

proaudio

5th Edition | May 2024

Sound PRESS

Are you mixing with the right company?

CREATOR PACK

Streaming, Podcasting and Recording

COMPARING DJ GEAR

The Pioneer DJM-S5 and DJM-S7

POWERWORKS NEW MIXERS

The X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX

GRIMES' COACHELLA SET

Unpacking the BPM Debacle and the Importance of Preparation in DJing

REBIRTH of Kramer Guitars

KRK
SYSTEMS

NEW!



KRK GO
AUX3

One Through Music

To enhance the creative potential of
music and enable a world filled with joy

 AlphaTheta

WELCOME

to the MAY 2024 EDITION
of
proaudio
Sound Press Magazine!

In this edition, we dive deep into the Rebirth of Kramer Guitars—an iconic journey through guitar history that celebrates the resurgence of a legendary brand. For those venturing into podcasting or upgrading their studio, we spotlight the Audio-Technica ATH-M30x from the critically acclaimed M-Series in our The Right Equipment feature.

Explore the differences between the Pioneer DJM-S5 and DJM-S7 in our detailed Comparing section, and get a behind-the-scenes look at Grimes' Coachella Set to understand the critical importance of BPM and preparation in DJing.

Creativity on the Go showcases the KRK GoAux Series Portable Powered Studio Monitors, perfect for musicians on the move. Also, don't miss our introduction to two exceptional new models from PowerWorks—the X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX.

For guitar enthusiasts, the lightweight Kramer Assault 220 Guitar is a modern twist on the classic Les Paul, and the Epiphone Les Paul Muse and Jack Casady Bass bring fresh aesthetics to classic designs.

Lastly, for our tech-savvy readers, we delve into the Midas DL251 stage box and the sophisticated Nord Grand 2 piano, highlighting advancements in live audio and musical expression.

HAPPY READING!

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sound PRESS

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Product Library

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.

MAY 2024 | **sound**press

Contents /MAY 2024

WHATS IN THIS ISSUE..

06

REBIRTH OF KRAMER GUITARS

An Iconic Journey Through Guitar History

12

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

Enter the Audio-Technica ATH-M30x, a model from the critically acclaimed M-Series.

16

PERFECT PODCASTING STARTER KIT

Are you looking to set up your own home recording studio?

20

COMPARING

The Pioneer DJM-S5 and DJM-S7

24

GRIMES' COACHELLA SET

Unpacking the BPM Debacle and the Importance of Preparation in Djing.

34

OUTDOOR AMBIANCES WITH SONANCE

A Guide for Commercial Installers.

38

EXPLORING THE BLACKSTAR DEPT. 10 SERIES

Which Is Right for You?

50

CREATIVITY ON THE GO

KRK GoAux Series Portable Powered Studio Monitors.



54

POWERWORKS INTRODUCES

Two exceptional models to their lineup, the X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX.

62

NORD SIGNATURE SOUND

- Markus Jägerstedt 
- Michael Bereal 

76

THE INSIDER – with Pablo Lundall

- FiNE
- Living Room JOZI

EXCITING EQUIPMENT

10

KRAMER ASSAULT 220 GUITAR

Kramer's single cutaway classic honors the historic Les Paul style but with less weight.

26

OMNIS-DUO PORTABLE DJ SYSTEM

An exhilarating blend of technology and music.

30

TMA-2 STUDIO XE

Essential Studio Gear for the Discerning Professional.

42

EPIPHONE LES PAUL MUSE

The Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Wanderlust Metallic Green offers a fresh and exciting option.

46

EPIPHONE JACK CASADY BASS

Elegance and Innovation in Sparkling Burgundy and Metallic Gold.

58

MIDAS DL251

For sound engineers navigating the complex world of live audio, the Midas DL251 stage box represents a breakthrough in sound technology and connectivity.

64

NORD GRAND 2

The Nord Grand 2 features the latest generation premium Hammer Action keyboard from Kawai.

ARTISTS..

66

ELSTER

70

THE PLUG

KRAMER[®]



Kramer Guitars partners with Lzzy Hale — frontwoman of the hard rock band HALESTORM and Gibson's first female brand ambassador — to release the new Kramer Lzzy Hale Voyager.



THE RISE, FALL, and **Rebirth of Kramer Guitars** An Iconic Journey Through Guitar History

Kramer Guitars has carved a unique and enduring legacy in the annals of guitar history. Founded in the late 1970s by Dennis Berardi and Gary Kramer, alongside other key figures like Peter LaPlaca and investor Henry Vaccaro, Kramer initially set out to revolutionize the guitar world with their innovative aluminum-necked guitars. This journey, marked by innovation, partnerships, and a battle through financial difficulties, encapsulates the transformative era of rock music and guitar craftsmanship.

Aluminum Meets Wood

Kramer's inception was greatly influenced by Gary Kramer's association with Travis Bean, a pioneer of aluminum guitar necks. Unlike Bean, Kramer aimed to modify the concept by integrating wooden inserts into aluminum necks, which helped in reducing the weight and improving the feel of the guitars. Introduced in 1976, Kramer guitars featured what became known as "Alumi-necks," an innovative design incorporating aluminum reinforced with pitchfork-like inserts of walnut or maple. These guitars, equipped with Ebonol fretboards and high-quality Schaller and DiMarzio hardware, set new standards in guitar design.

Transitioning to Wooden Necks and Global Manufacturing

By 1981, Kramer began transitioning to wooden necks, a strategic move aimed at reducing costs and appealing to more traditional guitarists. This period also saw the introduction of the iconic "beak" headstock and the start of offshore production in Eastern Asia. The company's forward-thinking approach was evident as they embraced global manufacturing, setting the stage for a significant evolution in their product offerings.

Partnership with Eddie Van Halen and Dominance in the 1980s

Kramer's partnership with Eddie Van Halen marked a pivotal moment in the company's history. This collaboration, initiated by a chance encounter between Dennis Berardi and Van Halen's manager, led to the introduction of the Rockinger tremolo system and later the more advanced Floyd Rose® tremolos. By the mid-1980s, Kramer was not only innovating but also leading the market, becoming the top-selling guitar brand in 1985 thanks to these high-performance features.

Challenges and Decline

Despite their success, the late 1980s brought significant challenges for Kramer. Financial strains, exacerbated by a massive labor strike in Korea in 1987, artist endorsement deals, and royalty payments to Floyd Rose began to take a toll. The company's financial overextension led to a notorious firesale of parts and ultimately to bankruptcy by 1991.

Acquisition by Gibson and Modern Era

After several tumultuous years, the Kramer brand was acquired out of bankruptcy by Gibson Guitar Corporation in 1997. This acquisition marked a new chapter for Kramer, which now benefits from Gibson's extensive resources while continuing to honor its legacy through reissues of classic models and limited runs.

TODAY, Kramer remains a respected name in the guitar world, celebrated for its contributions to the development of the electric guitar. The brand's journey from innovative startup to industry leader, followed by its rebirth, offers a compelling chapter in the history of modern music.

Through all its ups and downs, Kramer has truly lived up to its late 1980s slogan, "A Step Ahead," by continually evolving and influencing the music industry's approach to guitar manufacturing.





Assault 220



Kramer's single cutaway classic honors the historic Les Paul style but with less weight. Featuring a Mahogany body and neck and dual Alnico V humbuckers and a Floyd Rose® Licensed Tremolo with locking nut

INTRODUCING THE KRAMER ASSAULT 220 GUITAR

Classic Style
with Modern
Performance

At first glance, the Assault 220 embodies the spirit of the Les Paul with its single cutaway body and distinctive Assault body shape. Crafted from mahogany, this guitar offers the rich, warm tones associated with this revered tonewood. The black binding on the top adds a touch of elegance to the sleek design.

While paying homage to tradition, the Kramer Assault 220 also incorporates cutting-edge features for maximum playability. The mahogany neck, with its K-Speed SlimTaper C profile, provides a comfortable and fast-playing experience, perfect for both rhythm and lead guitarists. With 24 medium jumbo frets and a scale length of 25.5 inches, players can effortlessly explore every inch of the fretboard.

Equipped with dual Alnico V humbuckers, the Assault 220 delivers a powerful and dynamic sound, suitable for a wide range of musical styles. From crisp cleans to aggressive distortion, this guitar can handle it all with ease. The addition of a Floyd Rose® Licensed Tremolo with locking nut ensures optimal tuning stability, even during the most intense performances.

Every detail of the Kramer Assault 220 is designed with precision and performance in mind. The black chrome finish adds a touch of sophistication to the instrument's aesthetic, while the Kramer black die-cast mini tuning machines ensure smooth and reliable tuning adjustments. With adjustable truss rod and versatile controls including neck volume, bridge volume, and master tone, players have complete command over their sound.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or an aspiring musician, the Assault 220 is ready to unleash your creativity and inspire your musical journey.



audio-technica ATH-M30x

Precision Engineered for Professional Monitoring

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Enter the Audio-Technica ATH-M30x, a model from the critically acclaimed M-Series, designed to meet the rigorous demands of field recording, video editing, and studio monitoring. The ATH-M30x combines advanced engineering, superior sound isolation, and robust construction to offer a listening experience that professionals can trust.

ADVANCED ENGINEERING FOR DETAILED AUDIO

The Audio-Technica ATH-M30x headphones are equipped with 40 mm drivers, specially tuned to enhance detail with a strong emphasis on mid-range definition. This tuning makes them particularly effective in studio settings where accurate audio reproduction is crucial. Whether it's subtle nuances in a vocal track or the complex layers of an orchestral piece, the ATH-M30x delivers with clarity and precision.

