

proaudio

11th Edition | November 2024

# SOUND PRESS

Are you mixing with the right company?

An Interview with a  
South African born  
**INTERNATIONAL DJ**

**vanco**

**BLACK  
FRIDAY**

Why it matters in the  
Music and DJ Industry!

**Great  
NEW  
Products**

- **XDJ-AZ**
- **DDJ-FLX2**
- **DDJ-GRV6**

**THE  
HAND-HELD DJ  
HEADPHONE HAS  
ARRIVED**

POWERWORKS  
**MONOMIX**



**THE LIFE OF A DJ**

Interviews with: **Dr Duda, Dean DJ Dizzy, DJ AMBER D**

# XDJ-AZ

PROFESSIONAL ALL-IN-ONE DJ SYSTEM



AlphaTheta

proaudio

# WELCOME

to the November 2024 Edition of  
**proaudio** Sound Press Magazine!

We're excited to bring you another thrilling edition packed with innovation, insights, and top-of-the-line products to elevate your audio experience. This month, explore the AlphaTheta DDJ-GRV6 with its groundbreaking Groove Circuit, and get hands-on with the compact DDJ-FLX2, designed for DJs of all levels. The XDJ-AZ is also featured, bringing club-standard control right to your fingertips.

For music lovers and vinyl enthusiasts, the Audio Technica AT-LP70xBT is the perfect entry to wireless vinyl, while the legendary Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s and Blackstar Amps set the stage for guitar aficionados. Epiphone, Kramer, and Nord also bring top picks for those venturing into digital pianos and beginner guitars.

Looking ahead to Black Friday, we'll share exclusive insights on deals that South Africa's music, DJ, and sound industry can expect. Plus, discover new frontiers in live entertainment powered by 718 Quattrocanali amplifiers and Sonance's seamless speaker integration.

Meet the ultimate DJ sidekick with the PowerWorks HPW-1000 MONOMIX, and experience Italian precision with HK Audio's Polar 10 system, crafted for reliability and top performance wherever you perform.

Let's dive into November with passion, creativity, and the best in sound. Enjoy!

**HAPPY READING!**

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# sound PRESS

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

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# VANCO

## An Interview with **'Mr International'**

Vanco, a dynamic DJ/Producer from Douglasdale, Johannesburg, South Africa, brings a unique African flair to the dance music scene. Known for his powerful basslines and rhythmic percussion, Vanco's tracks blend soothing vocals and African-inspired elements.

With releases under labels like Sony Music, Universal Music Group, and Defected Sondela Recordings, he has collaborated with global artists, including Moby, Black Eyed Peas, Daddy Yankee, Pablo Fierro, and Kasango. Notable recent tracks include "Wele Wele" with Pablo Fierro and Una Rams, and his popular remix of Moby & Lady Blackbird's "Dark Days," gaining traction in Ibiza and festivals worldwide.

Vanco's sets have graced stages across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and beyond, including Ultra-South Africa, Blue Marlin Ibiza, and Club Chinois, where he's shared the spotlight with icons like Black Coffee, Bob Sinclar, and DJEFF. As he tours globally in 2024, Vanco continues to refine his sound, combining pulsing beats, deep bass, and resonant vocals, captivating audiences everywhere.



**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Since the release of your last project, what has been keeping you busy? Are there any recent experiences that have influenced your creative direction?

**Vanco:** My last release was *Dark Days - Moby (Vanco Remix) & Keladi*, which have been taking dance floors by storm with immense support from DJs all over the world. I feel this year has been amazing; it's a buildup from my first release to my current one.

I've been busy traveling to so many different countries, performing for diverse crowds, which has been inspirational. Learning what resonates with each audience has given me more confidence in my craft.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Can you tell us about any recent collaborations or partnerships? Who have you been working with, and what inspired these new connections?

**Vanco:** My recent collaboration was with Pablo Fierro, who's been a mentor to me in music production. We connected further through his residency at Club Chinois in Ibiza, where we play together and test out music. This year, we collaborated on a track featuring Una Rams, and it's been received really well.





**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** We've seen you perform at some major venues recently. What's been your most memorable show this year, and what made it stand out?

**Vanco:** That's a tough one because each venue has its unique vibe. Every show has been incredible with amazing souls, each one memorable in its own way.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** As someone who is constantly evolving musically, are there any new genres or styles you're experimenting with? How are you pushing your sound forward?

**Vanco:** I'm incorporating elements from sub-genres in the dance scene. Amapiano and 3-step have influenced me greatly—they're our own sounds. Performing abroad has shown me what resonates with different audiences, and I'm blending that into my upcoming productions. It's a process of trial and error, and I'm excited to see how it all comes together.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Looking ahead, what can fans expect from you in the coming months? Are there any new projects, releases, or tours planned?

**Vanco:** I'm constantly on tour, and there's no slowing down. I'm also working on curating my own events and expanding my reach as an artist, playing in more countries, on different stages, clubs, festivals, and more.





**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** The South African music scene has been gaining global attention. How do you see yourself contributing to this wave, and what does it mean to you to represent South Africa internationally?

**Vanco:** It's an incredible feeling. Representing South Africa abroad is more than just music; it's about our culture, values, and beliefs. I hope to be a blueprint for other South African artists, showing what's possible when we bring our unique perspectives to the world.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** As the cover artist for this issue, we'd love to know: what do you feel is the defining message of your music right now? How has that changed over time?

**Vanco:** Each release has helped place me in different spaces, building consistency in my craft. My edit of *Tyla - Water (Vanco Edit)* went viral globally, creating demand for my other tracks. *Keladi* is my latest release, gaining widespread support from DJs.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced this year, and how have they shaped your approach to music and life?

**Vanco:** Balancing tour life, music production, and personal life is a fine line. But it's true that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Music has become my escape; it channels every kind of energy I experience, making my work authentic and emotion-driven.

**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:** Outside of your music, are there any personal goals or passions you're pursuing? How do these interests influence or complement your music?

**Vanco:** Through my label ALGRA, we've partnered with 1001 Tracklist to showcase South African mixes to a global audience. We're also branching into events, creating a platform to nurture local talent and offer broader exposure for artists.



**Proaudio Sound Press Magazine:**

For your fans who are eagerly following your journey, what words of inspiration or advice would you share about staying true to one's sound and navigating the music industry?

**Vanco:**

You never know unless you try. Keep believing in yourself and stay committed to your unique sound.



# POWERWORKS MONOMIX

Hand-Held DJ Headphone



### Why DJs Love the HPW-1000?

Imagine you're mid-set, your mix is fire, and the energy is building. You grab your HPW-1000, cue up the next track with precision, and keep your ear open to the crowd's reaction.

**This is what DJing is all about—**connecting with the music and the crowd in one seamless flow. The PowerWorks HPW-1000 MonoMix helps you do just that, making it a must-have for DJs who demand both performance and presence.

**THE ULTIMATE DJ SIDEKICK**



# ARE YOU **READY TO ROCK** your set like never before?

Introducing the PowerWorks HPW-1000 **MONOMIX** Hand-Held DJ Headphone—the one-eared wonder that’s here to keep you locked into the beat while still feeling the energy of the crowd.

Whether you're spinning in a packed club, setting up in an intimate lounge, or smashing it at a festival, this mono headphone is the essential weapon every DJ needs in their toolkit.

## **The One-Ear Wonder**

DJs know the struggle, keep one ear on the music, one ear on the crowd, and both eyes on the decks. The HPW-1000's single-ear design is perfect for pros who want to stay connected to the live vibe while nailing those cue points and beat drops. No more fumbling with regular headphones—just grab, cue, and mix like a boss.

## **Built Like a Tank, Smooth Like Butter**

We get it, your gear takes a beating. That’s why the HPW-1000 is built tough with a durable design that’s ready for all your gigs and travels. But durability doesn’t mean discomfort! This hand-held headphone is built with an ergonomic handle and cushioned ear pad so you can cue up track after track, all night long, without breaking a sweat.

## **Punchy, Clear Sound that Cuts Through**

This isn’t just any headphone; it’s built with a pro-grade driver that packs punchy lows, clear mids, and crisp highs. With the HPW-1000, you’ll hear every kick, snare, and synth in stunning clarity. Make those tight mixes and transitions with the confidence that every detail is on point.

## **Plug-and-Play Compatibility for All Setups**

Switching setups? No problem. The HPW-1000 has a 3.5mm jack and comes with a 6.3mm adapter, making it easy to connect to any mixer or controller. Whatever setup you’re rocking, the HPW-1000 is ready to jump in.





## **Perfect for Cueing Without Missing the Crowd**

When you're deep in a mix, the last thing you want is to feel disconnected from the energy around you.

With its single-ear design, the HPW-1000 lets you monitor your cue while staying in tune with the live sound and crowd. DJs love this because it allows them to hear both the current track and the upcoming beat, ensuring smooth transitions without isolating themselves from the venue's vibe.

## **Precision Control for Flawless Beatmatching**

Beatmatching is an art, and this hand-held headphone makes it easier. The HPW-1000 is built for DJs who rely on accurate, real-time monitoring.

Having just one ear covered helps you focus on the tempo and beat alignment, giving you more control over your mix. This is crucial for genres where tight transitions are key, like house, techno, or hip-hop.



## Ideal for Rapid DJing Movements

DJs are always on the move—adjusting EQs, mixing tracks, and managing effects. A hand-held headphone like the HPW-1000 is quick and convenient for those moments. Just grab it when you need it, cue up your track, then set it aside. Unlike over-ear headphones, there's no hassle of putting them on and off between tracks, allowing you to stay agile and in control.

## Specialized Monitoring for Booth and Back-to-Back Sets

Whether you're sharing the decks in a back-to-back set or managing a busy DJ booth, having one ear free makes communication easier while still monitoring your mix. It's an essential tool for collaborative DJing, letting you stay in sync with both your music and your DJ partner.

The  
**PowerWorks HPW-1000 MonoMix**  
isn't just a headphone; it's a purpose-built tool that helps DJs deliver seamless, engaging performances.

# BLACK FRIDAY

## What South Africa's Music, DJ, and Sound Industry Can Expect

Black Friday is quickly approaching, and on **November 29**, South Africa's music, DJ, and sound industry is poised for one of its biggest sales days of the year. What began as a retail phenomenon in the United States has become a vital part of South Africa's shopping calendar, especially in the world of audio equipment.

From professional sound systems to DJ controllers and studio gear, Black Friday is the perfect time for music professionals, hobbyists, and aspiring artists to find the equipment they need at a fraction of the usual cost.





# WHY **BLACK FRIDAY** MATTERS IN THE MUSIC AND DJ INDUSTRY!

For professionals and enthusiasts alike, high-quality music gear is a significant investment. DJ controllers, mixers, speakers, microphones, and headphones can be expensive, making Black Friday a much-anticipated opportunity to access premium brands without breaking the bank.

## Anticipated Deals and Discounts

South African retailers specializing in audio and DJ equipment have been preparing for months to offer some of the best Black Friday deals. Here's what customers can look forward to in each category:

### DJ Controllers and Mixers

DJ controllers are always a top seller during Black Friday. Brands like Pioneer DJ often have discounts on their popular controllers, with models such as the DDJ series expected to be among the most in-demand items.

These controllers, designed for all skill levels, give DJs a chance to upgrade their setups at a more accessible price point.

### Studio Monitors and Speakers

Sound engineers and producers on the hunt for quality studio monitors can anticipate deals on brands like KRK, Turbosound, and dB Technologies. Black Friday is an ideal time to pick up high-fidelity monitors and PA speakers that bring clarity and depth to both studio work and live performances.

### Headphones and Microphones

High-quality headphones and microphones are essential tools for DJs and recording artists, and Audio-Technica is often a top choice for those seeking comfort and crystal-clear sound. Black Friday discounts on models like the ATH-M50x headphones or AT series microphones provide an opportunity for musicians to achieve professional-quality recordings without the premium price.



BLACK  
FRIDAY

# Tips for Getting the Best Deals

## 1. RESEARCH IN ADVANCE:

Many stores will announce their Black Friday specials ahead of time, allowing you to compare prices and decide where to shop. Sites often publish flyers or previews of sales, so keep an eye out.

## 2. SET A BUDGET:

With so many tempting deals, it's easy to overspend. Decide in advance how much you're willing to invest in new equipment, and prioritize the items you truly need.

## 3. LOOK FOR BUNDLE DEALS:

Some retailers may offer bundle deals on equipment, where you can get multiple items at a reduced price, saving even more than if you bought each item separately.



