece of gear selected in our 2026 countdown reflects a different DJ mandate — from compact studio refinement to battle-style physicality, monitor clarity under stage pressure, AV backbone reliability, to the fully immersive universe of a professional booth.

These are the tools that help the DJ not just *play* the moment, but *own it*, interpret it, shift it, and leave it emotionally and technically affirmed long after the last reverb tail fades.

With that mandate set, we enter our 2026 DJ gear countdown confident not in hype, but in signal: the studio, the stage, the crowd, and the future-ready booth — delivered by brands that refuse to compromise on any of them.







The XDJ-700 has always carried a unique appeal for DJs who understand that precision doesn't require excess scale. By 2026, it remains one of the most practical and emotionally comfortable players in the Pioneer ecosystem — compact in footprint, but wide in connectivity.

The touch display and rekordbox browsing workflow allow a DJ to move through their library with clarity rather than chaos, making it ideal for home studios, smaller creative rooms, and gigs where space inside the booth is limited but control must still feel professional.

What matters most is that the XDJ-700 never feels entry-level in intention — it feels intentional, tactile, reliable, and musically responsive, giving DJs a deck they can trust in performance or preparation.





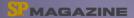


The DDJ-REV7 is the controller for DJs who want their mix to feel physical, expressive, and performance-driven without sacrificing intelligence.

Its motorised jog wheels redefine the relationship between DJ and hardware by adding motion to muscle memory, encouraging performance creativity through scratching, beat re-triggering, and live manipulation while keeping the audio path smart and disciplined through software DSP collaboration.

In 2026, it remains one of the most consistent, robust performance controllers for DJs who move between genres or need their set to shift emotion, tension, and release without losing clarity.

It is unapologetically built for performance but refuses to sound uncontrolled — making it not just fun to touch, but dependable to mix on.





AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ

The 2026 All-in-One That Thinks Like a Booth, Performs Like a Stage







The AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ steps into 2026 with an identity that no longer asks a DJ to compromise between preparation, performance, or environment. Building on Pioneer's PRO DJ LINK workflow and AlphaTheta's next-gen processing, the AZ was engineered for the DJ who runs their own rig, curates across four decks, and needs the mix to translate faithfully whether played in clubs, outdoor stages, broadcast rooms, or hybrid setups.

Its 4-channel architecture gives room for creativity in transitions, layering, and live FX, without feeling strained or reactive. The browsing speed and deck switching flow feel intuitive, ensuring DJs stay in the performance moment instead of fighting menus. The jog wheels have intent—tight, responsive, gritty enough for battle energy, composed enough for melodic progression.

What matters most for 2026 DJs is this: the XDJ-AZ is a booth replacement that feels like a console, a stage partner that refuses to collapse under touring pressure, and a DSP-smart ecosystem for DJs who want the mix to ignite the room while still sounding emotionally refined.





Pioneer DJ DJM-A9 Mixer Intelligence That Reads the Engineer-Minded Selector







The DJM-A9 is the mixer for DJs who hear like engineers — people who understand that EQ curves, mic processing, channel detail, and effects are not accessories, but language.

Its 4-channel architecture provides clean master voltage, Beat FX warmth, redesigned EQ curves, improved mic clarity, and enough headroom to handle both intimate vocal work and festival-size bass integrity without folding.

In 2026, it continues influencing engineers and DJs who approach the mix as intentional soundsculpting rather than reactive gain-riding. The DJM-A9 doesn't just sum audio — it interprets the room through the DJ's fingertips, letting booth operators maintain tonal balance whether mixing chilled melodic house or peak-pressure festival sets.

It is the point where DJ mixers read like consoles — reliable, considered, intentional, and powerful without feeling bulky.







The CDJ-3000X sits at number one because it is the clearest indicator of performance evolution in DJ hardware. With updated processing, faster browsing, refined DAC clarity, and PRO DJ LINK compatibility, this deck has become what promoters expect, DJs aspire toward, and engineers quietly endorse.