BUILT FOR PROFESSIONAL USE

These over-ear, wired headphones are not only designed for sound. Their build quality is tailored for professional use. The closed-back design provides excellent sound isolation, minimizing audio bleed and ensuring that you can focus on the mix at hand without external interruptions. This feature is especially beneficial for field recordists and live sound engineers who operate in noisy environments.

COMFORT AND DURABILITY

Audio-Technica understands that studio sessions can extend for long hours, which is why the ATH-M30x is designed with professional-grade materials that offer comfort without sacrificing durability. The circumaural design helps contour around the ears for a snug fit that maintains comfort over extended periods. The headphones are both lightweight and sturdy, striking the perfect balance for on-the-go professionals.

CONVENIENCE FEATURES

The ATH-M30x showcases thoughtful design elements such as a single-side cable exit that enhances convenience by reducing the chances of tangling and simplifying the setup. This feature is particularly useful for those who need to move around frequently, be it in the studio or in field recording scenarios.

PORTABLE AND PRACTICAL

These headphones are not only ideal for static studio work but are also equipped for mobility. Included with the ATH-M30x are a 6.3 mm (1/4") snap-on adaptor and a protective carry pouch, enhancing its utility for field recording and remote work, where professional audio is required on the move.





The Audio-Technica ATH-M30x professional monitor headphones are a testament to the company's commitment to providing quality audio products that meet the needs of professionals around the world. With its exceptional audio clarity, robust build, and thoughtful design,

the ATH-M30x stands out as a versatile tool suitable for a variety of professional audio tasks.

Discover why top audio engineers, critical online reviewers, and dedicated audiophiles consistently rank the M-Series among the best in audio performance and build quality. Whether in the studio or on the field, the ATH-M30x is built to deliver pure professional performance at an affordable price.



Streaming, Podcasting and Recording Pack

Are you looking to set up your own home recording studio? Maybe start a podcast, vlog or YouTube channel? Or how about upgrading your Twitch stream gaming setup so your subscribers never miss a moment? If you're a creator then Audio-Technica has you covered with our new CREATOR PACK.



Perfect Podcasting Starter Kit

If you're looking for beginner podcasting equipment then The CREATOR PACK is for you, striking the perfect balance between affordability and quality.

The ATR2500x-USB Microphone can be suspended on the included boom arm and features excellent frequency response, picking up on the subtleties and timbre of your voice, whilst the cardioid polar pattern helps to isolate you without needing a soundproof booth.

The upgraded ATH-M20x headphones now feature punchier bass, enhanced sound isolation and improved sound reproduction to ensure you hear exactly what your microphone is picking up.



Home Recording Studio

The go-to choice for some of the biggest artists, musicians and studio engineers across the world since 1962, music is the soul and rhythm is the heartbeat of every Audio-Technica piece. Harness the CREATOR PACK to record crisp guitar solos, twisty triplet flows or chilled-out vocals with excellent frequency range and response through the ATR2500x-USB Cardioid Condenser. The ATH-M20x Professional Monitor Headphones can be plugged directly into the microphone to give you instant sound monitoring in your home studio. All of this can be suspended with the included boom arm that can be C-clamped onto almost any hard surface to give you the space you need to express and create.

Work-from-Home Video Conferencing

Join work calls and deliver your remote presentations with authority and clarity through the ATR2500x-USB Cardioid Condenser microphone. The ATR2500x-USB is plug-and-play compatible with all leading video conference platforms. Its cardioid polar pattern helps to isolate your voice and minimise keystroke noise and mouse clicks during meetings, whilst the included desk-mounted boom arm keeps your desk space free of wires and clutter – use the desk tripod if you want something easy to pack away each day or are limited on your work-from-home space.

The ATH-M20x Professional Monitor Headphones allow you to work peacefully and comfortably whether you're on a video call or enjoying a little background music, all thanks to their circumaural design contours for excellent sound isolation.

Levelled-Up Gaming & Streaming

The CREATOR PACK is the ultimate gaming and Twitch-streaming bundle. Know where every arrow, rocket launch, Hell Knight or Creeper is coming from through the 40mm drivers of the ATH-M20x Professional Monitor Headphones. Immersive isolation and excellent frequency range will transport you directly into the worlds of your favourite AAA titles.

The ATR2500x-USB Cardioid Condenser microphone works right out of the box with all of your favourite streaming platforms and games – just plug in the USB-C cable (or USB-C to USB) and get your fingers set to WASD. The microphone will pick up every cheer, cry, jump-scare and taunt with incredible clarity, pop-noise filtration and stunning sound isolation, meaning it's you that's heard and not your Cherry MX Reds.

Vlogging and YouTube Starter Kit

The CREATOR PACK enables you to get closer to your subscribers with crisp, isolated audio from the ATR2500x-USB Cardioid Condenser microphone. Attach it to the included desk-mountable boom arm for a clean, camera-ready and wire-free setup. The ATH-M20x Professional Monitor Headphones allow you to edit your videos with confidence: hear every word whilst levelling yourself against your favourite background music or narrating field-videos. Just don't forget to like, comment and subscribe!

COMPARING

the Pioneer DJM-S5 and DJM-S7



A Deep Dive into DJ Mixers for the Aspiring and Seasoned Turntablist

Pioneer's lineup of DJ mixers is renowned for blending robust functionality with innovative features, and both the DJM-S5 and DJM-S7 are standout examples of this philosophy. These mixers cater to DJs who are passionate about scratching and battle mixing, but they come with distinct features that may appeal to different users depending on their needs and experience levels.

Design and Build

Both the DJM-S5 and DJM-S7 maintain the scratch-style 2-channel mixer layout that's preferred by battle DJs. The DJM-S5, presented in a striking gloss red finish, is geared more towards those new to the scene or looking to refine their skills. In contrast, the DJM-S7, finished in professional black, offers enhanced features for more experienced turntablists who require greater customization and flexibility in their setups.

Crossfader and Performance Features

A key element in any battle mixer is the crossfader. Both models feature Pioneer's MAGVEL FADER PRO, known for its durability and customizability.



The DJM-S5 allows DJs to adjust the fader's resistance to match their tactile preference, a feature that's also enhanced in the DJM-S7 with increased rigidity by 30%, providing a more solid feel for intensive scratch performances.

Performance Pads and Effects

The DJM-S5 offers four performance pads per deck, which are versatile for triggering samples and cues. The DJM-S7 takes this further with eight large performance pads per channel that facilitate rapid firing of cues and samples. Additionally, the DJM-S7 introduces the Combo Pad mode, allowing simultaneous use of two different pad modes on the same channel, such as Hot Cue and Sampler, which can significantly enhance a DJ's performance dynamics.

The effects handling is another area where the DJM-S7 shines with its large effect levers and an OLED display for better tracking of effects and settings.





It includes all 22 built-in Beat FX from the flagship DJM-S11, compared to the DJM-S5's ability to control up to 57 effects in Serato DJ Pro using its effect levers.

Unique Features and Connectivity

The DJM-S5 introduces innovative features like the Scratch Cutter, which allows beginners to perform complex scratch effects without the need to manipulate the crossfader. It also boasts the Crossfader Hot Cue feature for instant cue actions based on crossfader movements.

The DJM-S7, on the other hand, adds professional features such as Bluetooth connectivity, allowing DJs to add sounds wirelessly from mobile devices directly into their mix. This could be incredibly useful for adding spontaneity to a set or for quick integration of audience song requests.

Furthermore, the Loop MIDI feature in the DJM-S7 enables automated control of DJ software functions, enhancing creative possibilities during a performance.

Power and Portability

A notable distinction is the DJM-S5's USB bus power capability, allowing it to be powered directly from a computer's USB port. This feature enhances its portability, making it an excellent choice for DJs on the go who may want to perform in varied environments without worrying about power outlets.

The choice between the DJM-S5 and DJM-S7 will largely depend on the DJ's level of experience and specific needs. The DJM-S5 is an excellent entry point for new or intermediate DJs looking to enhance their scratching skills, offering essential features in a more accessible format.

Meanwhile, the DJM-S7 caters to more seasoned professionals seeking greater control, customization, and innovative features to elevate their performance to the highest levels. Both mixers uphold Pioneer's reputation for quality and are capable of taking the art of DJing to new heights.



GRIMES' COACHELLA SET

Unpacking the BPM Debacle and the Importance of Preparation in DJing



PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO A
SUCCESSFUL DJ SET.

By understanding your equipment, crafting a well-thought-out playlist, and being mindful of your audience and time slot, you can avoid common pitfalls and deliver a memorable performance.

Correction and Retraction

Firstly, let's set the record straight. This was not a staged technical failure, as some early reports and viewer impressions had suggested. We've received definitive information from the technical teams involved, confirming that the issue was user error, not a fault with rekordbox/CDJ reliability. Case closed.

User Error vs. Technical Reliability

It's crucial to highlight that this incident underscores the importance of user familiarity and expertise with their equipment. Given the widespread use of rekordbox/CDJ technology and the attention this story has garnered, it's significant to clarify that the design of rekordbox may have made this type of user error more likely.

The Quest for Authenticity

There's an underlying frustration when big-name artists with huge budgets fail to deliver on their performance. The issue of authenticity has been a longstanding debate in the music industry, with comparisons even drawn to the downfall of Milli Vanilli.