## **SOUTH AFRICAN RETAILERS TO WATCH**

Several South African retailers specializing in DJ and music equipment will participate in Black Friday sales. Many of these stores also have online platforms, so shoppers can conveniently take advantage of deals from the comfort of their homes.

## **A BOOST FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S MUSIC SCENE**

Black Friday serves as a significant opportunity for the growth of South Africa's music scene, making professional equipment more accessible to a wider audience. For new DJs, producers, and sound technicians, this day can be the first step in building a career, upgrading a home studio, or expanding an existing setup. Established professionals, too, can benefit from upgrading their gear or experimenting with new technology, which is now within reach.

This Black Friday, South Africa's music and DJ enthusiasts can expect exciting opportunities to invest in their passion, setting the stage for a dynamic and creative year ahead. So, whether you're a veteran or a newcomer, mark your calendar, prepare your wish list, and get ready to make the most of this annual event.



AlphaTheta

4-channel performance DJ controller

# DDJ-GRV6



# LIVE REMIXING

## with the *AlphaTheta DDJ-GRV6* and its Groundbreaking Groove Circuit

DJs, get ready for a game-changer in live remixing with AlphaTheta's DDJ-GRV6, designed to transform sets with seamless creativity. Its revolutionary *Groove Circuit* feature invites you to reimagine tracks on the fly, swapping drum parts with different loops for instant genre-crossing remixes. Dive into creative freedom as you layer effects for fills, build-ups, and breakdowns that keep energy high and performances fresh.

Imagine taking a track and morphing its beat structure to fit the mood instantly—electrifying for any crowd. With *Groove Circuit*, you're not just blending tracks but reshaping them, infusing each set with uniquely crafted remixes.



The *DDJ-GRV6* feels like club-standard equipment with its large jog wheels for expressive scratching and beat manipulation, eight performance pads above the jogs inspired by the flagship CDJ-3000, and dynamic Beat FX from the DJM-A9. Each feature empowers you to merge scratching, pad performance, and *Groove Circuit* remixes into a seamless, high-energy flow.

Navigating your extensive music library is effortless, thanks to the *Smart Rotary Selector* with tilt functionality, which lets you scroll through playlists and track lists intuitively. And with the *Track Suggestion* feature, rediscover hidden gems and new crowd-pleasers alike, keeping your sets unpredictable and fresh.

*Compatible with Serato DJ Pro*, the DDJ-GRV6 also unlocks Stems FX for the ultimate creative toolkit. Apply Roll, Trans, Echo Out, and Delay effects to isolated track elements—drums, bass, vocals, or melodies—transforming your mixing approach and allowing for multilayered, immersive soundscapes.



The **DDJ-GRV6** merges the world of remixing with live DJing, letting you **push boundaries** like never before.

It's more than a controller— it's your gateway to **next-level DJ creativity.**





# DDJ-GRV6

## 4-CHANNEL DJ CONTROLLER

### Key Features of the AlphaTheta DDJ-GRV6

1. **Groove Circuit:** Allows on-the-fly remixing by switching drum parts and loops, enabling genre transformations and live remix creativity with fills, build-ups, and breakdowns.
2. **Jog Wheels:** Large, ideal for expressive scratching, akin to club-standard equipment.
3. **8 Performance Pads:** Positioned above the jog wheels, inspired by the flagship CDJ-3000 for dynamic performance techniques.
4. **Beat FX:** Derived from the DJM-A9, providing professional-quality effects in the mixer section.
5. **Smart Rotary Selector:** Features tilt controls for fast, intuitive navigation through rekordbox's library, playlists, and media browser.
6. **Track Suggestion:** A "Discover" button surfaces new and old tracks for fresh set ideas.
7. **Serato DJ Pro Compatibility:** Supports Stems FX, allowing effects application to individual track elements like drums, bass, and vocals.
8. **Overlay Sheet for Stems FX:** Customizes button labels for easy identification during Stem manipulation.



# DDJ-FLX2



FREE YOUR INNER DJ





## Pioneer DJ has unveiled the DDJ-FLX2, a compact and lightweight DJ controller designed to cater to both beginners and seasoned professionals.

As the successor to the popular DDJ-200, the DDJ-FLX2 introduces enhanced features and improved portability, making it an ideal choice for DJs seeking versatility and ease of use.

### Key Features of the DDJ-FLX2:

- **Compact and Lightweight Design:** The DDJ-FLX2 is Pioneer DJ's lightest and most compact controller to date, facilitating easy transport and setup for DJs on the move. [Yahoo](#)
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Building upon the intuitive layout of its predecessor, the DDJ-FLX2 offers a straightforward interface that simplifies the learning curve for beginners while providing the necessary tools for professional performances.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** The controller features seamless integration with popular DJ software, ensuring compatibility and flexibility across various platforms.
- **High-Quality Sound Output:** Equipped with advanced audio components, the DDJ-FLX2 delivers clear and powerful sound, maintaining the high standards associated with Pioneer DJ equipment.

## Why DDJ-FLX2?



Works with various DJ applications



MIX support functions



Explore tutorials



Smartphone / Tablet / PC / Mac Compatible



Supports music streaming services



Lightweight, compact body with user-friendly features

**The DDJ-FLX2's design emphasizes portability without compromising functionality, making it suitable for a wide range of DJing scenarios, from home practice sessions to live performances.**

Its lightweight build does not detract from its durability, ensuring reliability during extensive use.





Incorporating feedback from users of the DDJ-200, Pioneer DJ has refined the DDJ-FLX2 to better meet the needs of today's DJs.

**The controller's enhanced features and user-friendly design make it a valuable addition to Pioneer DJ's lineup, appealing to both newcomers and experienced DJs seeking a reliable and versatile controller.**

AlphaTheta

4-channel professional all-in-one DJ system

# XDJ-AZ



COMING 2025



# REVOLUTIONIZING the DJ Experience

with Club-Standard Control and Flexibility

The new AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ, a 4-channel all-in-one DJ system, sets a new standard for professional DJs who demand both portability and premium features. Building on the flagship layout of the CDJ-3000 and DJM-A9, the XDJ-AZ is designed to give DJs an experience that mirrors top-tier club setups. With full-size jog wheels that offer smooth pitch bending and scratching, and an intuitive mixer layout, this unit makes transitioning from practice to a club setting seamless.

The *CloudDirectPlay* feature allows DJs to access their rekordbox library directly from the system, pulling playlists, Hot Cues, and performance data from the cloud and even allowing updates directly from the unit.



*StreamingDirectPlay* expands access to Beatport's massive library, providing waveform, BPM, and grid data, so DJs can seamlessly mix diverse tracks into their sets.

The XDJ-AZ is equipped with an ultra-responsive 10.1-inch touchscreen, displaying up to 13 tracks at once and including advanced features like *Playlist Bank*, *Touch Preview*, and *Touch Cue*. These features streamline track selection, allowing DJs to sample upcoming tracks or cue specific track sections, making set building intuitive and precise.

Supporting 4-deck playback, the XDJ-AZ provides the flexibility to add live sounds, create mashups, or collaborate back-to-back with another DJ. The *PRO DJ LINK™* compatibility syncs beat and on-air information across CDJs, so integrating additional players is effortless.

SonicLink technology offers ultra-low-latency wireless monitoring with the HDJ-F10 headphones, delivering audio 20 times faster than standard Bluetooth, allowing DJs to move freely without sacrificing sound fidelity.



Designed for optimal sound, the XDJ-AZ includes a 32-bit D/A converter by ESS Technology, elevating audio clarity and dynamics for any venue size. With a 3-Band Master EQ, DJs can also adjust output to suit the acoustic characteristics of any space, enhancing the overall sound experience.



## KEY FEATURES

of the AlphaTheta XDJ-AZ

1. **Club-Standard Layout:** Inherits the design of the flagship CDJ-3000 and DJM-A9 for intuitive use and a seamless club transition.
2. **Full-Size Jog Wheels:** Smooth pitch bending and scratching capabilities.
3. **Cloud Direct Play:** Direct access to rekordbox library with cloud integration.
4. **Streaming Direct Play:** Beatport streaming with waveform, BPM, and grid data.
5. **10.1-Inch Touchscreen:** Enhanced view with Playlist Bank, Touch Preview, and Touch Cue for efficient track selection.
6. **4-Deck Playback:** Ideal for live mashups, additional sounds, and DJ collaborations.
7. **PRO DJ LINK™:** Syncs beat and on-air info across compatible players.
8. **Sonic Link Wireless Monitoring:** Ultra-low latency wireless transmission for HDJ-F10 headphones.
9. **Enhanced Sound Quality:** ESS Technology 32-bit D/A converter with a 3-Band Master EQ.







# DR DUDA

## An Interview with **DR DUDA**

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### **Proaudio Sound Press:**

Congratulations on your solo album *The Drive: A Musical Journey*! You mentioned that this project spotlights instrumentalists who often go unrecognized. What inspired you to give these unsung heroes a platform in your album?

**Dr Duda:** The inspiration for *The Drive: A Musical Journey* came from my experiences as both a musician and an audience member. I've always been moved by the depth and emotion that instrumentalists bring to music, often working behind the scenes while the spotlight shines on vocalists and band leaders.

These unsung heroes play a crucial role in shaping sound and storytelling in music, yet they rarely receive the recognition they deserve. I wanted to create a platform where their talents could shine and share their stories.

This album allowed me to collaborate with a diverse range of instrumentalists, each bringing their unique voice and style to the project. By highlighting their contributions, I hope to celebrate their artistry and remind listeners of the integral role they play in music. *The Drive* is a journey that invites everyone to appreciate the richness of instrumental music and the incredible talent that often goes unnoticed.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've been in the music industry for 23 years now. How does *The Drive* reflect your personal growth and the evolution of your sound over the years?

**Dr Duda:** As I navigated through various experiences—both in life and within the industry—I found that my sound began to mature. *The Drive* represents a phase where I integrated my diverse influences while honing in on what feels authentic to me. It mirrors the confidence I've gained over the years and reflects a deeper understanding of my artistry.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** As a core member of Mi Casa, how do you balance producing music for the band and creating a full solo album, especially while being on extensive world tours?

**Dr Duda:** Balancing band commitments with solo projects can be quite challenging, but it involves a mix of organization, time management, and creativity. Depending on the touring schedule and the band's release plans, I prioritize my projects accordingly. If there's a significant solo work I want to focus on, I might schedule it around the touring cycle.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Mi Casa has had incredible success globally, performing on stages all over the world. What's been the most memorable part of touring with the band?

**Dr Duda:** Memorable moments on tour include connecting with fans, visiting new places, and the energy of live performances. For a band like Mi Casa, standout moments include the excitement of performing in different countries, unique cultural experiences, and special interactions with fans that leave a lasting impression.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** How has the global exposure and world tours with Mi Casa influenced your solo work, particularly in terms of your approach to music and production?

**Dr Duda:** Mi Casa's global exposure and extensive world tours have significantly influenced my solo work in several ways. Performing in diverse locations allowed me to experience a variety of musical styles and cultural influences, which has broadened my creative palette. Incorporating elements from different genres and cultures into my music has made my solo projects more eclectic and appealing to a wider audience.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Mi Casa's sound is a unique blend of house, soul, and jazz. Does your solo work with *The Drive* carry any of that Mi Casa influence, or did you venture into entirely different musical territories?

**Dr Duda:** Mi Casa's sound indeed encompasses a unique blend of house, soul, and jazz, and it's likely that those elements have influenced my solo work with *The Drive*. While exploring new musical territories, I've aimed to maintain the essence of that blend, incorporating rich rhythms and soulful melodies. However, I've also ventured into fresh styles and genres, allowing for a diverse musical expression that reflects both my roots and new inspirations. The goal has always been to create something that resonates while also pushing creative boundaries.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** What was the creative process like for *The Drive*? Did you utilize the Nord Electro for sounds, soundscapes within *Drive*?

**Dr Duda:** The Nord Electro was a significant part of that process, as it offers a wide range of sounds that can really enhance the overall vibe. Its versatility allowed us to create rich soundscapes, blending electronic textures with more organic elements.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** What do you hope listeners take away from *The Drive*? Is there a particular message or emotion you're hoping to convey through this musical journey?

**Dr Duda:** I hope listeners take away a sense of joy, empowerment, and introspection. Each track is crafted to resonate on different emotional levels, encouraging listeners to reflect on their own experiences while also celebrating life's moments.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Mi Casa has had a loyal fanbase for years. How has the support from your fans and the music community influenced your solo endeavors?