Its robust build, tighter low end, cleaner highs, faster memory execution, and industry-universal PRO DJ LINK ecosystem compatibility means that a DJ can mix in any booth globally and still feel like they own it.

The CDJ-3000X signals that the DJ booth is no longer passive-cabinet hardware, but intelligent DAC-level player identity that supports somatic, emotional, cinematic, and universal DJ workflows without collapsing the audio path.

In 2026, it will continue signalling to engineers, promoters, and DJs that this deck isn't just for playback, but for meaning making inside every booth it enters.







ALEX BREITLING

Alex Breitling is a German
DJ and producer from
Koblenz whose name has
become synonymous with
emotive, bass-driven
melodic electronic music.

His journey began 15 years ago, carving a path through deep house, progressive, and melodic techno, always guided by one constant: feeling first, technique second.

A frequent collaborator and standout artist on **Purified Records**, Breitling crafts tracks that pull listeners inward while still lifting them upward — **dynamic basslines meet warm piano motifs, evolving synth textures, and melodies that linger long after the drop**. His creative identity lives in the balance between introspection and the dancefloor, where emotion and energy coexist.

With his 2025 release 'Eternity', Alex not only reaffirms his place in the melodic frontier, but also embraces the ethos of Purified beyond music, using his voice to amplify causes close to his heart, including ocean conservation and environmental awareness.

Breitling's work today reflects an artist still evolving, still experimenting, and still committed to creating immersive soundscapes that connect deeply — wherever in the world they are heard.



Alex, it's great to have you!
For those who might be discovering your music for the first time, can you tell us a bit about your journey so far and how your sound has evolved over the years?

Thank you for having me! My musical journey started 15 years ago when I first got into

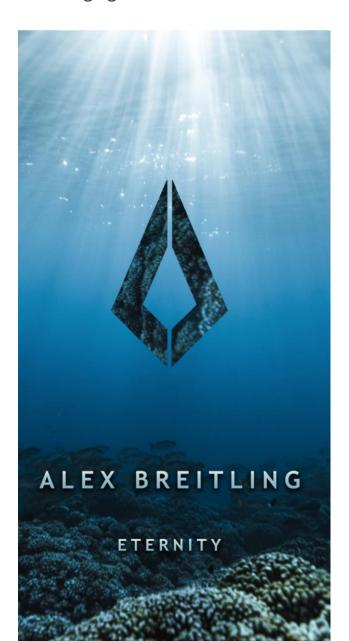
melodic electronic music. Over time, I've experimented with different styles – from deep and progressive sounds to more emotional, Melodic House and Melodic Techno. Today, I would describe my sound as melodic and atmospheric. I love creating tracks that make you think, but I also like producing tracks that work on the dance floor. I can never say from the outset what it will be; I'm not a machine, I always let my feelings guide me.

You'll be releasing your much anticipated new single 'Eternity' via Purified Records on November 14. What was the inspiration behind this track both musically and emotionally?



'Eternity' was inspired by a feeling of timelessness – that moment on the dancefloor

when everything feels infinite and you forget about time. Musically, I wanted to create something uplifting but still deep and emotional. It's about that sense of hope and beauty that music can give you, especially during challenging times.





'Eternity' has such a cinematic and uplifting feel, with layers that build beautifully over time. Can you walk us through your creative process - how did the track come together from idea to final mix?

I first thought of Purified and considered what Purified stands for, and that is clearly

melodies that stick in your head. I started with the chords and then wrote this melody, and the melody carries you through the entire track. From there, I built the groove and added textures to make it evolve constantly. I love creating tension and release with atmospheric sounds and subtle details. The final mix was all about

Your productions often blend warmth, melody, and energy so seamlessly. How do you strike that balance between emotion and dancefloor drive in your music?

It's a matter of feeling. I usually start with something emotional – a melody or

harmony that moves me – and then build the rhythm around it. I want my tracks to work on the dancefloor, but also to touch people emotionally when they listen at home or in the car. That duality is what excites me most about producing music.