The Importance of Preparation: Insights from Elster Pieterse

Elster Pieterse from the DJ and Music Production Institute weighs in on how to avoid such mishaps. At our DJ school, the first two lessons focus on understanding rekordbox and working on playlists that include hot cues. We believe in not letting students touch the gear until they've mastered rekordbox's functionality and have a set ready to go.

REMEMBER, rekordbox is a free tool that can be a valuable asset to any DJ. Take the time to familiarize yourself with its features, and you'll be well on your way to crafting the perfect set every time.

Crafting the Perfect Set

Whether you're playing on a big or small stage, preparation is key. Rekordbox is an excellent tool for organizing tracks in an order that matches key, BPM, or the mood you're aiming for.

Tips for Crafting Your Set

Storytelling through Music: Notice how your favorite DJs transition from track to track, telling a story throughout their set.

- **Consider Your Time Slot:** Play music that suits the time and mood of your set. For example, an opening track like 'Nalin and Kane - Beachball' is a crowd-pleaser that sets a relaxed tone.
- **BPM Matching:** While playing tracks in key is beneficial, it's not always necessary. If the BPMs don't match, avoid pressing sync blindly. Manually adjust the BPM in rekordbox to ensure a smooth transition between tracks.

Preparation is the key to a successful DJ set. By understanding your equipment, crafting a well-thought-out playlist, and being mindful of your audience and time slot, you can avoid common pitfalls and deliver a memorable performance.

So, the next time you're preparing for a gig, take a page out of Elster Pieterse's playbook and make sure you're well-prepared to deliver a set that not only showcases your skills but also resonates with your audience.



AlphaTheta

OMNIS-DUO

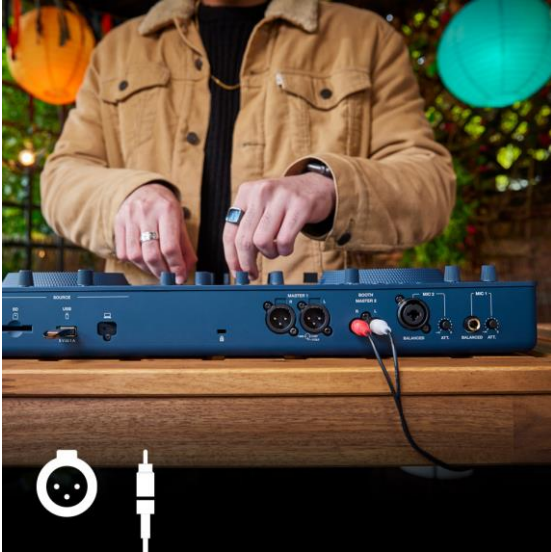


In an exhilarating blend of technology and music, AlphaTheta Corporation has launched its latest innovation under the AlphaTheta brand: the OMNIS-DUO portable DJ system. Building on the legacy of the Pioneer DJ brand, the OMNIS-DUO represents a pivotal shift in how DJ equipment can enhance our musical interactions and enjoyment, making it easier than ever to set up impromptu parties anywhere and anytime.

A New Era of Portability and Versatility

The OMNIS-DUO is designed for the DJ on the go. Compact and lightweight, this all-in-one system fits comfortably in a standard-sized backpack, allowing for spontaneous musical events in unconventional places—from sunlit beaches to the cozy corners of a local park. Its built-in battery eliminates the need for a power supply, supporting up to five hours of playtime, and features a USB Type-C terminal for easy recharge, ensuring the music lasts as long as the party does.





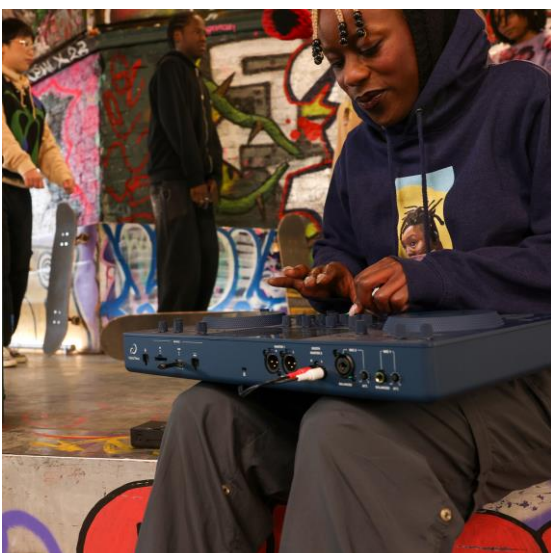
Connecting Through Music

AlphaTheta understands that at the heart of every great party is the connection between the DJ and the crowd. The OMNIS-DUO enhances this interaction by allowing partygoers to contribute to the playlist using their smartphones. This inclusivity is further supported by a suite of onboard effects that can be applied to tracks streamed over Bluetooth, fostering a truly interactive and personalized music experience.



Designed to Impress

The aesthetic of the OMNIS-DUO is as impressive as its technical capabilities. Sporting a stylish indigo hue inspired by denim jeans, the design is versatile enough to look at home in both upscale venues and more casual settings. Minimalist printing on the top plate adds to its sleek, modern appeal, making it a visually attractive piece of equipment that matches its functional sophistication.



Future-Proof and Feature-Rich

Looking forward, the OMNIS-DUO is set to support Serato DJ Lite, enhancing its compatibility and ensuring DJs have access to cutting-edge features. From built-in Beat FX and Sound Color FX to dedicated controls for loops and cues, the system is equipped to handle any DJ challenge. With support for multiple music sources, including USB drives, SD cards, and wireless connections via Wi-Fi®, the OMNIS-DUO is as versatile as it is powerful.

Its portability, ease of use, and broad array of features ensure that it can accommodate any DJ's needs while embracing the spontaneity and joy of music.

The OMNIS-DUO by AlphaTheta is more than just a DJ system; it is a gateway to unifying people through the universal language of music.

Whether it's a planned event or a spur-of-the-moment gathering, the OMNIS-DUO is ready to turn any space into a vibrant party venue.





AIAIAI TMA-2 Studio XE

Essential Studio Gear for the
Discerning Professional



For music producers and audio engineers, whether operating from a home setup or a professional studio,

the search for the perfect headphones is often marked by compromises between sound quality, comfort, and durability.

With the AIAIAI TMA-2 Studio XE, these compromises become a thing of the past. Tailored for the high demands of studio work, these headphones promise to elevate your production capabilities with their superior sound fidelity and user-centric design.



Unparalleled Sound Quality

The TMA-2 Studio XE stands out with its pristine and detailed sound profile, ideal for the nuanced listening required in studio environments. At the heart of these headphones is a bio-cellulose diaphragm, a state-of-the-art material known for its natural ability to reduce unwanted resonances and deliver a clear, detailed sound. This makes the TMA-2 Studio XE particularly effective for critical listening tasks, such as mixing and mastering, where every subtlety in the sound must be accurately represented.

Comfort for Long Sessions

When you're deep in a mixing session or a marathon mastering marathon, comfort is paramount. The TMA-2 Studio XE, weighing a mere 190 grams, is built for lengthy studio sessions. High-grade memory foam cushions enveloped in soft PU leather not only provide outstanding comfort but also enhance sound isolation, keeping out ambient studio noise and allowing you to concentrate fully on the task at hand.

Modular Design for Customization and Longevity

AI|AI's commitment to sustainable design is evident in the modular construction of the TMA-2 Studio XE.

Each component, from the speaker units to the earpads, can be replaced or upgraded. This not only ensures your headphones can evolve with your studio gear but also dramatically extends their lifespan. For studio professionals, this means an investment in headphones that can adapt and grow as your studio does.

Limited Availability in South Africa: Act Fast

It's important to note that availability of the TMA-2 Studio XE is currently limited in South Africa. Those in the music production field should consider securing a pair sooner rather than later to avoid missing out on what could be a crucial addition to your studio equipment. Given their robust build, exceptional sound quality, and the flexibility of their modular design, the TMA-2 Studio XE headphones are not just a purchase but a long-term investment in your musical craft.



For the serious audio professional or the committed home studio enthusiast, the AIAIAI TMA-2 Studio XE headphones offer a combination of performance, comfort, and durability that is hard to match.

With stock limited in South Africa, now is the time to ensure you have the tools needed to bring your studio sessions to the next level. Don't miss the chance to own a pair of headphones that truly meet the professional standards of music production.



Outdoor Ambiances with Sonance

A Guide for Commercial Installers

In the bustling markets of hospitality and leisure in South Africa, from high-end restaurants to expansive theme parks and cozy guest houses, the demand for impeccable outdoor sound systems is on the rise.

Sonance, a leader in audio solutions, offers its garden and landscape range, tailor-made for these environments.

For commercial installers, understanding the nuances of these systems—System 1 and System 2—can be key to optimizing outdoor spaces for audio. Here's a detailed look at what each system offers and how they can be integrated into various commercial settings.



Sonance System 1: Subtle Sound for Intimate Settings

System 1 features four LS4T Sonance speakers paired with a powerful LS12T subwoofer, all driven by the Powersoft Duncanali 804 amplifier. This setup is ideal for smaller venues such as boutique guest houses or intimate restaurant patios where ambiance is key. The LS4T speakers are designed to blend seamlessly into garden landscapes, offering clear, balanced audio that enriches the natural beauty without overwhelming it.

The LS12T subwoofer complements the array by providing rich, deep bass that enhances the overall sound experience without dominating the space. This system is particularly suited for background music that enhances the dining or lounging experience without intruding on conversations.