**Dr Duda:** Having a loyal fanbase provides a foundation of encouragement and motivation that empowers me to explore new sounds and take creative risks. Their feedback and engagement help shape my direction, allowing me to experiment while still connecting with what they love about my music.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** With such a long career behind you, what's the next chapter for Dr Duda? Can we expect more solo projects or new creative directions?

**Dr Duda:** As I look to the next chapter in my career, I'm excited about exploring new creative directions while continuing to develop my projects. I plan to dive deeper into songwriting, experiment with different genres, and possibly collaborate with a variety of artists from diverse backgrounds.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Finally, for young producers and aspiring musicians looking up to you, what advice would you give about finding balance between group collaborations and pursuing solo projects?



## Dr Duda:

**Work with others to learn new perspectives, techniques, and ideas.** Conversely, solo projects allow you to express your individual vision, so *value both experiences equally.*





Pioneer DJ





# The Perfect Entry Point for Wireless Vinyl Lovers

Audio-Technica AT-LP70XBT

The Audio-Technica AT-LP70XBT is an ideal choice for new audiophiles, blending the charm of vinyl with the convenience of modern Bluetooth® technology.

With automatic wireless capabilities, this turntable allows beginners and enthusiasts alike to experience high-quality analog sound wirelessly through Bluetooth-enabled speakers, headphones, or devices compatible with the Qualcomm® aptX™ Adaptive codec.





### Exceptional Sound with the AT-VM95C Cartridge

Central to its excellent sound quality is the AT-VM95C cartridge, featuring a 0.6 mil conical stylus that delivers impressive channel separation and minimal distortion.

Mounted on a precision J-shaped tonearm, this cartridge stands out for its high fidelity in a turntable at this price point. What's more, the stylus is compatible with other styli in Audio-Technica's VM95 Series, giving users the option to upgrade to elliptical, microlinear, or Shibata styli for enhanced customization.





With its combination of wireless connectivity, high-quality cartridge, and solid construction, the **AT-LP70XBT** provides an accessible entry into the world of vinyl without sacrificing audio quality.

### **Classic Vinyl Meets Wireless Convenience**

Designed to play both 33-1/3 and 45 RPM records, the AT-LP70XBT brings vinyl audio to a new level of convenience. Its built-in switchable phono preamp means it can connect easily to home stereos, powered speakers, or other setups, whether or not they have a dedicated phono input.

### **Quality Build for Resonance-Free Sound**

The AT-LP70XBT's three-piece anti-resonance chassis offers a stable foundation, effectively dampening vibrations for clearer sound. Meanwhile, an external AC adapter reduces chassis noise, ensuring cleaner, interference-free playback.

For anyone looking to start their audiophile journey with ease and convenience, this turntable is a **top-notch choice**.



# MIDAS DL8

## Compact, High-Quality Stage Box for Professional Sound

PoE-Powered 8 Input, 8 Output Stage Box with Midas PRO Microphone Preamplifiers and 2 Powered ULTRANET Monitoring Outputs



The **Midas DL8** combines top-tier audio quality, versatile power options, and robust connectivity in a compact stage box that's ideal for both portable and installed setups.

### EXCEPTIONAL AUDIO QUALITY

Equipped with 8 Midas PRO microphone preamps and switchable 48V phantom power, the DL8 delivers clear, warm sound for mics and instruments alike. With balanced line outputs, it maintains high fidelity, essential for professional performances.



### Built for Stage and Durability

Designed to withstand demanding use, the DL8 includes Neutrik etherCON AES50 ports and can operate up to 330 feet from the console via CAT5e cable. The rugged chassis, with included rack ears and bumpers, makes it ideal for both on-the-road and fixed installations.

## The Midas DL8, Your Compact Solution for Professional Audio Needs

With its premium preamps, versatile power setup, and durable design, the Midas DL8 is an essential for any professional sound environment, ensuring high-quality, reliable audio for every performance.

### Flexible Power and Connectivity

Powered via AES50 PoE from compatible hubs or through its internal power supply, the DL8 offers adaptable setup options. Its ULTRANET monitoring outputs support seamless connections to Turbosound speakers and personal monitoring mixers, while dual AES50 ports enable cascading additional stage boxes without extra routers.



# UPGRADE Commercial Spaces with Pristine Sound



Tannoy OCV 8-WH



## Designed for modern installation needs,

the Tannoy OCV 8-WH offers an ideal solution for commercial sound installations in restaurants, malls, retail outlets, and more. This 8" coaxial, full-range pendant loudspeaker delivers 70 watts of continuous power (280 watts peak), ensuring clarity and power for background music and announcements alike.

The OCV 8-WH's key feature is its mineral-loaded polypropylene driver and nitrile rubber surround, paired with a 1" ferrofluid-cooled neodymium tweeter. This robust build delivers high-frequency precision and durability for long-term performance. With wide directivity dispersion, the speaker efficiently covers open spaces, ensuring consistent sound quality across large areas—an essential for bustling venues.

Certified to UL 1480 standards for general signaling systems, the OCV 8-WH also meets the demands of indoor and outdoor settings, boasting IP64-rated weather resistance. Its semi-matte white finish and UL 94 V-0 ABS construction with a plated steel fire can enclosure add to its durability, allowing it to withstand exposure to UV and varied environmental conditions without compromising aesthetics.



## Seamless Integration and Installation

Designed with flexibility in mind, the OCV 8-WH is optimized for use with LAB GRUPPEN low-impedance LUCIA amplifiers, allowing up to eight speakers per channel for simplified scalability. Installers will appreciate the 70V/100V transformer with multiple taps or the 16-ohm direct input for straightforward integration with existing setups. A low-insertion-loss 60W transformer and accessible tapping switch add ease to adjustments and sound optimization.

The OCV 8-WH's design isn't only about sound—it's also engineered for efficiency and style. The quick-hang system streamlines setup, reducing installation time and labor costs, while the powder-coated steel grille and dust protection preserve aesthetics and ensure longevity. A weatherproof cable gland protects the Phoenix connectors and tap selector switch, allowing installers to place this pendant speaker in a variety of settings with confidence.







## An Interview with **Dean DJ Dizzy**

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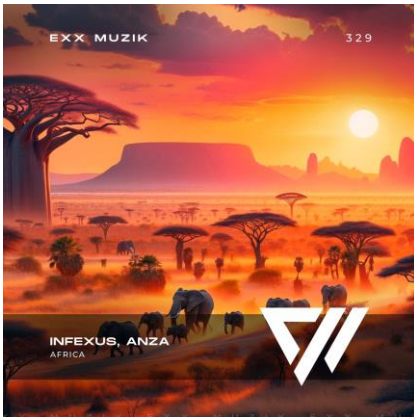
**Proaudio Sound Press:** Dean, you've had an incredible career spanning three decades. What do you think has been the key to your longevity in the industry?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** I think what has kept me going all these years has been a few factors. Firstly, my simple love for music, from rock through to trance and everything in between. Secondly, being versatile in any genre, where I get to play an '80s party, then shoot off to another gig and play a techno set—it keeps my DJ life interesting. Thirdly, I can sit in a studio and create the music I play in my sets. There's nothing more goosebump-inducing than dropping your own track and getting an incredible reaction on the dance floor.

Lastly, I think the most important aspect for me has been adapting to new genres and wearing a different hat for each of my brands and aliases. I currently have about five DJ names, each representing a completely different genre.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've held residencies at over 100 clubs and played at massive events both locally and internationally, including the legendary Love Parade. What was it like performing in front of 1.3 million people in Berlin? How did that experience shape your career?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** The Love Parade in 2000 was definitely a milestone for me. Performing for that kind of crowd was probably one of the most emotional things I've ever experienced as a DJ.



After wiping away the tears of pure elation, I had to keep pinching myself to make sure it wasn't a dream. You have no idea how loud 1.3 million screaming, whistling people are; it hits you like a wave of noise and joy all at once. After returning to South Africa, I had a whole new outlook on the term "RAVE." The Love Parade is literally nonstop parties for two weeks, with affiliated clubs packed and people camping out on the pavements. It was mind-blowing.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** Your "Pipe Dreams" single made waves in 1999, reaching the local top 10. Can you take us back to the moment when that track gained so much traction? What did it mean for you and your career at the time?



**Dean DJ Dizzy:** "Pipe Dreams" was my very first attempt at producing music—an entire album, in fact. Back in 1999, it wasn't as easy as today with the technology we have now. I spent hours on a Pentium 1 PC. I had a friend, Mark Conner at Sheer Dance Records, who said, "Let's do an album under the DJ Dizzy name." He pushed me to get it done, and with help from Bev and the guys at 5FM, we got it playlisted on the 5FM Coca-Cola Top 40. It was surreal to hear it reach No. 3. The exposure boosted my bookings, taking me to towns all over South Africa.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** You're also part of the Hardy Boyz duo. Can you tell us how that collaboration came to be with Manuel Oettl, and how it has evolved over time, especially with the addition of the new member?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** The Hardy Boyz came about shortly after Double Trouble. Manuel and I had similar styles in hard dance, so we formed a duo. We pushed hard on marketing, got booked at hard dance clubs, and featured with Derek the Bandit on 5FM, which helped us climb higher.





We even did a video tour across four South African nightclubs, which fans loved. Recently, I did a back-to-back hard dance set with DJ Morgan, and it reignited the Hardy Boyz magic. We both felt it, and that's how Hardy Boyz 2.0 was born.

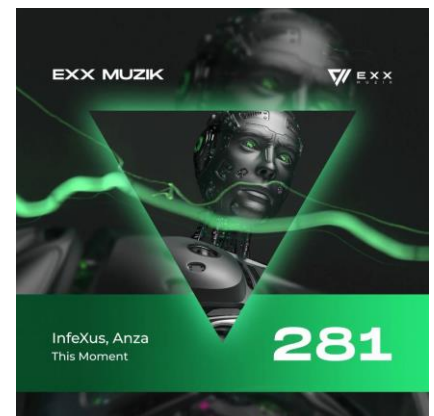
**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've played across genres from progressive house to hardstyle/hardbass/trance. How have you maintained versatility in your sets, and how has your music taste evolved with changing trends?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** I've always adapted easily, probably because I started out playing different genres as a young DJ. Even now, my new passion is melodic techno, yet I still look for tracks that have that DJ Dizzy energy or style. I believe a track should carry an emotional message or vocal phrasing to bring joy to listeners. Depeche Mode said it best, "If the music is good—you dance."

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You were part of the golden era of dance music in South Africa, playing at iconic clubs like Bellanapoli, Masquerades, and E.S.P. What was it like running the dancefloors in the 90s and early 2000s? Any unforgettable moments from that era?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** GOSH! Too many to count. My first big club was Bella Napoli in 1987, where I worked my way up to a main DJ spot. Later, at Masquerade, I represented them in the South African Battle of the DJs in 1989, which I won.

After that came the White Horse Inn and then the rave scene. The Blue House rave was one of the biggest, with over 3,000 people. Playing alongside legends like Carl Cox, Sasha & Digweed, and Tall Paul—it was like electronic Woodstock every weekend.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** Your latest track, "Africa," is making waves on Beatport and is a serious techno banger. What inspired the track, and what do you think resonates with listeners about it?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** The inspiration came from my time as an '80s DJ. I was at a braai, and the song "Africa" by Toto played. I thought it'd be a great melody for a melodic techno track, but I had to up the BPM. The melody hook and "Bless the rains in Africa" chorus resonate with listeners because it triggers nostalgia without overdoing it.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** As someone who has played globally, including Ibiza and alongside names like Sasha and John Digweed, how would you compare the South African dance scene to the international one?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** In the '90s to early 2000s, South Africa was on par with international scenes regarding crowd sizes and production standards. We have some of the best DJs globally, even if we're geographically distant. Today, while fewer clubs match that quality, major events like H2O and Ultra still uphold incredible standards.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've produced some cover albums in the past. How did that opportunity come about, and what did you enjoy most about the process?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** During a shift towards hip hop and deep house, I approached Electromode Music with the idea of remixing pop songs for dance clubs. Clubtraxx was born, and the brand took off. It taught me so much about music production because I had to recreate popular sounds without sampling.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Vinyl has been making a comeback in recent years. As a veteran DJ, do you have a favorite vinyl record in your collection, and does vinyl still hold a special place in your sets?

**Dean DJ Dizzy:** I love vinyl, and I'm thrilled it's making a comeback. My favorites include my own "Pipe Dreams" and records signed by legends like Carl Cox and Depeche Mode. There's something special about spinning vinyl.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** With so many achievements in your career, do you have any specific goals or projects you're currently working on that you're excited about?