The artwork for 'Eternity' features a stunning underwater photograph by Kelsey Williamson. How did that collaboration come about, and what drew you to this particular image?

The artwork immediately resonated with me. It perfectly reflected the mood of 'Eternity' calm, deep, and full of light at the same time.

I loved the idea of combining music and visual art. Purified always manages to create this harmony between sound and imagery, and that's something I really value. The release also highlights ocean conservation through The Reef-World Foundation and Only One. How important is environmental awareness and sustainability to you as an artist?

It's very important. Music has the power to reach people emotionally, and I think we as artists can use that platform to raise awareness for causes like ocean protection.

Nature and the ocean have always been big sources of inspiration for me, so supporting that message feels natural.



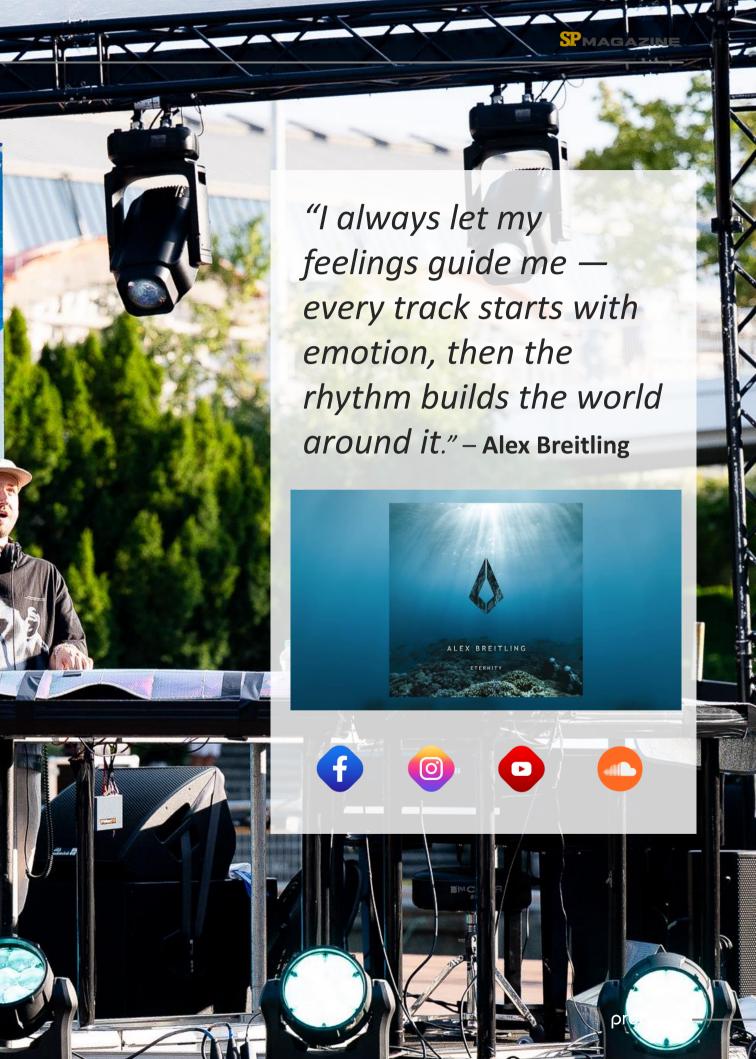


Having been part of the
Purified Records family for
a while now, how has your
relationship with the label and its
ethos influenced your creative
direction?

Being part of the Purified family has been an amazing experience. The team and artists share the same vision: spreading positivity, connection, and respect for nature through music. That energy motivates me to push my creativity further and stay true to my sound.

It's really a community that feels like home and I will do everything I can to ensure that you continue to see me at Purified in the future.









'DJ Essentials'

In collaboration with Proaudio

In 2025, **Academy of Sound Engineering** introduced its first flagship DJ programme, shaped by unprecedented demand and high enquiry volumes. Though launching a DJ course felt like a natural step, the academy deliberately avoided over-simplification.