LS4T



LS12T



Duncanali 804



Sonance System 2: Robust Audio for Larger Venues

For larger spaces, such as theme parks or hotel resort areas, System 2 scales up the auditory experience. It consists of four LS6T Sonance speakers and one LS15T subwoofer, powered by the same robust Powersoft Duncanali 804 amplifier. The LS6T speakers offer a wider range and greater output, suitable for covering larger areas without sacrificing sound quality.

The LS15T subwoofer provides even more substantial bass output, ensuring that audio remains rich and full, even in open, sprawling environments. This system is perfect for creating immersive soundscapes that can subtly guide guests through different zones or energize a crowd in a more dynamic park or event setting.



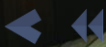
LS6T



LS15T



Duncanali 804



Adding the **Omni 6T** and Powersoft Mezzo 322 for Complete Coverage

Both systems can be augmented with the Omni 6T Power Works Mezzo 322, a versatile addition that enhances audio dispersion. This omni-directional speaker is perfect for adding layers to the existing setups, ensuring that sound is evenly distributed, no matter the layout or landscaping challenges. The Omni 6T is particularly effective in areas with complex garden features or irregular spaces where sound needs to radiate in all directions.

Installation Considerations

When installing these systems, commercial installers should consider several key factors:

- **Location and Direction:** Speakers should be strategically placed to maximize sound coverage while minimizing disturbance to neighboring properties.
- **Integration with Landscaping:** Sonance speakers are designed to be as unobtrusive as possible. They can be camouflaged among plants and garden features to maintain aesthetic integrity.
- **Weather Resistance:** Given South Africa's varied climate, ensuring that all components are weatherproof and capable of withstanding local conditions is crucial.
- **Scalability:** Each system should be evaluated for scalability, allowing for future expansions or adjustments as needed without significant overhauls.

With Sonance, businesses can not only meet their auditory needs but also change the overall guest experience, making every visit memorable.



Exploring the Blackstar Dept. 10 Series

- AMPED 1,
- AMPED 2,
- and AMPED 3

Which Is Right for You?

For guitarists in South Africa, whether novice enthusiasts or seasoned professionals, the quest for the ultimate pedalboard amplifier is a crucial part of crafting a signature sound.





Blackstar's Dept. 10 Series,

featuring the AMPED 1, AMPED 2, and AMPED 3 pedal board amplifiers, offers a range of powerful options tailored to diverse needs and playing styles. Here's a comprehensive comparison to help you choose the perfect model for your musical journey.



A M P E D 1 DEPT. 10 | 100W AMP PEDAL

AMPED 1 The Versatile Powerhouse

The AMPED 1 is a professional 100-watt guitar amp housed in a compact pedal, designed to transform any pedalboard, modeler, or multi-effector into a stage-ready setup. It's ideal for guitarists who need a portable solution without compromising on power or sound quality.

Key Features:

- **Power Valve Responses:** Features five valve responses (KT88, 6L6, EL34, 6V6, EL84) plus a linear response for transparent power amplification.
- **CabRig DSP Speaker Simulator:** Integrates cutting-edge DSP technology to emulate the sound and feel of a mic'd guitar cab.
- **Power Reduction:** Adjustable power output (100W, 20W, 1W), making it suitable for any environment, from live stages to studio sessions.
- **Connectivity:** Offers USB-C interface for recording and an XLR D.I. output for live performances.

Best For:

Guitarists who utilize extensive pedal setups and need flexible, high-quality amplification for both live and studio environments.





AMPED 2

DEPT. 10 | 100W AMP + FX RIG

AMPED 2

The Tone and Effects Specialist

AMPED 2 steps up with an integrated drive and an advanced effects processor, making it a potent standalone solution for those who prefer an all-in-one unit.

It's a superb choice for guitarists who value traditional valve amp tones combined with the convenience of modern technology.

Key Features:

- **Drive Voices and Effects:** Includes three drive voices (Boost, Drive, Fuzz) and comprehensive effects (Modulation, Delay, Reverb).
- **Response Control:** Offers three valve responses (EL34, 6L6, EL84) with settings to match various iconic amp tones (USA, UK, Classic).
- **Power Reduction and Connectivity:** Similar to AMPED 1, with versatile output options for different performance settings.
- **Onboard Chromatic Tuner:** Adds practicality for live use, ensuring you're always in tune.



Best For:

Players who need a dynamic range of built-in effects and drive options, alongside robust amplification capabilities.



AMPED 3

DEPT. 10 | 100W 3 CHANNEL AMP

AMPED 3

The High-Gain, Multi-Channel Marvel

AMPED 3 is tailored for guitarists who demand versatility and control over their sound. With the ability to create and store presets, it's geared towards performers who need to switch between multiple tones swiftly.

Key Features:

- **Multiple Channels and Voicings:** Six voicings (Clean Bright, Clean Warm, Crunch, Super Crunch, OD1, OD2) offer extensive tonal diversity.
- **Built-In Boost and Reverb:** Features a customizable boost (Pre or Post) and a studio-quality Reverb with a 'freeze' function.
- **CabRig and Connectivity:** Like AMPED 1, integrates CabRig technology with robust connectivity options for live and studio use.
- **User Presets:** Allows storing and recalling presets, a significant advantage during live performances.



Best For:

Advanced players who require a high degree of customization and the ability to switch between a wide range of sounds quickly.





The **VIBRANT CHARM** of the Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Wanderlust Metallic Green

For South African guitarists seeking a blend of classic aesthetics and innovative features, the Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Wanderlust Metallic Green offers a fresh and exciting option.

This guitar, part of Epiphone's new Inspired by Gibson™ Collection, is not just a musical instrument; it's a statement piece, blending traditional Les Paul features with modern enhancements and a stunning array of metallic finishes.

A Visual and Sonic Marvel

The Epiphone Les Paul Muse is a visually striking guitar, especially in the vibrant Wanderlust Metallic Green finish. However, it's also available in a spectrum of metallic colors including Radio Blue, Purple Passion, Jet Black, Smoked Almond, Pearl White, and Scarlet Red, ensuring a match for every personality and style.

Lightweight and Comfortable Design

This model features a lightweight, chambered Les Paul body. This thoughtful design choice not only makes the guitar easier to handle during long gigs or practice sessions but also enhances the instrument's resonance and sustain. The traditional mahogany body paired with a maple cap offers a rich, warm tone with just the right amount of brightness, courtesy of the maple.

Advanced Sound Capabilities

Powered by high-output Alnico Classic PRO™ humbuckers, the Les Paul Muse doesn't just rest on its visual laurels. These pickups provide a robust sound palette suitable for a wide range of musical genres, from blues and jazz to hard rock and metal.

The inclusion of coil-splitting and phase controls, along with a treble bleed circuit, allows for intricate tonal variations and maintains clarity even at lower volumes, giving players more control over their sound.



Player-Friendly Features

The custom "C" profile neck and smooth laurel fingerboard with a 12-inch radius make playing a breeze, whether you're executing complex solos or power chords. Medium jumbo frets offer easy bending and a comfortable playing feel, while the LockTone™ Tune-O-Matic™ bridge and Grover® Rotomatic® tuners ensure your tuning is stable and your intonation is accurate.

Versatility at Your Fingertips

With its versatile setup, the Les Paul Muse is suited to a variety of playing contexts. The guitar's dual-volume setup with coil splitting, paired with dual-tone controls featuring a phase switch, makes it easy to adapt your sound on the fly—from thick, humbucking growls to sharp, single-coil tones.

Why It's Special for South African Guitarists

In a vibrant music scene like South Africa's, where diverse musical styles converge and innovation is cherished, the Epiphone Les Paul Muse stands out.

It offers local guitarists a tool that is not only versatile and high-performing but also visually captivating, encouraging musicians to not only sound their best but also look great on stage or in the studio.

Whether you're a seasoned pro looking for a reliable, feature-rich instrument, or a beginner eager to start on a high note, the Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Wanderlust Metallic Green is an excellent choice.

With its superior design, enhanced functionality, and eye-catching aesthetics, it's poised to become a beloved companion in your musical journey, offering endless inspiration and the reliability Epiphone is known for. Don't miss the chance to add this exceptional guitar to your collection.



EPIPHONE JACK CASADY BASS

Elegance and Innovation in Sparkling Burgundy and Metallic Gold

Epiphone introduces the Jack Casady Signature Bass, a masterpiece that has been meticulously crafted through the collaboration of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame legend Jack Casady and Epiphone.

Available in the stunning new finishes of Sparkling Burgundy and Metallic Gold, this semi-hollow electric bass is more than just a musical instrument—it's a piece of rock history, designed to meet the nuanced demands of one of rock's most innovative bassists.



Design and Construction

The Jack Casady Bass boasts an archtop LP Signature Bass body style, constructed from layered maple for the back, sides, and top. This choice of wood not only contributes to the instrument's resonant qualities but also provides a robust structure with an aesthetically pleasing grain, visible through its high-gloss finish. Complemented by a single ply cream binding and a choice of eye-catching Sparkling Burgundy or Metallic Gold finishes, this bass stands out on stage and in the studio.

The neck of the bass follows a 1960's rounded bass profile, crafted from mahogany and topped with a laurel fingerboard. This design not only nods to the vintage aesthetics but also offers modern playability with its 20 medium jumbo frets and pearloid trapezoid inlays. The overall construction is designed to provide a comfortable playing experience whether you are practicing at home or performing live.