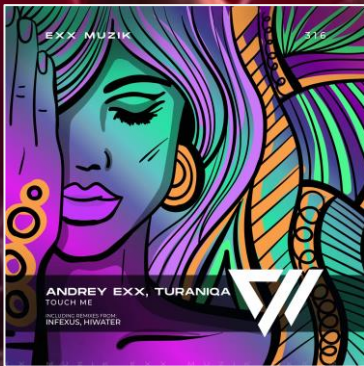
**Dean DJ Dizzy:** The InfeXus brand has revived my career, and I'm planning a tour with international bookings for 2025. I'll be releasing more melodic techno and collaborating with some big producers. Exciting things are ahead.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Finally, what advice would you give to up-and-coming DJs who want to have the kind of longevity and impact that you've had in the industry?



## Dean DJ Dizzy:

Never lose your passion for music. It's a universal language. Remember, it's not about you—it's about the crowd. Stay versatile, adapt to evolving genres, and most importantly, stay humble. **Work hard, respect other DJs, and never give up!**





# PowerWorks PW-PP400

A Compact Phono Preamp for Pristine Vinyl Sound



## Compact Excellence for Vinyl Lovers

For those who value audio quality, the PowerWorks PW-PP400 offers a perfect blend of convenience, flexibility, and sound fidelity. Its compact, low-noise design and adherence to RIAA standards make it an essential for any vinyl enthusiast looking to elevate their listening experience.



**For audiophiles and casual listeners alike, the PowerWorks PW-PP400 Phono Preamp is a powerhouse in a small package, designed to bring out the best in vinyl records.**

With an emphasis on sound quality, flexible connectivity, and user-friendly design, the PW-PP400 makes an excellent addition to any audio setup, whether it's a home stereo system or a professional audio rig.

The PW-PP400's stereo RCA inputs and outputs and ¼" TRS output jack ensure seamless integration into a variety of setups. This flexibility allows users to connect the preamp to home stereos, turntables, or even mixers, making it a versatile tool for those who want to enjoy or process vinyl sound on different systems.

Engineered with low-noise circuitry, the PW-PP400 minimizes unwanted hum and distortion, preserving the rich and warm tones of vinyl. This low-noise operation means that every detail in the music comes through clearly, enhancing the listener's experience by delivering the sound as intended.

The PW-PP400 features RIAA equalization, a standard that provides precise amplification and equalization for turntable signals. By adhering to these specifications, the preamp delivers an authentic sound that's true to the artist's original recordings, offering a pure and balanced listening experience.

With its ultra-compact dimensions, the PW-PP400 fits effortlessly into any setup. Despite its small size, it doesn't compromise on performance, making it a perfect choice for audiophiles and professionals who need high-quality sound without sacrificing space.

Reliable Power for Consistent Performance

Powered by an included 12V adapter, the PW-PP400 offers a reliable power supply for consistent operation across various environments. This simple setup ensures the preamp is always ready to deliver optimal performance.



# LAB.GRUPPEN CA2401



240 Watt Commercial Amplifier with Energy Star Certification

## **Efficient, Reliable Power for Commercial and Industrial Sound**

The Lab.Gruppen CA2401 amplifier is designed with versatility and efficiency in mind, making it ideal for commercial and industrial applications. With 240 watts of power and support for both Low-Z (4/8 Ohm) and High-Z (70/100 V) operation, the CA2401 is a robust, energy-efficient solution for sound professionals who prioritize reliable performance and minimal operational costs.

### **Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly**

Certified by Energy Star, the CA2401 conserves energy, reducing long-term costs and environmental impact. Its Auto Ramp circuitry allows for smooth, fast power-up and down, conserving power when the amplifier is not in active use, which is crucial in settings where energy efficiency is a priority.

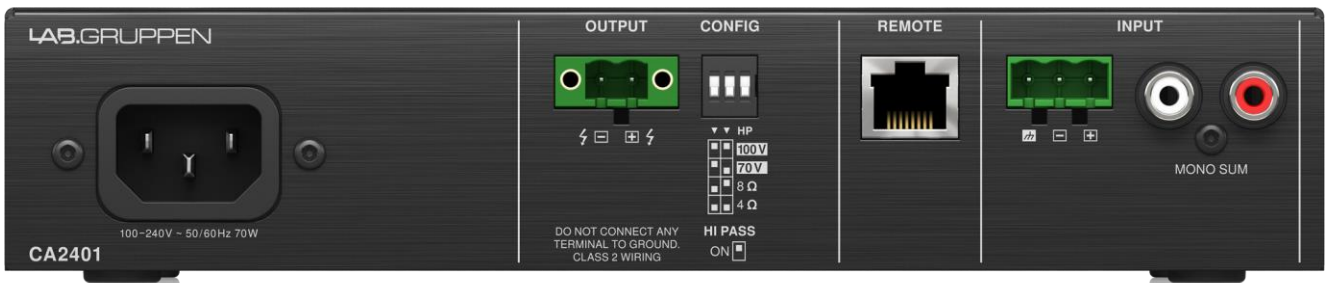


### Flexible Installation & Remote Control

Designed for ease of use and adaptability, the 1U, half-rack width CA2401 is compact and comes with brackets for rack, table, or wall mounting. It's also GPI-enabled, allowing remote volume control through a standard RJ-45 Ethernet connection, which can be highly convenient in larger installations.

### Quiet, Fan-less Operation

The convection-cooled, fanless design keeps the CA2401 silent, making it ideal for spaces where noise is a concern. Euroblock connectors simplify input and output connections, adding further convenience for professional setups.



### Superior Audio Control and Performance

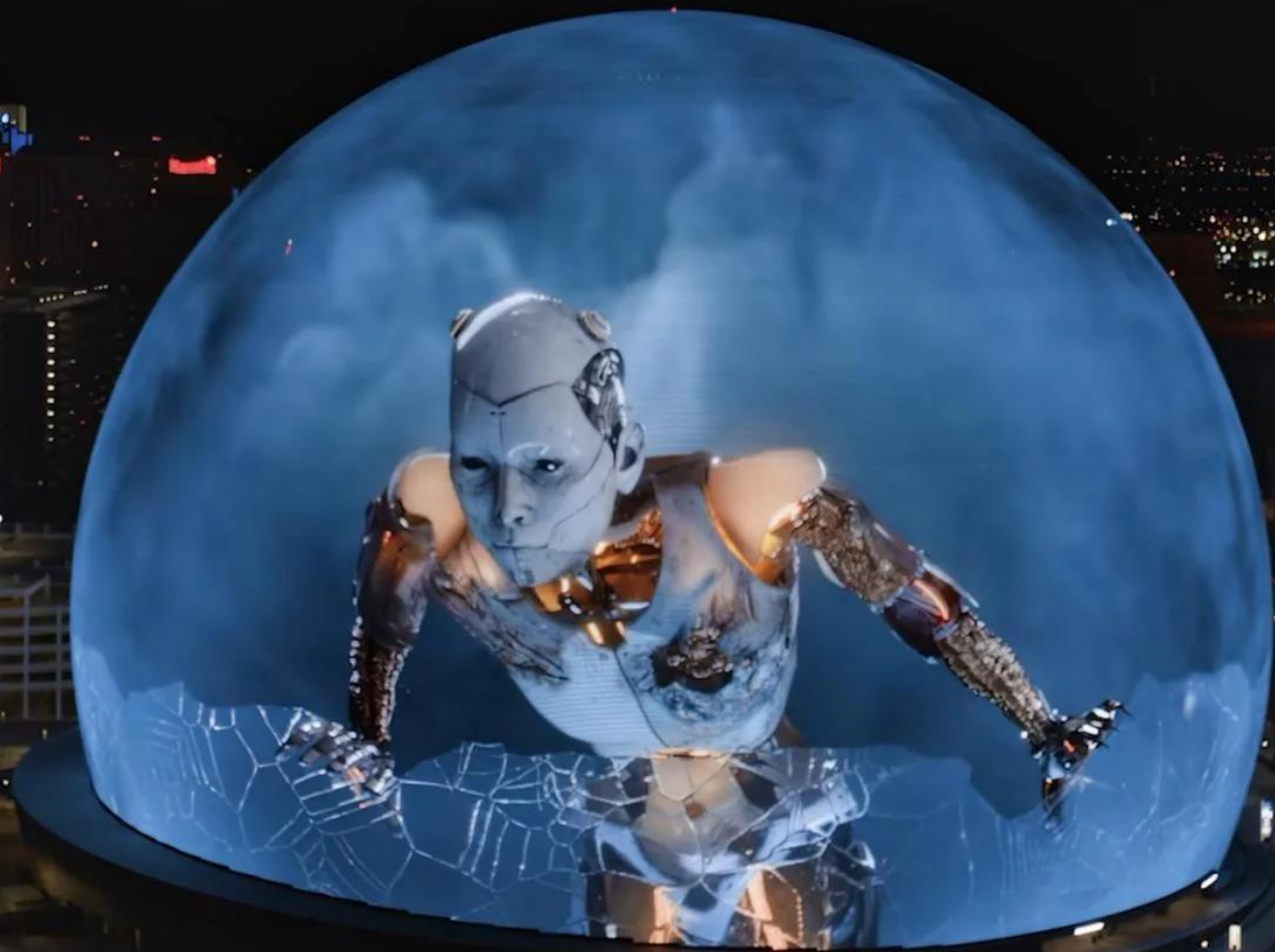
The CA2401's direct drive, constant power technology ensures stable, high-quality sound across a variety of loads, from distributed audio systems to direct loudspeaker connections. With individual front panel bass and treble controls and a master volume knob, the CA2401 offers precise audio adjustments, making it versatile enough for various environments, from corporate to industrial spaces.

**With its energy-efficient design, versatile controls, and quiet operation, the Lab.Gruppen CA2401 amplifier is a practical choice for commercial and industrial settings, delivering reliable power and control with minimal environmental impact.**



# Towersoft

Powers the Unmatched Sound and Sensory Experience at Las Vegas' **Sphere**



718 Quattrocanali amplifiers power 2,500 audio channels





# Welcome to a new frontier in live entertainment, where sound isn't just heard—*it's felt.*

The revolutionary Sphere venue in Las Vegas has partnered with Powersoft, the world leader in energy-efficient amplification, to deliver a fully immersive audio and sensory experience like no other. Powersoft's cutting-edge technology powers Sphere's Sphere Immersive Sound system, featuring 167,000 channels of audio and 10,000 haptic seats that make every beat, pulse, and sound come to life.

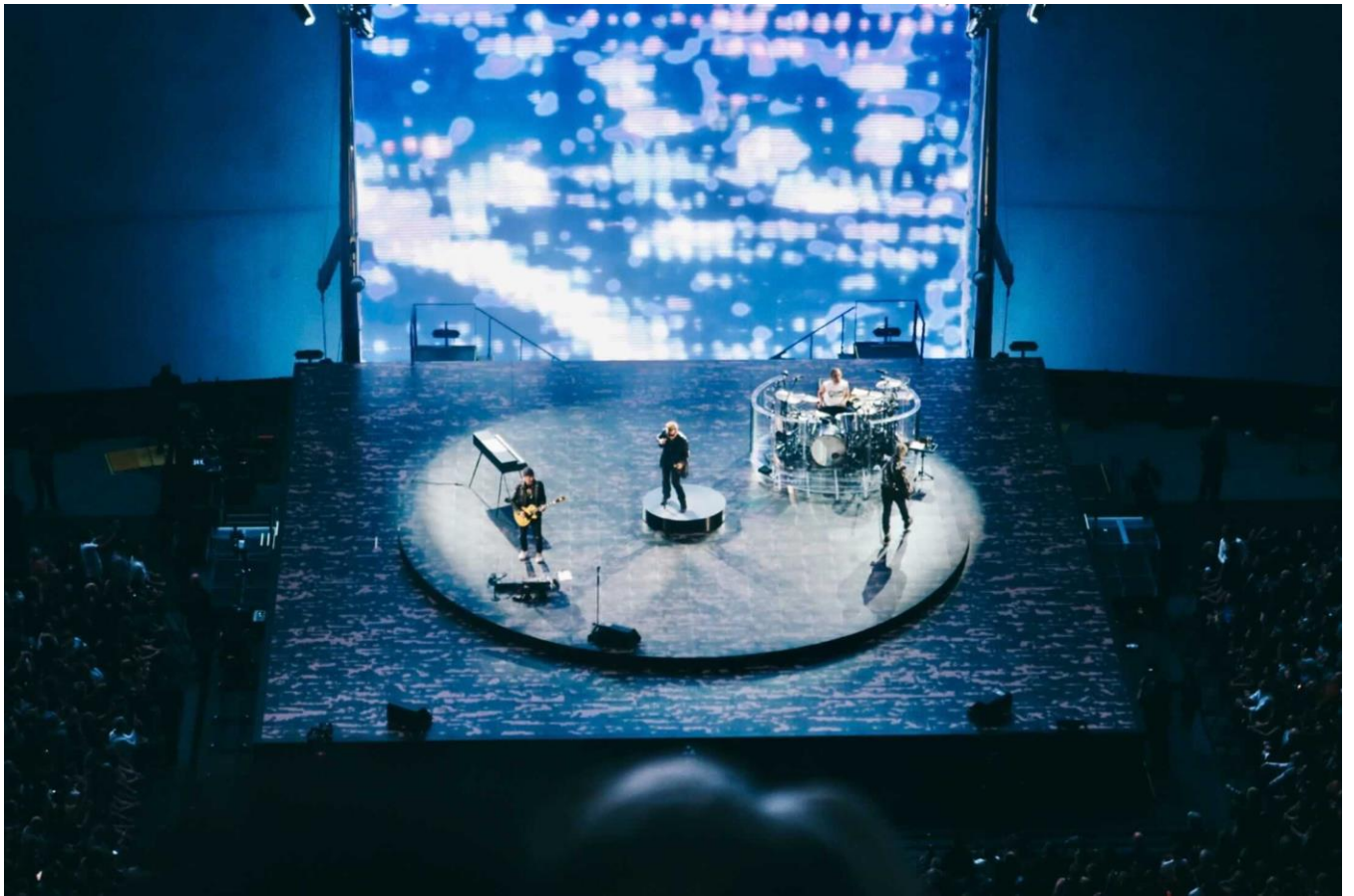
David Dibble, CEO of MSG Ventures, said, "Sphere Immersive Sound has reset the standard for live audio. Last weekend, with the premiere of The Sphere Experience featuring Darren Aronofsky's Postcard from Earth, our guests experienced an unprecedented multi-sensory experience. Powersoft's advanced technology enabled us to deliver this next-level performance without compromising our sustainability goals.