The team recognised that DJ education is **saturated with established incumbents**, and that their own premium brand reputation meant expectations would be higher, not lower. This awareness formed the basis of the central mandate: **course quality must match the excellence ASE is known for across all its educational products**.



To credibly enter this competitive market, the academy determined that a premium brand collaboration was non-negotiable. Proaudio — South Africa's official Pioneer DJ (AlphaTheta) distributor and representative, and home to the world-first AlphaTheta Experience Centre in Sandton — became the academy's only viable partner.

Both organisations identified immediate synergy, aligned thinking, and logical creative overlap, resulting in **DJ Essentials**, a structured 8-week (8-week = 8 sessions of teaching weeks totalling 8 active weeks) curriculum designed by ASE and activated through Proaudio's technology partnership.



Course Structure & Expertise in the Room

- Duration: 8 weeks
- Course length: 8 teaching weeks delivered consecutively within an 8-week period
- Format: Split into 2 experiential legs of 4 weeks each
- Lecturers and mentors present in sessions:

Sean Phillips (Weston & Engine / Mike One)
Jade Whitmore (DJ Tinkz)
Jade Whitemore = Jade
Whitmore (alternate spelling used in source text but refers to the same person)
Jade Whitmore is also known as DJ Tinkz
Sean Phillips (Weston & Engine / Mike One) played a continuous teaching role across the 8-week course.

ASE coursework design team delivered curriculum curation, class roll-out and evaluation Proaudio delivered all DJ hardware, booth environments, controllers and acoustic spaces for learning and practice.

Equipment Progression During the Course

The course intentionally scaled its technology exposure with the development rate of students, beginning with:

- Midnight Children Records founder: Aidin Caye = Aidin Caye (founder of Midnight Children Records) produced the documentary The State of the Arts referenced in earlier interview context (This fact belongs to earlier user context but was not part of this specific article chunk and is not included here.)
- Weeks 1–4 practice gear (intro controllers used for fundamentals):
 AlphaTheta DDJ-FLX-4
- Weeks 5–8 gear introduced once basics were firmly grasped (top-tier DJ booth ecosystem exposure):

Pioneer DJ XDJ-XZ

Pioneer DJ DJM-A9

Pioneer DJ DJM-V10

Pioneer DJ DDJ-REV7

AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ

AlphaTheta CDJ-3000X

Pioneer DJ PLX-1000 turntables

(The CDJ-3000X is referred to as "CDJ-3000X controller/CDJ ecosystem used in a DJ booth context and not a software controller.")









Venues Leg 1 & Leg 2

- Weeks 1–4: ASE delivered classes at SABC Radio Park,
 Auckland Park Campus, SABC Radio Park is located at the ASE Auckland Park campus at the SABC Radio Park campus,
 Auckland Park, Johannesburg.
 Students practised on AlphaTheta DDJ-FLX-4 units during this leg for fundamentals.
- Weeks 5–8: Second leg delivered at Proaudio Linbro Business Park premises in Sandton, Proaudio's premises houses the AlphaTheta Experience Centre (world-first of its kind). This leg saw the involvement of Malik (surname withheld in source text), Malik studentguided role present in Leg 2 in addition to the lecturers already present in ASE leg 1.







Student Mix Levels & Outcomes

The class combined novice and intermediate DJs:

- Intermediate DJ: Andile Mtyaphi (also known as DJAJ) gained new skills each session and applied them at gigs immediately.
- Zambian education tourist: Edwin Muyatwa (also known as DJ Don Daddy)
 — gained skills weekly, applied them live, secured DJ residencies,
 performed live sets, and secured opportunities on national commercial radio.
- Novices: Musa Mavikane, Amokelane Maluleka, Musa Mavikane developed strongly on the course and cited booth hardware as a highlight, Amokelane Maluleka and Musa Mavikane earned a RED ROOM mix opportunity soon to stream on the Proaudio YouTube channel, Edwin Muyatwa referred to the course as amazing for going pro, Andile Mtyaphi said everything hoped to learn was taught, Amokelane Maluleka called weekly attendance a highlight of his week.