Innovative Electronics

What truly sets the Jack Casady Signature Bass apart is its innovative electronic setup. The heart of its sound comes from the JCB-1 Low-Impedance Humbucker™, specially designed by Casady himself. This pickup is engineered to capture the rich and nuanced tones of an acoustic bass while maintaining the robust presence of an electric bass.

Further enhancing its versatility, the bass features a three-position rotary VariTone tone/impedance switch, which allows players to toggle between 50, 250, and 500 impedance settings. This unique feature provides a wide range of tonal possibilities, from deep, warm tones suitable for jazz and blues, to sharper, more defined sounds ideal for rock and funk.

Practical Features

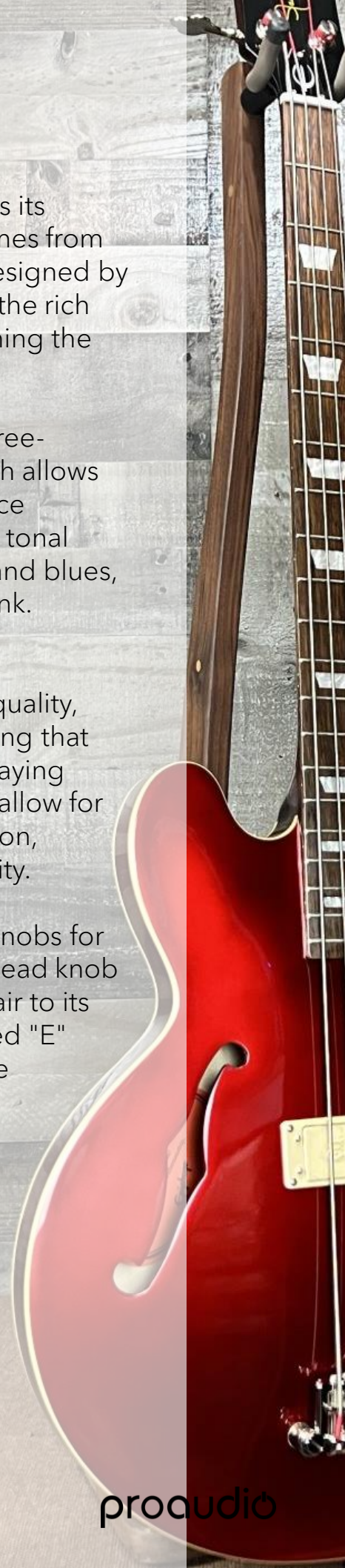
The Jack Casady Bass is equipped with a set of high-quality, die-cast tuning machines with "clover" buttons, ensuring that the instrument stays in tune, even during extended playing sessions. The adjustable 3-point bridge and tailpiece allow for precise intonation adjustments and stable string tension, which is crucial for maintaining consistent sound quality.

Control-wise, the bass is outfitted with gold "speed" knobs for master volume and tone, along with a black chicken head knob for the impedance switch, adding a touch of classic flair to its modern capabilities. The cream pickguard with a raised "E" logo not only protects the finish but also enhances the bass's vintage look.

Aesthetic Appeal

The choice of Sparkling Burgundy and Metallic Gold finishes gives this model a luxurious appeal, making it a striking addition to any bassist's collection.

Whether on stage under the spotlight or hanging on the wall as part of a personal collection, these finishes are sure to catch the eye.





The Epiphone Jack Casady Signature Bass in Sparkling Burgundy and Metallic Gold is a testament to Epiphone's commitment to quality and innovation.

Designed with input from one of the most influential bassists in rock history, this bass offers unmatched sound quality and aesthetic appeal. It's an excellent choice for bass players looking to own a piece of musical history while enjoying the benefits of modern instrument design.

Whether you're laying down the groove on stage or recording in the studio, the Jack Casady Signature Bass is designed to inspire and elevate your musical expression.



KRK GO
AUX3

CREATIVITY ON THE GO

KRK GoAux Series Portable
Powered Studio Monitors



proaudio



KRK GO AUX4

In today's fast-paced world, music creators are constantly on the move, and the need for portable, high-quality studio equipment has never been greater. Enter the KRK GoAux Series, a game-changing solution for musicians, producers, and audio engineers who demand professional sound quality without being tied to a traditional studio setup. The GoAux 3 and GoAux 4 portable monitors are designed to bring the studio to you, wherever your creativity takes you.

Portability Meets Professional Sound
The KRK GoAux Series exemplifies portable pro audio. Whether you're a traveling musician, a producer on tour, or an audio engineer working in varied locations, these monitors are engineered to travel easily and set up quickly.

Both the GoAux 3 and GoAux 4 models come with a durable nylon carrying bag that not only protects the equipment but also holds the included adjustable monitor stands and necessary cables, ensuring you have everything you need to create great sound anywhere.

One of the standout features of the GoAux monitors is their ability to deliver the renowned KRK sound quality in a mobile-friendly format. The GoAux 3 is equipped with a 3" glass aramid woofer and a 1" soft textile dome tweeter, powered by a bi-amplified design that offers 60W RMS of total system power. This setup ensures a natural and balanced frequency response, providing clear and detailed sound across various music genres.



The GoAux 4 steps it up with a 4" glass aramid woofer and the same 1" tweeter, pushing 100W RMS of total power. It includes an Auto ARC (Automatic Room Correction) microphone, which automatically optimizes speaker response to fit the acoustic environment, a crucial feature for those working in less-than-ideal mixing spaces.



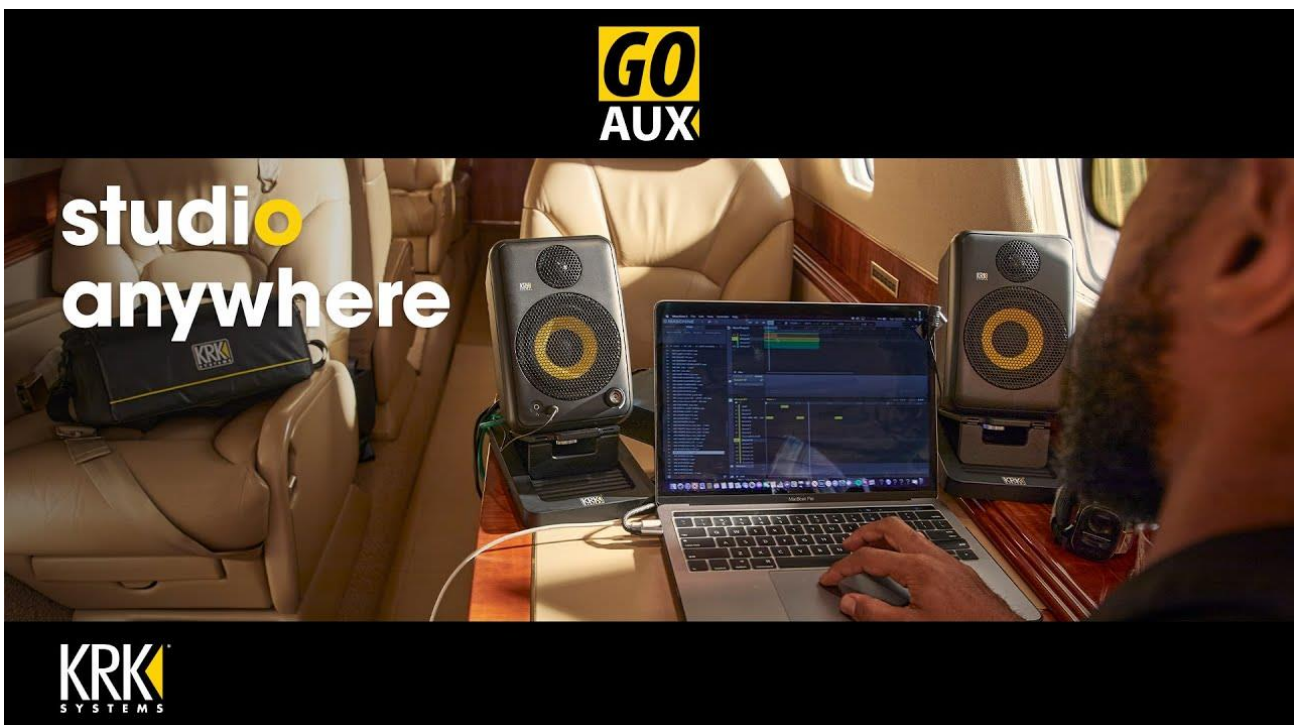
Both models boast a variety of input options, including Bluetooth, USB-Type B, 1/4" TRS balanced, RCA, and 1/8" Aux inputs, ensuring compatibility with a wide range of devices.

This connectivity, combined with Bluetooth 5.0, allows you to stream high-quality audio wirelessly from smartphones, tablets, and computers, enhancing your workflow and enabling seamless collaboration.

For times when silent monitoring is necessary, the GoAux monitors offer a front panel 1/8" stereo headphone output, which automatically mutes the speakers when in use. This feature is ideal for late-night sessions or working in shared spaces, allowing you to mix and master without disturbing others.

Both the GoAux 3 and GoAux 4 are housed in robust, rear-ported ABS cabinets that not only enhance bass extension but also ensure the monitors can withstand the rigors of travel. The compact design does not compromise on power or clarity, with maximum SPLs reaching up to 108 dB, allowing you to accurately monitor your mixes at both low and high volumes.