"Designed to work with Sphere's unique curved interior, Powersoft's ultra-efficient 16-channel amplifiers drive the venue's HOLOPLOT X1 audio system. This groundbreaking setup achieves 40% energy savings compared to conventional amplifiers, minimizing environmental impact without sacrificing any detail in sound quality.

"Sphere is our largest and most visionary project to date," said Carlo Lastrucci, President of Powersoft. "It's incredible to work with a partner who shares our vision for the future of live entertainment.

"Powersoft's advanced Power Factor Correction (PFC) and Class-D PWM technologies form the backbone of Sphere's audio system, ensuring powerful sound with up to 40% energy reduction and an impressive reduction in CO2 emissions. Powersoft's IPAL (Integrated Powered Adaptive Loudspeaker) technology further enhances Sphere's HOLOPLOT X1 subwoofers, providing unmatched acoustic control and performance.





Sphere's immersive experience doesn't stop with sound. The venue's 10,000 haptic seats, outfitted with Powersoft's Mover infrasound transducers, engage audiences physically by syncing ultra-low-frequency vibrations with the show, creating a multi-sensory experience unlike anything else in the world. Each of these seats features Powersoft's patented technology, and 718 Quattrocanali amplifiers power 2,500 audio channels to ensure precision.

Opening with U2's UV Achtung Baby Live At Sphere on September 29, and followed by The Sphere Experience on October 6, Sphere has redefined live entertainment. With Powersoft's energy-efficient, groundbreaking technology, every show delivers an unforgettable experience where sound meets sensation.





## **Powersoft Powers Next-Level Sound and Sensory Experience at Sphere – in Brief**

### **16-Channel Amplifiers**

Powersoft's compact, ultra-high-efficiency 16-channel amplifiers are the backbone of Sphere's HOLOPLOT X1 audio system, driving 167,000 audio channels with crystal-clear sound. These amplifiers achieve around 40% energy savings, maximizing efficiency without sacrificing quality.

### **Power Factor Correction (PFC) & Class-D PWM Technology**

Integrated PFC technology optimizes power use, reducing the overall carbon footprint by up to 40%. Combined with Class-D PWM, these technologies convert drawn power into usable energy, recycling reactive energy from the loudspeakers for high-quality, eco-friendly performance.

### **IPAL (Integrated Powered Adaptive Loudspeaker) Technology**

Sphere's X1 Matrix Array subwoofers feature IPAL, Powersoft's patented technology for precise bass control and responsive, powerful sound, regardless of acoustic conditions. This allows for deep, immersive bass, enhancing audience engagement.

### **Mover Infrasonnd Transducers**

Sphere's 10,000 haptic seats are equipped with Powersoft's Mover transducers, creating ultra-low-frequency vibrations that align with audio cues. Powersoft's moving-magnet technology makes each seat an interactive part of the experience, allowing audiences to feel the action.

### **Quattrocanali Amplifiers**

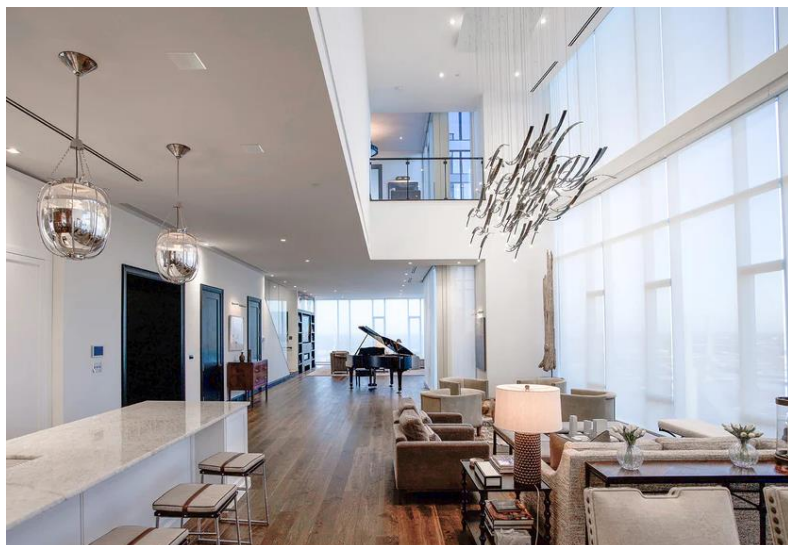
Powersoft's 718 Quattrocanali amplifiers support 2,500 audio channels for the haptic system, powering the seats with efficiency and reliability. These amplifiers deliver stable performance with reduced energy consumption across Sphere's massive seating arrangement.



# SONANCE

DESIGNED TO DISAPPEAR

We have every detail covered.  
Find the finish and style that  
suits your space.



# Perfecting the Art of Designed to Disappear

Sonance has redefined architectural audio with its “Designed to Disappear” philosophy, expertly integrating sound solutions that blend seamlessly into any environment without compromising audio quality. The crown jewel of this approach is the Sonance Invisible Series, which merges high-performance sound with near-total invisibility.

By embedding speakers directly into walls or ceilings, Sonance ensures that audio flows smoothly through a space without visible hardware, supporting the ambiance without distracting from it.

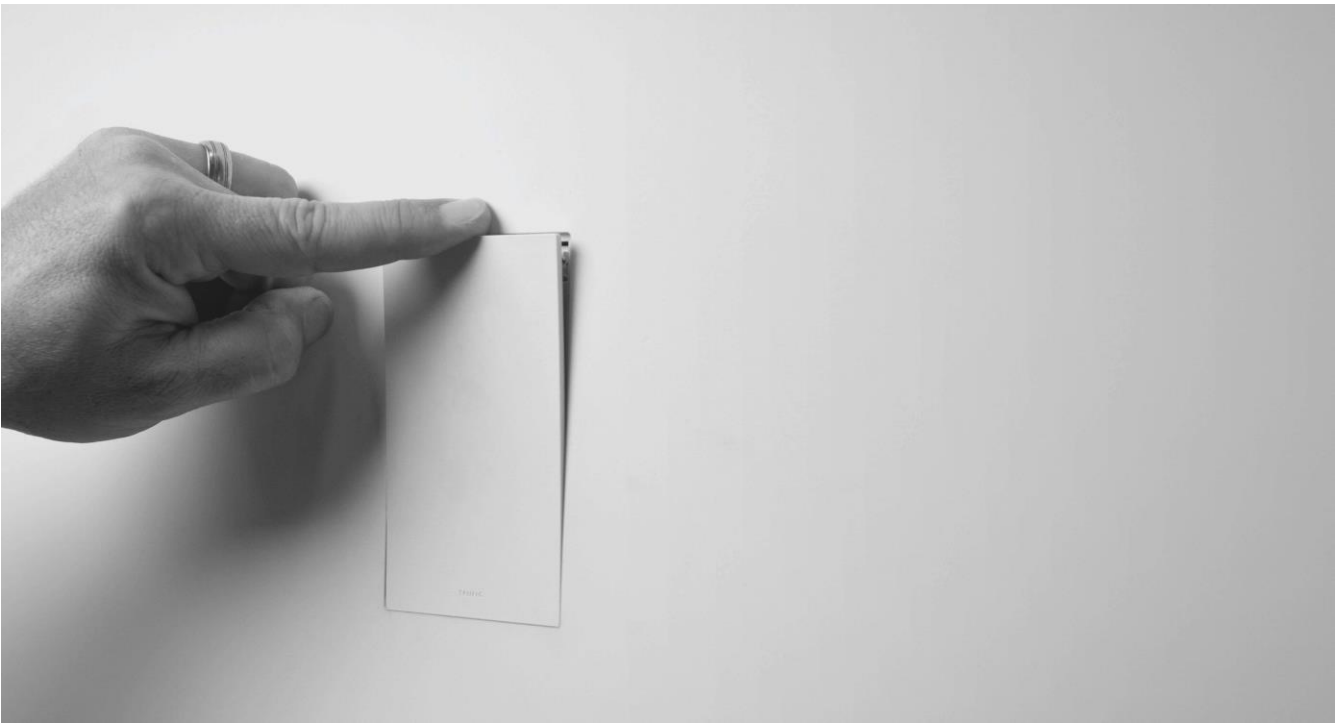
## The Sonance Invisible Series: Sound Without Sight

The Invisible Series speakers install flush with drywall, plaster, or wood, accepting finishes like wallpaper and veneer for a truly hidden look. Engineered with wide 180-degree sound dispersion, these speakers immerse listeners in high-quality sound throughout a room.

Available in both 8 Ohm and 70V/100V models, they cater to diverse spaces, from residential homes to commercial venues and even marine environments. This makes them versatile for any space where aesthetics and performance matter equally.





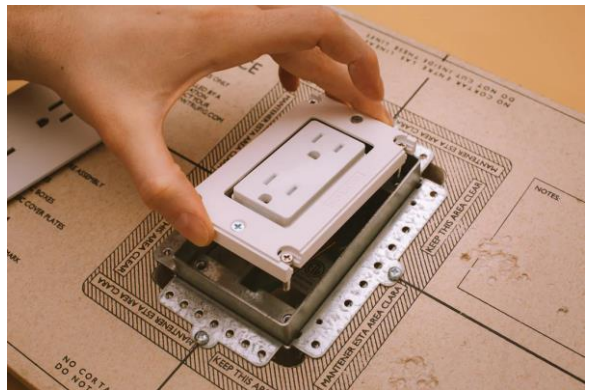


**TRUFIG:**

**Perfect Integration for a Seamless Look**

For seamless design across various technologies, Sonance’s TRUFIG mounting technology extends the “Designed to Disappear” concept. TRUFIG enables completely flush installation for Sonance speakers and other elements like HVAC registers and control panels. This unified approach to mounting and leveling creates clean lines, eliminates shadows, and integrates technology effortlessly into architecture.

Whether in homes, businesses, or luxury yachts, Sonance’s Invisible Series and TRUFIG systems embody the company’s dedication to blending technology with interior design, allowing you to enjoy immersive sound that truly becomes part of your environment. Sonance continues to lead in architectural audio, proving that exceptional sound can—and should—be heard, not seen.









# AMBER D

## An Interview with **DJ AMBER D**

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**Proaudio Sound Press:** Welcome to South Africa, Amber! How was your most recent experience playing here, and what was it like performing at two events in such a vibrant country?

**DJ Amber D:** It was amazing to get back to my homeland! I have always felt an affinity with South Africa, so coming here always feels like coming home. I can see myself living here one day; it's so beautiful. And the wine is fab, haha.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You hosted a DJ Talk workshop in Cape Town. Can you tell us more about the workshop, what you covered, and what it was like connecting with aspiring DJs here?