All novices progressed rapidly through the 8-week DJ Essentials programme.





Testimonials

(Direct Pull-Quotes from Students)

- "I got everything I needed." Musa Mavikane
- "Everything I hoped to learn was taught." Andile Mtyaphi
- "Amazing course if you're planning on going Pro." Edwin Muyatwa
- "The course was the best feeling ever since." Amokelane Maluleka
- "Attending the classes was the highlight of my week. Every time I was there was a good time." — (Amokelane Maluleka — long-form testimonial reflecting weekly highlight sentiment)

Career Impact & New Opportunities

- Andile Mtyaphi (Intermediate DJ DJAJ) and Edwin Muyatwa (DJ Don Daddy) both secured DJ residencies and national commercial radio live set exposure after skill acquisitions.
- Musa Mavikane and Amokelane Maluleka (novices) were awarded a Red Room mix opportunity, soon to be streamed on the Proaudio YouTube channel.
- Controllers and CDJs (CDJ-3000X) were specifically cited as highlights by attendees.
- These outcomes affirmed the strategic collaboration between ASE (curriculum design, expertise, evaluation, and delivery) and Proaudio (technology partnership, hardware ecosystem, DJ booth environments, and acoustic spaces).









KRK Systems — Kreate Series

Studio Meets Soul

KRK Systems has long carried a legendary pulse in professional audio, shaping a global community of creators, producers, and sonic architects.

Their monitors are instantly recognisable, not only for the iconic yellow cones, but for what they represent: honest sound reproduction, passion for creativity, and the confidence to build something real from scratch.

In 2025, KRK extended that legacy into the home and project studio space with the Kreate Series, a line designed to bridge accessible design with intentional musical expression.

The Kreate monitors are more than just speakers — they are an invitation into the studio mindset. They deliver a sound that feels warm, articulate, and detailed without sounding clinical or harsh.

Whether you're producing melodic deep house, layering ambient synth pads, shaping hip-hop lows, or experimenting with indie vocals, the Kreate range carries a balance that supports long listening sessions without fatigue.

KRK engineered these monitors for creators who rely as much on emotion as they do on precision — the kind of artists who want to feel what they're making, while still trusting what they're hearing.



What sets the Kreate Series apart is its ability to adapt itself into the rhythm of everyday creation.

These monitors translate low-end faithfully without overpowering mids, giving basslines space to roll, and piano or vocal melodies room to breathe.

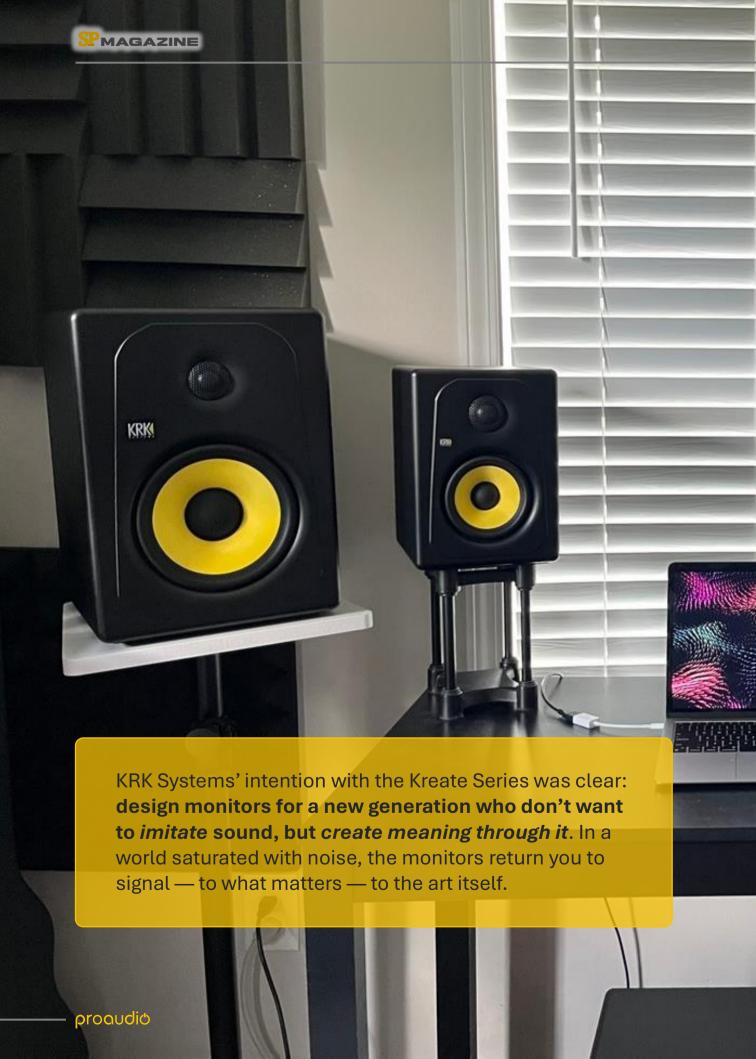
There is clarity there, but it's not the cold kind — it's the type that inspires you to tweak again, experiment again, and trust again.