The KRK GoAux Series portable monitors are a testament to KRK's commitment to providing innovative solutions for music creators. Whether you opt for the GoAux 3 or the more powerful GoAux 4, these monitors guarantee that your mobile studio is equipped to handle any creative challenge. With the GoAux Series, your studio is as mobile as you are, ensuring you never miss a beat, no matter where your music takes you.



ound press | MAY 2024

POWER
WORKS

12
CHANNEL
MIXER

10 MONO & 2 STEREO INPUTS • 2 BALANCED & 2 LINE OUTPUTS
99 DIGITAL EFFECTS • 3-BAND EQ • USB • BLUETOOTH • MP3 PLAYBACK



POWER WORKS

X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX

Taking Audio Mixing to Professional Heights

proaudio



POWERWORKS INTRODUCES

two exceptional models to their lineup, the X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX, both designed to cater to the nuanced needs of audio professionals and enthusiasts alike.

Let's dive into the features and functionalities that set these mixers apart.

Common Strengths and Applications

Both the X10BT-UFX and X12BT-UFX share several strengths that make them standouts in their category:

- **Phantom Power:** Both mixers offer phantom power for condenser microphones, essential for professional recording and broadcasting.
- **Portability and Durability:** Each model is built to withstand the rigors of road use and frequent setup changes, which is invaluable for touring bands and mobile DJs.
- **Visual Monitoring:** The 12-segment level meter on each unit provides clear visual feedback, helping to prevent clipping and ensuring optimal sound levels during use.

Whether you choose the PowerWorks X10BT-UFX for its compact efficiency or the X12BT-UFX for its expansive input and control capabilities, both mixers promise to elevate your audio mixing experience.

PowerWorks continues to offer innovative solutions that anticipate the needs of modern sound technicians and producers, ensuring that every mix sounds its absolute best. Whether in the studio or on stage, these mixers stand ready to deliver outstanding performance and reliable operation, session after session.



PowerWorks **X10BT-UFX**: Compact Versatility

The PowerWorks X10BT-UFX is an 8-channel mixer that packs a significant punch in a compact frame. Designed for those who need a versatile, multi-functional mixer for both studio and live settings, this model offers:



- **Extensive Connectivity:** With 6 mono and 2 stereo inputs, along with 2 balanced and 2 line outputs, the X10BT-UFX provides ample connections for a variety of audio sources.
- **Advanced DSP Capabilities:** Featuring 99 digital effects presets and a 3-band EQ per channel, this mixer allows for precise sound sculpting and enhancement.
- **Seamless Integration:** USB and Bluetooth connectivity enable easy integration with other devices, while built-in recording and MP3 playback capabilities offer additional flexibility.
- **Enhanced Control:** Mute functionality on all channels, coupled with 60mm high-precision logarithmic sliders, ensures smooth operation and fine control over sound levels.

Ideal for smaller setups that require professional-grade results, the X10BT-UFX is as suitable for intimate studio sessions as it is for dynamic live performances.





PowerWorks **X12BT-UFX**: Expansive Functionality

Stepping up in terms of capacity and channel count, the PowerWorks X12BT-UFX is a 12-channel mixer that meets the demands of more complex audio environments. This mixer expands upon the X10BT-UFX with:



- **Increased Input Options:** It features 10 mono inputs and 2 stereo inputs, providing professional-level flexibility for handling numerous sound sources.
- **Room for Expansion:** Additional outputs and auxiliary channels, including in-ear monitor support and a return channel, make it suitable for larger events or sophisticated studio setups.
- **Intuitive Operation:** Like its smaller counterpart, the X12BT-UFX boasts 60mm high-precision sliders and mute functionality across all channels, promoting ease of use and precise audio adjustments.
- **Comprehensive Control:** With the same range of 99 digital effects and a robust 3-band EQ for each channel, it allows for detailed sound adjustments and creative audio effects.

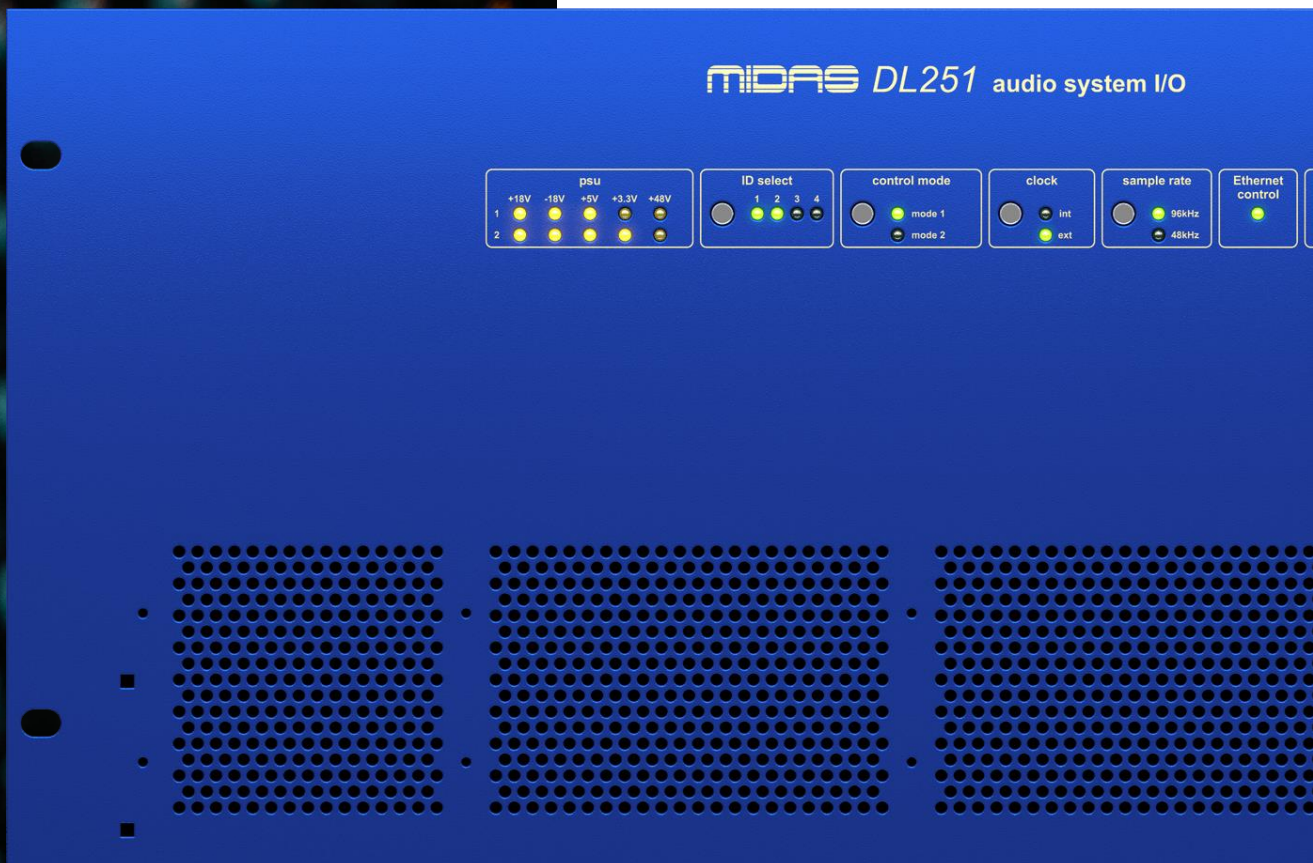
Designed for audio professionals who require more from their equipment, the X12BT-UFX excels in scenarios that involve complex setups and need for detailed audio management.





The Power of MIDAS DL251 Stage Box

For sound engineers navigating the complex world of live audio, the Midas DL251 stage box represents a breakthrough in sound technology and connectivity.

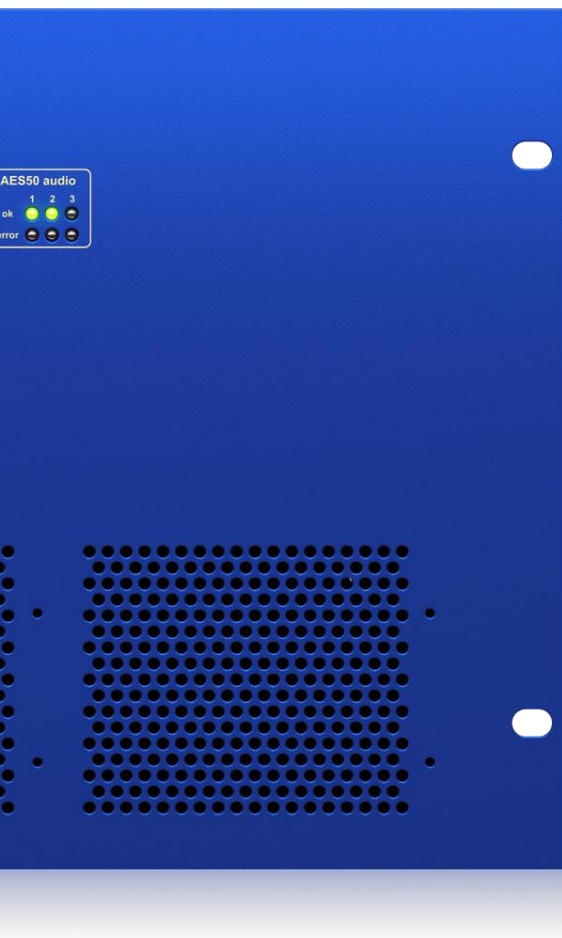


Designed to deliver unmatched audio quality and reliability, the DL251 is equipped with 48 Midas microphone preamplifiers and a host of advanced features, making it an essential tool for any live sound application.