**DJ Amber D:** Yes, when I came over, I was asked to do a bit of a talk at the workshop. I do a lot of mentoring and DJ-related teaching back in the UK and with my charity, *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life*.

This took me to Sierra Leone last year, where I taught street youth DJing alongside other talented artists. I love to teach and support people in their musical journey. The talk in Cape Town was centered mainly around Pioneer products and my love for them. As an "older" DJ, I know there are hurdles moving from Technics 1210s to digital controllers, so my talk aimed to help that age group overcome those challenges.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've been to South Africa a few times now. What keeps bringing you back? Do you have any favorite moments or places from your visits?

**DJ Amber D:** My partner, Guyver, and I have a big following here, going back to the early 2000s when we played at the Gallery! I had so much fun back then! It's lovely to still be remembered and asked back after all this time.





**Proaudio Sound Press:** As someone who's been DJing since 2001, how do you feel the hard dance scene has evolved, both globally and here in South Africa?

**DJ Amber D:** Things have definitely changed. It's a lot more corporate than it used to be, and technology has made it possible for almost anyone to DJ. This has its benefits and drawbacks. I believe DJing should be for everyone, but the industry is now filled with people who have big social media presence and marketing agents. That's not really my style, but I try not to let it distract me.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You play a wide range of genres, from hard house and techno to tech house and electro under Amber D'Amour. How do you approach performing across such a variety of styles?

**DJ Amber D:** I haven't played as Amber D'Amour in a long time; now I just play whatever I want as Amber D. Nowadays, it's more acceptable for DJs to cross genres, which wasn't always the case, so I used to have a different alias.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've played some legendary clubs and festivals, including residencies where you warmed up for superstars like Tiesto and Armin Van Buuren. What's one of the most unforgettable moments from those early days?

**DJ Amber D:** My first residency was at Golden in Stoke on Trent, UK. It's where I gained a lot of experience and learned to do a good warm-up set. We partied hard back then, so some details are hazy, haha! But I remember the music being so forward-thinking. Each era brought new, exciting sounds as technology evolved. Dance music was organic then, and everything feels more uniform now.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** South Africa has a strong musical culture, from house music to traditional rhythms. Did you get to experience any local music during your stay? How do you think South African music influences the global scene?



**DJ Amber D:** I didn't listen to much local music because everyone around me listens to Hard Trance! But I did learn a bit of Afrikaans!

**Proaudio Sound Press:** With five record labels to your name and a background as a classical pianist, how does your musical upbringing shape your approach to producing and DJing today?

**DJ Amber D:** My background helps because I understand music theory, which is valuable for production and DJing. It's useful for understanding beats, bars, and phrases, as well as mixing in key. Knowing harmonics allows for musical freedom in production.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** We know you're passionate about mental health and often engage with your fans through livestreams. How important is it for you to use your platform to talk about mental well-being in the music industry?

**DJ Amber D:** Very important! I even completed a Mental Health First Aider course to connect with and support people facing mental health challenges. I've struggled with my own issues and want to show others it's okay to talk about it and that things can get better.



**Proaudio Sound Press:** You've had a long career in hard dance, but you're still evolving. What excites you most about the future of electronic music, and where do you see your own sound heading next?

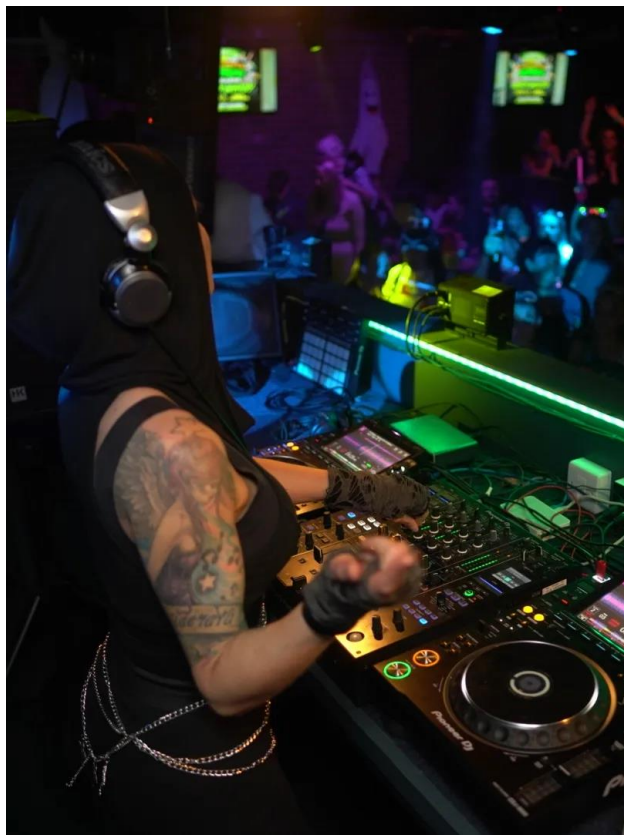
**DJ Amber D:** I recently bought a subwoofer for my studio setup, but it keeps blowing its fuse, so it's being replaced—super frustrating with so many projects to finish! Right now, I'm doing remixes for different labels and creating original music. I have a new track out on *Tidy*, a collaboration with Agent Jack called *Funkadelic Kickin'*.

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Between the EP that was the biggest seller on Tidy Trax and your BBC Radio 1 Essential Mix, you've made a huge impact on the hard dance world. How do you stay motivated and keep pushing boundaries?

**DJ Amber D:** I like finding new ways to enjoy my career. Livestreaming is fantastic. I host *The Demo Drop* every Tuesday to help new artists get their music heard and sometimes even signed. I occasionally sign tracks to one of my own labels too!

**Proaudio Sound Press:** Finally, what advice would you give to upcoming DJs, especially those inspired by your journey, about breaking into the scene and staying true to their sound?

**DJ Amber D:** Practice, practice, practice! Be authentic and dare to be different.



## Proaudio Sound Press:

Finally, what advice would you give to upcoming DJs, especially those inspired by your journey, about breaking into the scene and staying true to their sound?

## DJ Amber D:

**Practice, practice,  
practice!**

**BE AUTHENTIC AND  
DARE TO BE DIFFERENT.**





# POLAR 10

## **Compact, Lightweight, and Reliable Performance**

For a column system that delivers powerful, high-quality sound, the HK Audio POLAR 10 is a standout choice. Whether it's for music, speech, or multimedia applications, this all-in-one system combines convenience, performance, and durability, making it an excellent investment for professionals who need reliable sound wherever they perform.



The **HK Audio POLAR 10** is a compact column PA system delivering 2,000 watts of peak power and 126 dB SPL, rivaling larger systems in sound quality. Designed for musicians, presenters, and applications in schools or churches, the POLAR 10 offers a 38 Hz – 20 kHz frequency response for a full sound range, from clear highs to deep lows.

### **Premium Components, Wide Coverage**

Featuring a 10" subwoofer and six 3" midrange drivers with a 1" HF driver, the POLAR 10 ensures rich, detailed sound with 120° x 30° dispersion for even coverage across the audience.

### **Versatile Mixer and Bluetooth Connectivity**

With an integrated 3-channel mixer—including mic/line, instrument, and aux/Bluetooth 5.0 inputs—the POLAR 10 makes it easy to achieve a professional setup with minimal equipment.

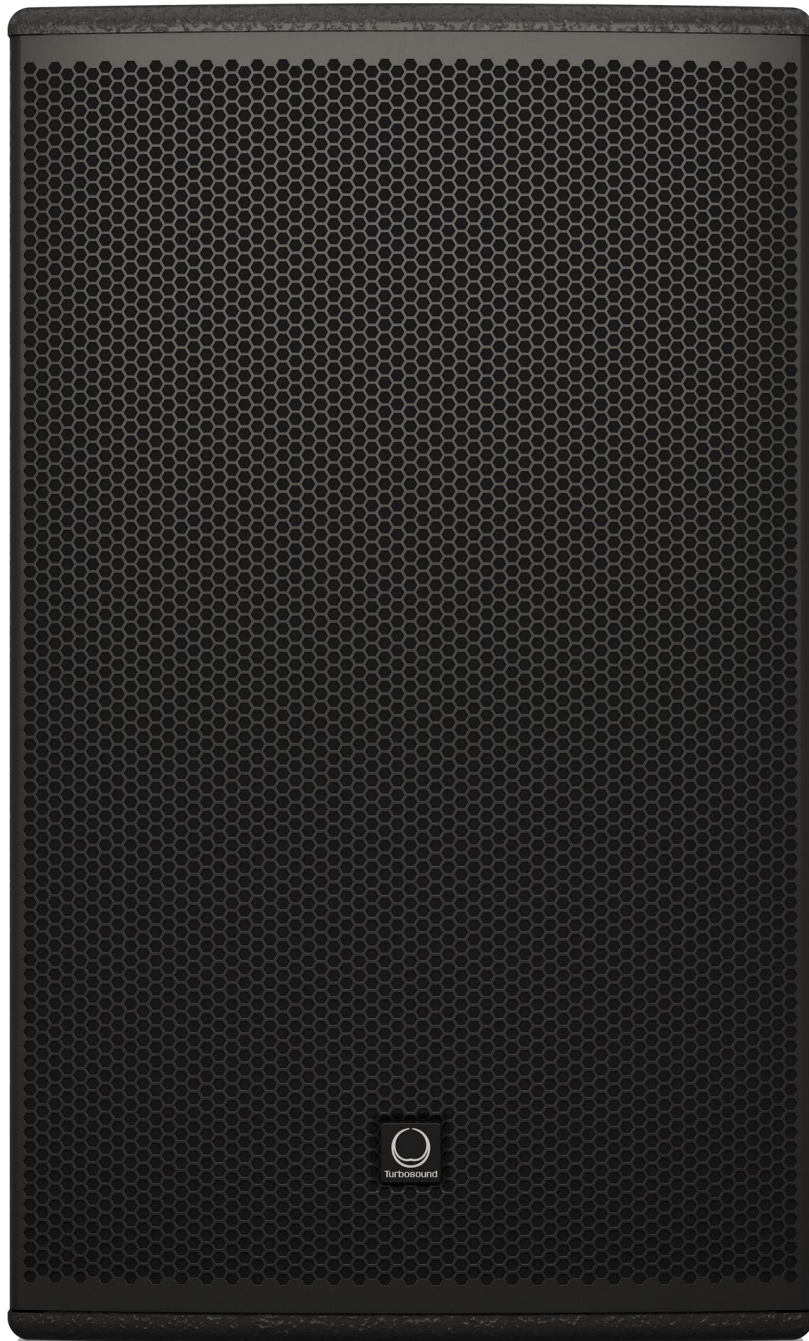
### **Easy to Transport**

Constructed with durable birch multiplex and ABS, the POLAR 10 is lightweight (26.9 kg/59.3 lbs) and comes with padded covers for safe transport, making it ideal for performers on the go.

The HK Audio POLAR 10 combines impressive power and high-quality sound in a compact design, perfect for those who need professional audio in a portable package.



# Power Meets Precision in Every Sound



Turbosound NUQ 152 AN







For audio professionals and enthusiasts who demand unparalleled sound clarity and reliability,

the Turbosound NUQ 152 AN brings a powerhouse of technology, performance, and durability. As a 2,500-watt, 2-way full-range powered loudspeaker, it integrates cutting-edge audio processing and networking, making it ideal for both portable PA and fixed installations. Engineered with Klark Teknik's renowned Class-D amplification and advanced DSP technology, this loudspeaker sets the standard for dynamic sound reproduction in any setting, from small venues to large-scale events.

### Superior Power with Klark Teknik Class-D Amplification

The NUQ 152 AN's impressive 2,500-watt output is driven by Klark Teknik's high-efficiency Class-D technology. This amplification design provides abundant, clean power with minimal heat, ensuring that each performance delivers maximum punch and clarity across all frequencies. From the subtlest details to the most powerful lows, the NUQ 152 AN handles it all with precision and consistency.





### **Seamless Control with Klark Teknik DSP**

Central to the NUQ 152 AN is its onboard Klark Teknik Digital Signal Processing (DSP), a sophisticated system that allows for precise control over all aspects of sound delivery.

This DSP manages crossover functions, equalization, and dynamic processing to adapt to any acoustic environment effortlessly, making setup faster and sound quality outstanding. With its DSP, the NUQ 152 AN becomes more than just a speaker; it's a complete audio solution that adapts to your needs.

### **Uncompromised Connectivity with ULTRANET Networking**

The Turbosound NUQ 152 AN features ULTRANET digital audio networking, a versatile connectivity option that integrates seamlessly with compatible mixers and other sources.