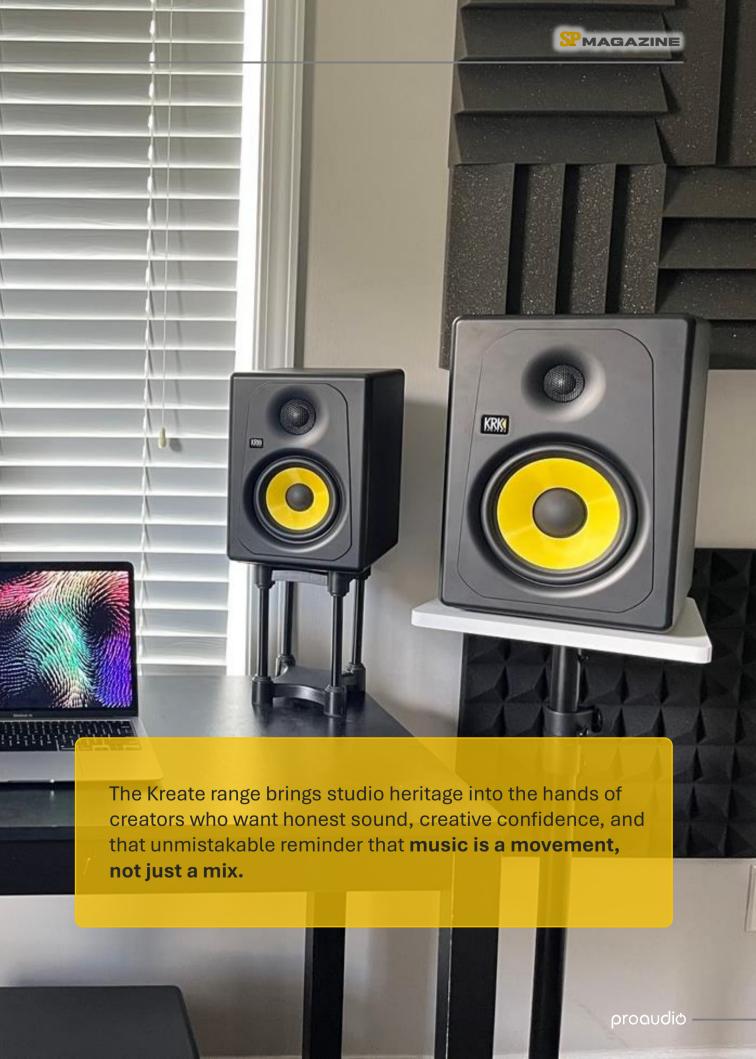
The stereo imaging feels intentional, giving producers confidence that decisions made in the mix will survive the transition from studio to streaming, club, or car playback.