At the heart of the DL251 are the 48 award-winning Midas microphone preamplifiers, renowned for their clarity and sonic depth. These preamps are designed to capture every nuance of a performance, bringing out subtle ambiance and maintaining precise spatial positioning.

This level of detail ensures that every performance is captured with the warmth and richness that Midas consoles are known for, making the DL251 a preferred choice for professional sound engineers worldwide.



The preamplifiers feature switchable +48 V phantom power, allowing them to accommodate both dynamic and condenser microphones, thus providing flexibility and high fidelity in any mixing scenario. Whether recording a live concert or engineering a corporate event, the DL251 ensures that the audio captured is transparent, pristine, and true to the source.

The DL251 isn't just about superior sound quality; it's also built for seamless digital integration. Equipped with three AES50 network ports, the unit provides N+1 redundancy, ensuring continuous audio transmission even if one link goes down. This feature is critical in live settings where reliability can make or break a performance.

Additionally, the DL251 supports selectable 96 kHz or 48 kHz sample rate operation, providing flexibility depending on the resolution requirements of the event. Remote operation is possible up to 100 meters via CAT5/5e cable, offering significant setup versatility and ease of use in large venues.

Understanding the rigors of tour life, Midas has housed the DL251 in a rugged 5U rackmount chassis, ensuring it can withstand the demands of portable applications. Dual redundant auto-ranging universal switch-mode power supplies enhance this durability, providing peace of mind in varied power environments, from outdoor festivals to indoor arenas.

All settings on the DL251 can be programmed from the front panel, which includes PSU status indicator LEDs and configuration switches. This hands-on control is crucial in live environments, where quick adjustments are often needed.



The unit also includes MIDI In, Out, and Thru connectors, allowing for comprehensive control and integration with other stage equipment.

Compatibility and Integration

The DL251 is fully compatible with Midas M Series and PRO Series digital consoles, enabling a high-quality digital snake connection from the Front of House to stage.

This compatibility extends to other AES50-equipped devices, thanks to its SuperMAC digital audio networking technology from Klark Teknik, which ensures high channel counts, ultra-low latencies, and robust error detection and correction.



The MIDAS DL251 stage box is more than just a piece of equipment; it's a pivotal part of the live sound chain that offers unmatched audio quality, robust connectivity, and dependable performance.

For sound engineers looking to elevate their live sound productions, the DL251 offers a combination of classic Midas audio quality with cutting-edge digital technology, making it an indispensable tool in any live sound engineer's arsenal.

Whether it's a rock concert, a theater performance, or a corporate event, the DL251 is engineered to capture every sound with exceptional clarity and warmth, ensuring that the live experience is unforgettable.

Markus Jägerstedt Sound Bank

A collection of Swedish pop sounds for Nord Stage 4

Acclaimed Swedish keyboardist/producer Markus Jägerstedt has designed a creative patch collection for Nord Stage 4 based on the Swedish pop sound and his work with artists like Robyn, Seinabo Sey and Loreen.

"This collection is mixed in two categories where one is very basic pop sounds and the other is more experimental. I guess you can use them for whatever style you like but I have done them mainly for pop, electronic pop and a bit of jazz"

Stockholm-based Markus Jägerstedt is an established keyboardist/producer/songwriter and one of Sweden's most hired musicians. Markus has worked with artists such as Robyn, Loreen, Seinabo Sey, Röyksopp, Veronica Maggio, Miriam Bryant and Oskar Linnros.



Markus Jägerstedt
Signature Sound Bank

Exclusively for
nord stage 4

Michael Bereal Sound Bank

Exclusive new signature sounds for Nord Stage 4

The renowned gospel keyboardist Michael Bereal has created 32 exclusive signature patches for Nord Stage 4! The patch collection is geared towards the church world and contains Michael's signature piano sounds, powerful synths, atmospheric pads and much more.

"This sound bank pretty much showcases what I do, week in and week out on my job of music, in my church and in production"

Michael Bereal is an acclaimed gospel keyboardist/producer based out of Los Angeles, CA and has worked with artists like Snoop Dogg, Faith Evans, Charlie Wilson, Marvin Sapp, Mary Mary, The Soul Seekers, Kirk Franklin, Norman Hutchins and many others.





nord grand 2

NEW ENHANCED
HAMMER ACTION
BY **KAWAI**

The Nord Grand 2 features the latest generation premium Hammer Action keybed from Kawai. Combining the responsive feel of an acoustic grand piano with our world renowned Sound Libraries and a tactile user interface, the sleek and elegant Nord Grand 2 offers a genuinely unique experience.

nord[®]

Grand 2
Teaser video





MAIN FEATURES

General

- New generation Premium Kawai Hammer Action keybed
- Advanced Layering (2 Pianos + 2 Sample Synths)
- Individual Split settings per Layer with optional crossfades
- Support for Nord Piano Monitor
- Nord Triple Pedal 2 (included)

Sample Synth

- 2 independent Sample Synth Layers
- Expanded memory for Nord Sample Library
- Soft and Bright options
- Unison for rich, ensemble-like sounds
- Tru-Vibrato with real time control
- Round robin for natural sounding repetitions
- Mono and Legato modes with Glide
- Attack, Decay/Release and Dynamic controls

Piano Section

- 2 independent Piano Layers
- 120 Voice Polyphony
- Soft, Mid, Bright and Dyno filters
- Dynamic Compression
- 3 Keyboard Touch options
- Advanced String Resonance
- Soft Release

Effects

- Dedicated Effect section per Layer
- Modulation Effects with Rate and Amount
- Global Reverb with Send per Layer, Pre-Delay, Chorale and Bright/Dark mode
- New Spring, Booth and Cathedral Reverb
- New Spin Effect
- New Delay with Filter, Flam and Ping Pong
- Compressor
- Amp with Tone variations





Interview with Elster: **A DJ and Artist Making Waves in the Afrikaans Music Scene**

In an exclusive interview with Proaudio Sound Press, Elster, a dynamic DJ and producer, discusses his transformative journey through the music industry, his recent shift into Afrikaans music, and his vision for the future.

Proaudio Sound Press: Can you tell us about your journey in the music industry, especially your time at the DJ and Music Production Institute based at ProAudio and Pioneer DJ South Africa? How has this experience shaped your career?

Elster: Working at the DJ and Music Production Institute based at ProAudio and Pioneer DJ South Africa has been an invaluable experience for me. It provided me with a solid foundation and technical knowledge that has been crucial in shaping my career. Assisting students with their own artist goals has kept me in check and has shaped a driving force behind what I do.

Proaudio Sound Press: What inspired your transition to Afrikaans music, especially after being deeply rooted in the house music scene for over a decade?

Elster: My transition to Afrikaans music was inspired by the electrifying atmosphere of a Spoegwolf and Francois van Coke concert I attended in 2020. I felt an instant connection to the vibrant vibe and the ecstatic crowds. It was a refreshing change that reignited my passion for music and inspired me to explore new genres. Also, my wife, kids, and family are all Afrikaans; it was time.

Proaudio Sound Press: How did you approach remixing beloved Afrikaans tunes with your signature progressive dance music flair?

Elster: Remixing Afrikaans tunes was a creative challenge that I embraced wholeheartedly. I approached it by respecting the original essence of the songs while infusing them with my own unique style. It was all about finding the right balance between tradition and innovation.

Proaudio Sound Press: What goals have you set for yourself in the Afrikaans music scene for 2024?

Elster: My goal for 2024 is to make a significant impact in the Afrikaans music scene by releasing original tracks and remixes that resonate with audiences across the nation. I aim to collaborate with talented artists and producers to create music that pushes boundaries and captivates listeners.

Proaudio Sound Press: Your sets are known for their mesmerizing fusion of pulsating beats and infectious rhythms. How do you keep your audiences engaged from start to finish?

Elster: Keeping my audiences engaged is all about reading the crowd and adapting my set accordingly. I always aim to create a journey through music that builds energy and excitement, keeping everyone on their feet and immersed in the experience. With my new set being almost 100% my own content, I'm excited to showcase what I have been creating in the studio.

Proaudio Sound Press: How do you balance your work, family life, especially with a baby on the way, and making time for new music?

Elster: Balancing work, family life, and music can be challenging, but it's all about prioritizing and time management. With a baby on the way, family comes first, but music remains a passion that I make time for. I try to involve my family in my musical journey as much as possible, creating a harmonious balance between my professional and personal life.

Proaudio Sound Press: What advice would you give to aspiring DJs and artists looking to make their mark in the music industry?

Elster: My advice would be to stay true to yourself, work hard, and never stop learning. Embrace opportunities to collaborate with others and always strive to innovate and push boundaries. Believe in yourself and your unique vision, and don't be afraid to take risks, even if it means jumping genres or language barriers.

Proaudio Sound Press: Are there any upcoming projects or collaborations that you're excited about and can share with us?

Elster: I have several exciting projects and collaborations in the pipeline for 2024 that I can't wait to share with everyone. Stay tuned for some electrifying tracks and remixes that promise to ignite dance floors across the nation!

Proaudio Sound Press: How do you see the future of Afrikaans music evolving, and where do you see yourself in this evolving landscape?

Elster: I believe Afrikaans music has a bright future ahead, with artists and producers pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons. I see myself playing a significant role in this evolving landscape, contributing fresh and innovative music that resonates with audiences both locally and internationally.

Proaudio Sound Press: Lastly, where can fans connect with you and stay updated on your latest music and performances?