This enables high-quality digital audio transmission without degradation, ensuring pristine sound while reducing setup time and cabling needs. ULTRANET makes it easy to manage sound systems of all sizes, keeping everything connected and streamlined.



### Designed for Premium Sound Quality and Durability

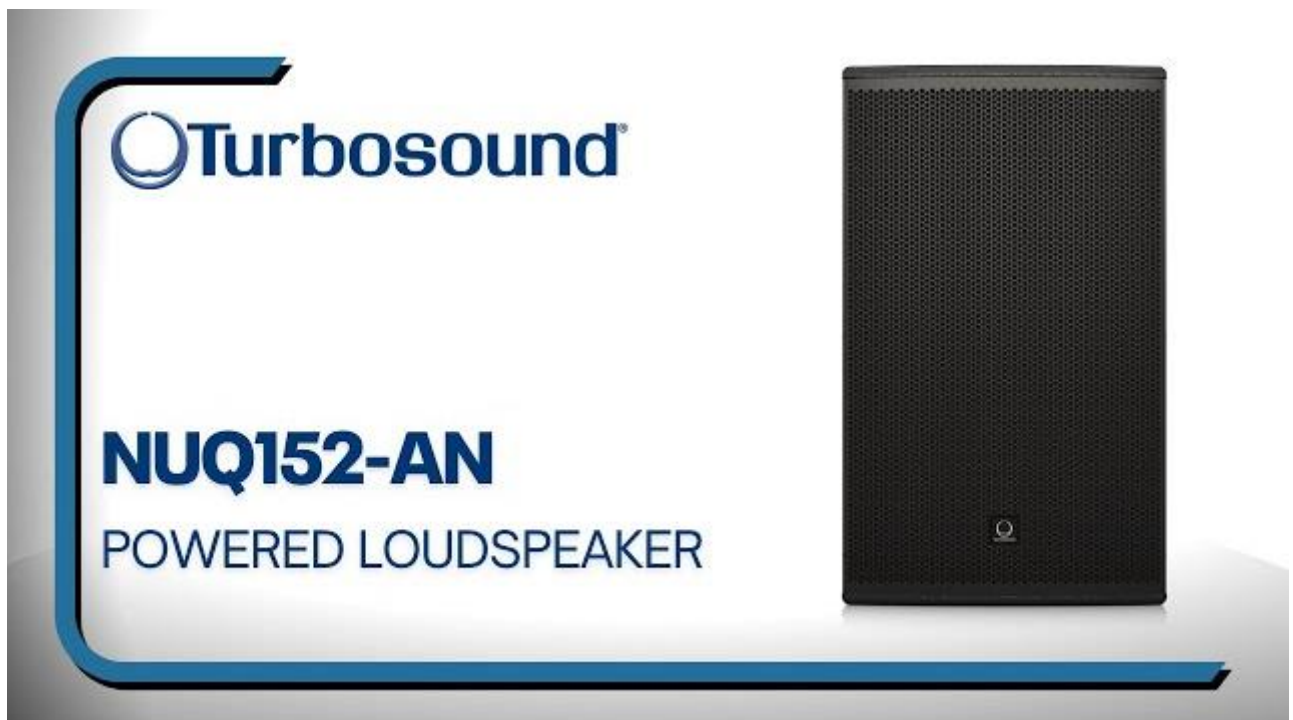
Built for performance, the NUQ 152 AN boasts a carbon fiber-loaded 15" low-frequency driver with an inside/outside coil, delivering deep, impactful bass. A 1" neodymium motor compression driver with an aluminum dome captures high frequencies with precision, offering listeners an immersive audio experience. The low-distortion waveguide, providing a 70° H x 70° V dispersion, ensures a consistent, well-balanced sound distribution across large areas, making this loudspeaker a perfect fit for live events or installations.

### Exceptional sound reproduction and professional-grade reliability.

### Professional Features and Build Quality

Navigation and customization are effortless with the NUQ 152 AN's intuitive LCD display interface, making adjustments on the go simple and efficient. For those who prefer remote configuration, the speaker is also compatible with downloadable PC control software from Turbosound's website.

Built with longevity in mind, the NUQ 152 AN's enclosure is crafted from 15 mm birch plywood and protected by a rugged, semi-matt black finish that resists scratches and scuffs. The powder-coated steel grille shields internal components while adding a sleek aesthetic touch. Additionally, the loudspeaker includes a 35 mm pole mount and ergonomic handles for easy transport, along with multiple rigging points for flexible installation options, allowing suspension in any orientation.



# REDEFINING PROFESSIONAL

Portable Sound with Italian Precision



dB Technologies OPERA REEVO 212

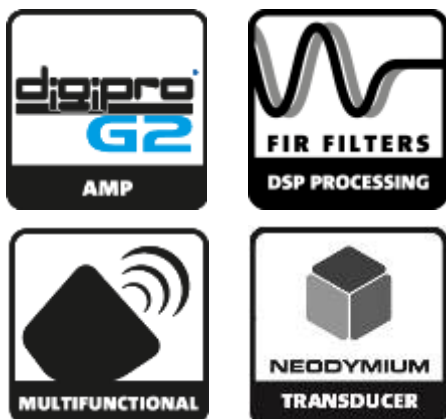


**As dBTechnologies celebrates its 50th anniversary, it proudly unveils the OPERA REEVO series, a groundbreaking evolution within its iconic OPERA line.**

With the introduction of the OPERA REEVO 210 and OPERA REEVO 212, dBTechnologies sets a new standard for professional portable sound, bringing premium audio within reach for those who demand high-performance sound quality in any environment.

Crafted in Italy, these compact, powerhouse loudspeakers blend pioneering acoustic design with advanced technology, delivering rich, high-definition sound that captivates audiences.





### Quasi 3-Way Configuration for Unparalleled Sound Quality

At the core of the OPERA REEVO 212 lies its quasi 3-way configuration, inspired by the acoustic design of dBTechnologies' touring series. This unique setup delivers a dynamic and pristine audio experience, offering detailed midrange clarity and robust low-end presence rarely seen in speakers of this category.

The coaxial acoustic design, complemented by a front-integrated HF horn with diamond-shaped cutouts, minimizes comb filtering and amplifies high frequencies without distortion, setting a high bar for clarity in live performances.

### Advanced Transducer and Phase Plug Technology

Each REEVO model is engineered to excel in complex musical environments. The 12-inch Neodymium woofer in the REEVO 212 benefits from an advanced phase plug, which enhances transient response and boosts the lower woofer's efficiency, translating music and voice into impeccably clear and defined sound.

In tandem with low-noise reflex ports featuring an internal honeycomb structure, the REEVO 212 minimizes airflow turbulence, even at high sound pressure levels, preserving audio integrity and minimizing noise.

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### Impressive Power and Precision with Digipro G2 Amplification

At the heart of OPERA REEVO's exceptional performance is its Class-D Digipro G2 amplifier, delivering an impressive **1050 W RMS** and **2100 W peak power**. With advanced DSP processing and FIR linear phase filters, the REEVO 212 achieves a coherent audio profile, offering crystal-clear sound that remains uniform across frequencies and consistent at any listening distance. dBTechnologies' tailored voicing presets make it simple to adjust the speaker for any scenario, from wedge stage monitoring to standalone full-range PA use, allowing users to unlock the perfect sound for every occasion.





### Versatile Design and Seamless Integration

Designed to adapt, the OPERA REEVO series can be used on a standard speaker stand, paired with a subwoofer on a 36mm pole mount, or suspended in permanent installations via three integrated M10 threaded eyebolts. This flexibility, paired with its compact 44 lb (20.4 kg) enclosure for the REEVO 212, makes it easy to position without compromising sound quality. With a maximum SPL of 133 dB, this lightweight yet powerful loudspeaker delivers consistent coverage through its wide 100° x 80° dispersion, ensuring every listener experiences the same, high-fidelity audio quality.

### Precision Voicing for Speech and Performance

Whether it's delivering crystal-clear speeches in corporate events or enhancing worship sessions with transparent sound, the OPERA REEVO's factory-tailored presets ensure seamless adaptation to any use case.

With a 100° x 80° coverage for the REEVO 212, dBTechnologies achieves uniform dispersion, making it ideal for settings that require precision and intelligibility, from houses of worship to corporate venues.

### Revolutionize Your Sound Experience with OPERA REEVO

In the OPERA REEVO 212, dBTechnologies combines 50 years of innovation with modern sound technology, providing professionals with a portable, powerful, and accessible solution.

With unmatched clarity, adaptability, and durability, the OPERA REEVO 212 stands as a new benchmark for portable PA speakers, elevating audio experiences across venues and redefining what's possible in professional sound.



# Gibson®

The **Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s** in Pelham Blue is a striking blend of vintage aesthetics and modern playability, appealing to both collectors and contemporary musicians.





### **Classic Construction with Modern Playability**

This model features a mahogany body topped with a plain maple cap, delivering the warm, resonant tones characteristic of Les Paul guitars. The mahogany neck with a SlimTaper profile ensures comfortable playability, while the rosewood fretboard with 22 medium jumbo frets offers smooth navigation across the neck.

### **Authentic '60s Tone**

Equipped with '60s Burstbucker pickups, this Les Paul captures the essence of the 1960s PAF humbucker sound. These pickups provide a balanced output with rich harmonics, suitable for a wide range of musical styles. The hand-wired control assembly with audio-taper potentiometers and Orange Drop capacitors ensures precise tonal control.

### **Attention to Detail**

The Pelham Blue finish, a nod to Gibson's classic color palette, adds a unique visual appeal. The guitar also features a Graph Tech nut, ABR-1 Tune-o-Matic bridge, aluminum stopbar tailpiece, and Grover Rotomatic tuners, ensuring reliable performance and tuning stability.





**Blackstar**★  
AMPLIFICATION

**The Sound of Legends**



**For musicians seeking gear that delivers powerful tone, dynamic flexibility, and cutting-edge design, Blackstar Amplification is a name that stands out.**

Founded in the UK by a team of passionate engineers and musicians, Blackstar has grown into one of the most respected amplifier brands in the world.

The company's mission to innovate and bring **“The Sound in Your Head”** to life has attracted a loyal following among top-tier artists and amateurs alike.

But what makes Blackstar gear so special, and why are so many renowned musicians choosing Blackstar amplifiers for their sound?

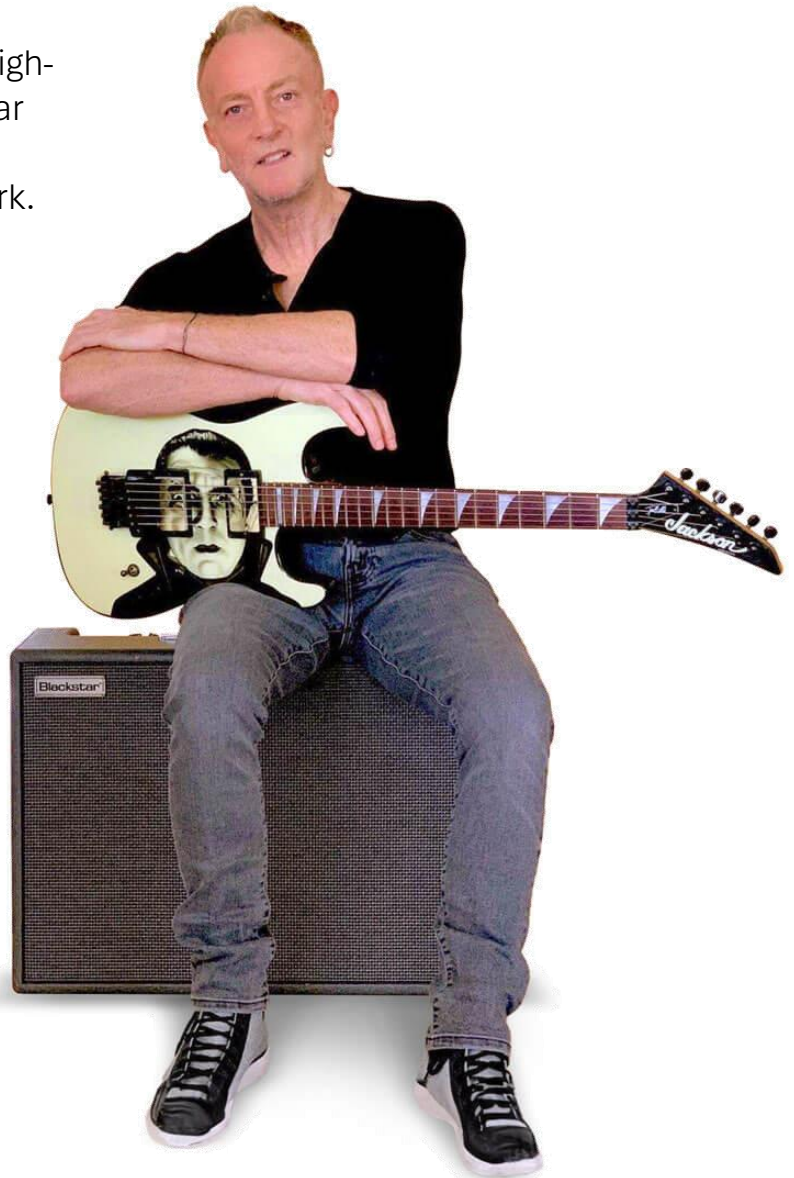
# Why BIG Artists Choose Blackstar

## Built for the Stage and Studio

From the HT Venue Series to the high-powered Silverline Series, Blackstar amps are designed to handle the rigors of both stage and studio work. Many artists who tour extensively rely on Blackstar because of its rugged build quality and reliability.