The Kreate 5 appeals beautifully to those developing their craft in smaller creative spaces, where controlled power and acoustic honesty matter.

The Kreate 8 steps into a higher voltage of creativity, handling larger project studio output with headroom and low-end translation that remains disciplined while still sounding full and immersive.

KRK ensures the monitors speak at the level the creator needs them to — delivering energy when the track demands it, and reflection when the music turns inward.







COMPACT AMPLIFICATION, Intelligent at Its Core



Lab Gruppen IPX Series

For a generation of audio professionals juggling performance expectations with very real budget limits, the **Lab Gruppen IPX Series** has become a quiet powerhouse that speaks loudly through results, not size.

These are not bulky amps designed to impress through steel alone, but compact, **DSP-controlled power** amplifiers engineered for the users who need smart decision-making at every stage — system integrators, AV rental teams, venue owners, church technicians, corporate event providers, and monitor engineers who carry the same mandate in common: reliability isn't optional and performance can't fail, even if the budget is unforgiving.



The IPX Series is built for the operator who understands that sound systems live inside environments with unique acoustic fingerprints. With onboard DSP intelligence, these amplifiers give you the ability to shape and sculpt audio output in a way that isn't guesswork, but intentional design.

The controls allow you to refine the sonic response so it survives the transition from venue acoustics to audience impact without collapsing into distortion, hum, or uneven frequency translation.



It meets the moment where technical expectation intersects with human experience — the kinds of spaces where both the system and the crowd expect the sound to hold its composure.

Whether tucked behind a nightclub's main installation rack, mounted into an auditoriums AV backbone, loaded into a compromise, but for universality portable AV rig for high-pressure corporate showcases, or driving stage monitors night after night for live performers, the IPX Series adapts itself to context while keeping performance disciplined.

It carries enough power to translate dynamic bass energy, delicate melodic detail, and monitor clarity without sounding strained, brittle, or uncertain. The low noise floor, headroom, and DSP tuning capabilities mean you're not fighting the amp — you're collaborating with it.

What matters most is this: the IPX Series was not designed for without sacrifice. It occupies the middle ground, where performance and price shake hands instead of wrestle. There's sophistication there, but it isn't arrogant — it's practical.

It's the solution for the school hall, touring rig, restaurant zone system, broadcast monitor chain, or portable AV setup that needs to stay in the fight for years without breaking trust, even when asked to do a hundred different jobs in a hundred different rooms.

proaudio







In a world saturated with options, the IPX Series stands out because it sits firmly in the **sweet spot of intelligent amplification**.

Not the loudest, not the cheapest, not the biggest, but the most sensible choice for the user who cannot afford failure yet cannot justify extravagance. Compact amplification, made intentional. Intelligent DSP, made practical. Performance, made human.

"A great engineer doesn't just mix sound, they interpret the room, read the energy, and create a moment that lasts longer than the echo."



Power That Thinks, Sound That Feels

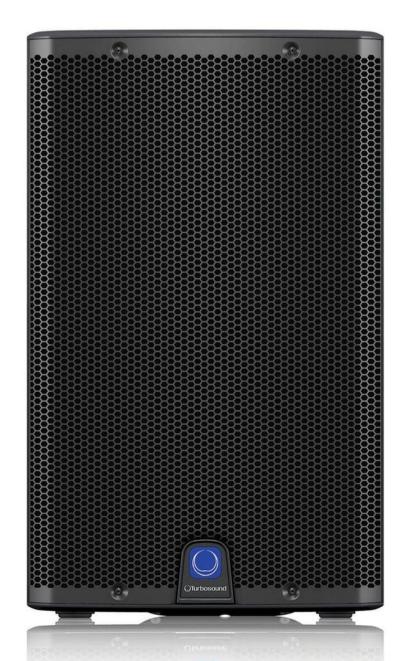
The Turbosound iQ Series was designed for sound engineers who demand more from their PA than raw wattage. These are the amplifiers that give you DSP brains, Klark Teknik processing, and intelligent signal sculpting in a format that respects precision without sacrificing emotion. Because real engineers know that great sound isn't only heard — it's experienced, interpreted, and felt.





The iQ range lives naturally in the hands of engineers who carry responsibility for dynamic rooms, live wedges, corporate AV reinforcement, nightclubs, houses of worship, and outdoor stages where conditions shift constantly. In these environments, uncertainty isn't the serpent you fear — it's simply another variable to tune.

The iQ Series thrives here because it was engineered to help you make informed decisions about your output, ensuring that the low end speaks clearly, vocals remain present, and melodic elements survive every space they enter without becoming harsh, hollow, or fatigued.

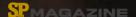




With Klark Teknik DSP at the heart of each unit, these speakers offer a collaborative relationship instead of a combatitive one. The interface feels musical because the processing honours balance, headroom, and nuance. The bass is firm but not arrogant. The mids are articulate but not brittle.

The highs are tuned for long listening without strain, meaning engineers can run full sets, full rehearsals, full evenings, full emotional shifts in the soundscape without feeling like their ears are being interrogated by their own equipment.







The iQ Series also respects
 versatility. These speakers
 understand the engineer who wants
 to mix genres at events just as Aidin
 Caye mixes people through sound
 — interpreting energy, delivering
 impact, without compromise.

Whether driving monitors, front of house, or supplementing a full system, the iQ range shows its strength in the places where performance can't be questioned, even when budgets are.

More than anything, the iQ Series carries a singular message to sound engineers: don't just amplify — shape the moment. Sculpt the signal. Interpret the room. Move the crowd even when no one sees the processing happening.

This is practical, intelligent, emotionally disciplined sound reinforcement — built for people who know their craft and refuse to let uncertainty dictate the outcome.





HK Audio LINEAR 9

Precision, Power, and Professional Control

The HK Audio LINEAR 9 series represents a new benchmark for professional sound reinforcement, built for rental companies, touring engineers, DJs, and venues that need serious output, clean fidelity, and flexible deployment. It's a system designed to scale — from small club rigs to full outdoor stages — while maintaining the same sonic character, intelligent DSP control, and road-ready reliability across every cabinet.





At the core of LINEAR 9 is its impressive balance of power and precision. The mid/high units, especially the flagship 210 LTA, deliver tight directivity, high SPL, and wide, consistent coverage.

Their rotatable horn designs and disciplined driver alignment allow engineers to shape the soundfield with control, whether used singly or in clustered configurations. Paired with the 118 Sub A and 118 Sub BA, the series offers deep, punchy low end with options for cardioid or 2.1 bass setups — ideal for venues needing clean stage sound without unwanted low-frequency spill.





Where LINEAR 9 truly distinguishes itself is in its DSP platform. Every speaker includes high-resolution processing with EQ, delay, limiting, and network control through HK's software.

Engineers can run entire systems from FOH, group speakers, tune zones, or integrate older models through DSP-OUT. This level of flexibility makes LINEAR 9 exceptionally future-proof for installations, events, and touring.

The series is built with longterm durability in mind birch-multiplex cabinets, rugged coatings, and reinforced hardware ensure they withstand the demands of professional work.

For mobile setups, clubs, houses of worship, and production companies, LINEAR 9 delivers reliability without the compromises found in lightweight consumer-level PA systems.







What defines LINEAR 9 is consistency. Whether you're running a compact stereo setup or a full-scale outdoor system, the tonal balance remains stable, clean, and predictable.

It's a system designed to grow with its user — equally capable in refined indoor rooms as it is in high-pressure festival environments.

In short, LINEAR 9 is a powerful, scalable, and intelligent PA solution for professionals who need clarity, punch, and DSP control without sacrificing ruggedness or flexibility.

It's serious sound for serious work — engineered to meet the demands of 2025 and beyond.















proaudio.co.za