For instance, Blackstar's *Unity Pro Bass* amplifiers are favored by bassists looking for consistent sound and impressive power that won't let them down during intense performances.

**Phil Collen**  
**Def Leppard**



## Unmatched Tone and Versatility

Blackstar's products are designed with a deep understanding of the needs of professional musicians. Their amplifiers are known for their versatility, allowing artists to switch between classic tones and modern sounds effortlessly.

Blackstar's patented *ISF (Infinite Shape Feature)* control, for example, lets players shape their tone across the spectrum from American-style brightness to British-style warmth, providing a broad tonal palette. This flexibility is a major reason why many guitarists prefer Blackstar, as it allows them to adapt their sound for various genres and performance needs.



## WHY YOU SHOULD TRY BLACKSTAR'S RANGE

### Affordable Innovation

Blackstar offers options for all levels and budgets. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced guitarist, you'll find a Blackstar amp that suits your needs. The *ID Series*, for example, provides excellent quality and versatility for new players looking to experiment with different sounds, while more advanced players might gravitate toward the *HT Club* or *Artisan Series* for more sophisticated tonal control.

### High-Quality Build and Longevity

Blackstar products are built to last. The company's attention to detail in the manufacturing process means you're investing in a durable, high-quality amp that will serve you well for years. Blackstar amps often come with additional features like foot-switchable channels and effects loops that offer more control over your sound, allowing you to grow with the product as your skills progress.

### Exceptional Practice and Recording Features

For musicians who record at home or practice regularly, Blackstar amps offer functionality beyond amplification. Models in the *Silverline Series* and the *ID Series* include USB connectivity, enabling direct recording to digital audio workstations. This integration provides a seamless transition from practice to recording, helping players achieve professional-quality sound without needing a complex setup.

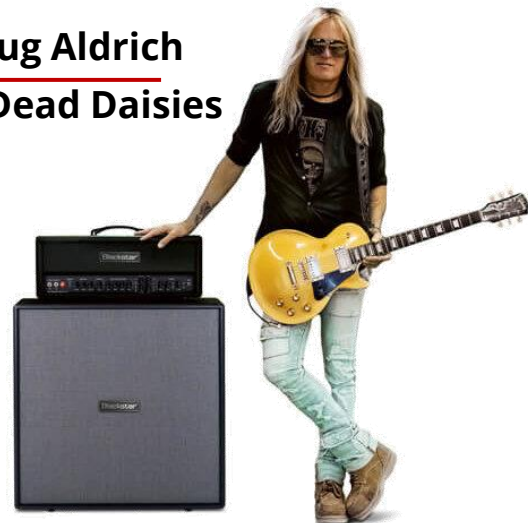
### A Community of Sound

Blackstar also cultivates a community-oriented approach, offering tutorials, tips, and resources for musicians of all skill levels. The company's focus on educating players to get the most out of their equipment ensures that you can fully explore the features and sound potential of your Blackstar amp.

**Andy Martongelli**  
**Ellefson/Arthemis**



**Doug Aldrich**  
**The Dead Daisies**



**Simon Johansson**  
**Soilwork/Wolf**





# Why the Epiphone J-15 EC is **PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS**

## Big, Beautiful Sound

The "Jumbo" in the J-15 EC's name isn't just for show—this guitar has a larger body that delivers a full, rich sound perfect for strumming and singing along. Whether you're playing around a campfire or recording your first song, the sound will carry beautifully and fill any room.

## Easy to Play

The J-15 EC has a smooth, slim neck that's easy to hold, making it great for beginners who are still learning chords. The cutaway design gives you easy access to those higher frets, so when you're ready to venture up the neck, you're all set!

## Plug It In and Rock On

What makes this guitar extra special is its electric capability. It has a built-in pickup, so you can plug it into an amplifier or speaker. Perfect for open mics, jam sessions, or just impressing your friends with how loud you can play!

## Classic Look, Great Feel

With its natural wood finish and classic look, the J-15 EC has a style that's both timeless and cool. It feels good in your hands and looks great in photos—so get ready for those Instagram-worthy guitar selfies!

## Ready to Get Started?

With the Epiphone J-15 EC, beginners don't just get a guitar—they get an experience!

**So grab one,** start learning those chords, and who knows? This could be the start of something big!



# YOUR PERFECT FIRST ELECTRIC GUITAR!



Rock Out with the **Kramer PPKF-211-EB**





# If you're ready to step into the world of rock,

the Kramer PPKF-211-EB is the **perfect electric guitar to start with!** Known for its cool looks and incredible sound, this guitar is designed to make beginners feel like stars.

Whether you dream of playing epic solos or just jamming along to your favorite songs, the **PPKF-211-EB has you covered!**

## **EASY TO PLAY, HARD TO PUT DOWN**

The PPKF-211-EB has a slim neck and comfortable frets, making it a breeze for beginners to play. Chords, riffs, and power chords all feel great, so you'll be rocking out in no time. Plus, its lightweight body means you can jam for hours without getting tired!

## **CLASSIC ROCK SOUND**

With dual humbucker pickups, the PPKF-211-EB gives you a big, full sound that's perfect for rock, pop, or even metal. These pickups deliver great tone and power, so whether you're practicing at home or jamming with friends, you'll sound fantastic!

## **STYLISH AND EYE-CATCHING**

This guitar doesn't just sound awesome—it looks awesome too! The sleek black finish and bold design make it look like a serious rock machine. Imagine yourself on stage, shredding solos with this beauty in hand—it's an instant confidence boost!

## **READY TO ROCK?**

The Kramer PPKF-211-EB is your all-access pass to the world of electric guitar. With its easy playability and epic sound, it's the perfect guitar for beginners looking to dive in and start making music.

**SO GRAB ONE, PLUG IT IN, AND LET THE FUN BEGIN—YOUR ROCK STAR JOURNEY STARTS HERE!**

# nord piano 5 88

A New Standard in Digital Pianos



The **Nord Piano 5 88** continues Nord's legacy of excellence, combining high-quality sound libraries, responsive keys, and versatile controls to deliver an immersive playing experience.

Perfect for stage, studio, or home use, this model captures the expressive range of a grand piano with the flexibility of digital technology.



## EXPANSIVE SOUND LIBRARIES

With 2 GB of storage from Nord's **Piano and Sample Synth Libraries**, the Piano 5 88 offers a wide selection of sounds—from grand and upright pianos to electric tones. Players can layer or split sounds with ease, expanding creative possibilities for any musical genre.

## DUAL ENGINE POWER

Featuring dual Piano and Sample Synth engines, players can layer two piano sounds, two synth sounds, or both, allowing for complex textures and rich audio depth. Advanced controls over attack, decay, and release add further customization.

## ENHANCED KEYBED AND REALISTIC FEEL

The **88-key graded hammer action** with Virtual Hammer Technology captures subtle playing nuances, delivering a natural, weighted feel that closely mimics an acoustic piano, making it ideal for both expressive and powerful performances.

## SIMPLE, INTUITIVE INTERFACE

Nord's streamlined interface, with real-time control knobs and OLED displays, ensures quick adjustments, making it perfect for live settings. A full effects section—including reverb, delay, and modulation—allows players to shape their sound instantly.

## PORTABLE, STAGE-READY DESIGN

Lightweight yet durable, the Nord Piano 5 88 is built for the road, featuring Nord's iconic red finish and compact form. Its robust construction ensures it can withstand the rigors of travel without compromising on quality.

With its expansive sound library, expressive keybed, and easy-to-use controls, the **Nord Piano 5 88** is a top choice for performers seeking dynamic, authentic sound. Whether on stage or in the studio, this instrument sets a new benchmark for digital pianos.



# Carry-on

For musicians on the go or anyone with limited space, the Carry-On FP88 Folding Piano is a game-changer.

Designed for ultimate portability and packed with professional features, the FP88 unfolds into a full 88-key piano that's perfect for practice, performance, or creating music wherever inspiration strikes.



# Meet the Carry-On FP88 Folding Piano

Your Portable Musical  
Companion!



## Built-in USB Rechargeable Battery

With up to 8 hours of playtime on a full charge, the FP88's built-in rechargeable battery lets you practice or perform unplugged. It's perfect for street performers, outdoor events, or simply avoiding cable clutter at home.

## Onboard Stereo Speaker System

Enjoy high-quality sound on the go with the built-in stereo speakers. They're loud enough for small performances or personal practice, and for those late-night sessions, you can plug in headphones for silent practice without disturbing anyone.

## 128 Voices and Custom Accompaniments

With a built-in sound engine offering 128 voices and 128 custom accompaniments, you can explore various instruments and styles. Try out different sounds and create new music with ease!

## Sustain Pedal Included

To complete the experience, the FP88 includes a sustain pedal, adding depth and expression to your playing. It's a full piano experience packed into a portable design.

## Lightweight and Compact Design

Weighing just a few kilograms and folding down to an ultra-compact size, the FP88 is the ideal solution for musicians with a busy lifestyle.

Slip it into its travel tote bag (included!) and bring it along to gigs, lessons, or even on holiday – it's that convenient! When you're ready to play, just unfold it, and you've got a full-sized piano at your fingertips.

## MIDI over USB

The FP88 is equipped with MIDI over USB, making it easy to connect directly to your favorite digital audio workstations or devices. Record, edit, and produce music seamlessly, whether you're at home or on the road.



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# sound PRESS

mixing with the right company?

## KABZA De Small

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

BOTTEGA

VENETA

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

### The WORLD OF MUSICIANS

A challenging but  
rewarding journey

The **PATH AHEAD** MUSIC Industry Opportunity in South Africa

THE **LIFE OF A DJ** IN SOUTH AFRICA **Pg.9**



## JUST INCASE

You Missed the Last Months Edition

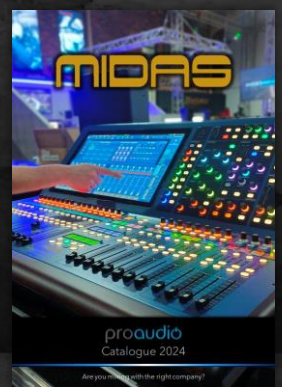
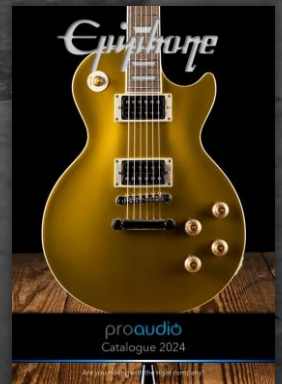
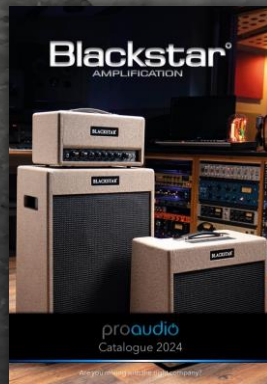
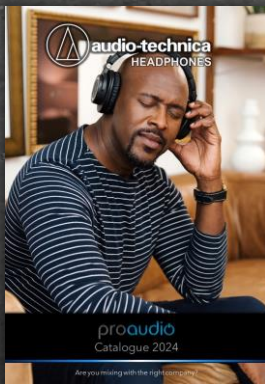
NOVEMBER 2024



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## Product Catalogues

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



**MIDAS**



**SONANCE**  
BEYOND SOUND

 **Turbosound**



**ENOVA TANNOY**

**LAB.GRUPPEN**  **SOUND TOWN**

**Blackstar**  
AMPLIFICATION

*Carry-on*

*Epiphone* *Gibson*

**KRAMER**  
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