Elster: Fans can connect with me on social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. They can also check out my latest tracks and performances on streaming platforms like Spotify and SoundCloud. I love interacting with my fans, so feel free to reach out and stay updated on all things Elster!

Reach **ELSTER** here:



Aiden aka The Plugza
Pioneering Techno in South Africa



THE PLUGZA

Interview by Proaudio Sound Press

In an engaging interview with Proaudio Sound Press, Aiden, also known as The Plugza, delves into his journey and experiences that sculpt his unique approach to techno music.

From his foundational days at The DJ and Music Production Institute in Sandton to the vibrant techno scenes he cultivates, Aiden's narrative is one of innovation and passionate pursuit of musical excellence.

Proaudio Sound Press: You honed your production skills at The DJ and Music Production Institute in Sandton. How has your training at the institute shaped your approach to music and contributed to your growth as an artist?

Aiden aka The Plugza: Training at the institute has shown me the broad spectrum of how I as an artist am able to express the ideas that are stuck in my head through my creativity and inventiveness. It only added to my passion for music as I saw how much effort is put into making music.

Proaudio Sound Press: The Sheds has become a significant movement in the music scene. Could you delve into what sets The Sheds apart from other venues, and what makes it such a special place for artists like yourself to perform?

Aiden aka The Plugza: First and foremost, the energy and the people are unmatched. In the Vaal, there are few to no places for me and other talented artists from the Vaal to showcase our talent. For us to drive 60+ km every weekend to experience good music is pretty challenging. So for us, we have to create our own space to allow our locals and others to explore our genres of music and overall have the best experience.

Proaudio Sound Press: Transitioning from a small town like The Vaal to the bustling music scene must have presented its own set of challenges. How did your upbringing in The Vaal influence your musical style, and what obstacles did you encounter while trying to establish yourself in the DJ scene?

Aiden aka The Plugza: I want to thank my family for influencing my style of music, they showed me that there are no limits to what music can do or sound like. The DJ scene has presented its challenges, I've learned that if you're going to do what everyone else does, you're not going to stand out as an artist or be seen. Stay in your own lane and find your own sound, stop worrying about what other people do and focus on yourself.

Proaudio Sound Press: As an artist who's deeply immersed in techno music, what draws you to the genre, and how do you express your unique artistic vision within the confines of techno's sonic landscape?

Aiden aka The Plugza: The underground scene is beautiful in its way, the people are what makes it special. A pounding kick drum against some interesting sound design connects with me like nothing else. In its own way, it sounds "expensive". I like to break the boundaries of the sonic landscape; there are no limits in creating techno.

Proaudio Sound Press: Your upcoming music release under a new alias sounds intriguing. Can you share any insights into the inspiration behind this new project and how it differs from your previous work as The Plug? What can fans expect from your upcoming releases under this alias?

Aiden aka The Plugza: I've been pondering about this, but I have to take risks. My new techno alias is "Luigi Giacomozzi", my releases will showcase who I am as a person and will tell you a story of how far I've come and how much I've learned in this industry. My inspiration comes from the mighty And Club and all the Collectives that host parties there. Each of them is unique and has shown me the different styles of techno and how you can be creative in that space, I wish to explore that.

Proaudio Sound Press: Electronic music is constantly evolving, with new sub-genres and styles emerging all the time. How do you stay ahead of the curve and continue to innovate within the ever-changing landscape of electronic music?

Aiden aka The Plugza: I think it's important to listen to all types of genres and subgenres. You can implement that in your music and make it your own, that's what I'm doing in my music as well.

Proaudio Sound Press:

Collaborations are often an integral part of the music industry. Are there any artists or producers you dream of collaborating with in the future? What do you believe makes for a successful collaboration in electronic music?

Aiden aka The Plugza: I believe people with the same interests and intentions work well together. The interests should be making good music and having fun while doing it. I would love to collaborate with Cullen Enslin and Paws from Underground Africa; they are my favorite local artists and they push the boundaries of the genre techno.

Proaudio Sound Press: Techno music is known for its immersive and hypnotic qualities. Can you share a memorable experience from one of your performances where you felt a deep connection with the audience, and what role do you believe atmosphere plays in a techno set?

Aiden aka The Plugza: This was an easy one, the first launch of The Shed was so intimate, I felt so connected with everyone, especially because they were locals and friends that want change in The Vaal. I could feel everyone's energy behind the decks and I was playing from that.



Proaudio Sound Press: As a producer, you have a unique opportunity to shape the sonic landscape of your tracks. Could you walk us through your creative process when producing music, and how do you ensure that your tracks convey the emotions and energy you intend?

Aiden aka The Plugza: I always start with the drums, I strongly believe that Techno is all about the groove. I always try to do something new with my drums in all my tracks that I'm still wanting to release. It all depends on how I feel the day, but I always try to show up and give it my best shot while sitting behind the computer.

Proaudio Sound Press: Electronic music is often associated with visual artistry, such as captivating visuals and stage setups. How do you incorporate visual elements into your performances, and what do you hope audiences take away from the sensory experience of your shows?

Aiden aka The Plugza: The setup at The Shed is sensational with lots of visual lasers being portrayed on the ceiling of the venue. I want to make people feel as comfortable as possible and try to give them the ultimate "rave" experience. I want people to walk in and forget about what's going on in the outside world and lose themselves on the dance floors and in the music.

Aiden aka The Plugza continues to be a beacon of innovation and creativity in the South African techno scene.

His approach not only reshapes the boundaries of what techno can be but also deeply connects with those who experience his music, live or through recordings.

Reach **THE PLUGZA** here:







Reach **FINE** here:



FiNE: The Progressive Afro Duo Taking the World by Storm

In the world afro, few duos shine as brightly as the dynamic duo known as FiNE. Born and raised in South Africa and Botswana respectively, Craig and Darren Fine have journeyed across continents, spreading their catchy rhythms and uplifting melodies to audiences far and wide. Now, after twelve years in Australia, they return to their roots, ready to ignite the dance floors of their homeland.

The Fine brothers' musical odyssey has taken them on a whirlwind tour of the world's hottest music destinations. From the bustling streets of LA to the tranquil canals of the Netherlands, from the ancient cities of Mexico to the sun-soaked shores of Cyprus, their sound has resonated with audiences everywhere.

And now, they are set to conquer South Africa once again, embarking on a two-month tour with OFF Centre from April to June 2024 after returning from an Australian tour with afro Icon, THEMBA and the very trusted Movement Crew.

Their uplifting progressive afro-tech sound has been making waves around the world and garnering respect and admiration from some of the biggest artists in their genre.

Names like Black Coffee, Nitefreak, Caiiro, Themba, Moblack, Pippi Ciez and more have supported their newly launched label "Sippy Time" and their releases with Lizwi, Idd Aziz, Nomvula, Bukeka with fire remixes from Enoo Napa and upcoming projects with Ed-Ward and Weston & Engine from the OFF Centre stable. Their forthcoming release Nomathemba with Lizwi drops Friday 26th April 2024 and is already receiving huge praise from industry leaders and peers.

But beyond the accolades and the acclaim, it's clear that Craig and Darren Fine are driven by a deeper passion— a love for music that transcends everything and connects people from all walks of life. As they return to their roots in South Africa, they bring with them a sense of excitement and anticipation for the future.

So, as we eagerly await the next chapter in the FiNE story, one thing is certain: wherever they go, their music will continue to inspire and uplift, uniting audiences around the world.

For those looking to join the journey, be sure to follow FiNE on social media and visit their website for updates and exclusive content.

DESTINATION DANCE :

Experience the Magic of **Living Room Jozi** Maboneng's Premier Rooftop Function Venue

Nestled on the 5th floor of the iconic Main Change Building in the heart of Maboneng, Living Room Jozi stands as a beacon of urban sophistication and vibrant energy. Celebrating its 14th year of operation, Living Room has evolved into more than just a venue—it's a lifestyle destination where the pulse of Johannesburg beats in rhythm with the mesmerising skyline.

The name "Living Room" is a testament to the venue's essence—an inviting space where life unfolds amidst lush greenery and panoramic views. As you step onto the rooftop garden bar, you're greeted by a symphony of plants and foliage, creating an oasis above the hustle and bustle of the city below. It's a place where the sun kisses the cityscape, casting its golden glow over patrons as they gather to socialise and unwind.

Sundays at Living Room, currently managed by OFF Centre, have become synonymous with inner-city revelry. Here, guests are treated to an immersive experience, combining delectable cuisine, artisanal cocktails, and soul-stirring music spun by some of the country's top DJs and music producers.

It's the perfect fusion of sights, sounds, and flavours—a sensory journey !

But Living Room Jozi is more than just a destination for music and social interaction—it's a venue that has carved a niche for itself in the realm of special events. From enchanting weddings to captivating photo shoots and commercials, Living Room provides a picturesque backdrop that defies convention. Amidst the vibrant offering of Maboneng's arts, culture, and nightlife, Living Room stands out as a testament to innovation and creativity.

Whether you're planning a dream wedding, organising a memorable event, or simply seeking a moment of tranquility amidst Johannesburg's urban sprawl, Living Room Jozi offers an unparalleled experience. So, whether you're ready to say "I do" or simply want to soak in the breathtaking scenery, come and discover why Living Room has become Jozi's favourite rooftop function venue.





HOME-GROWN MUSIC

CLICK ON THE LINKS

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift - Florida!!! (feat. Florence + The Machine)

The track, from Swift's latest album, "The Tortured Poets Department," is one of two special features on the LP and marks the pop icon's first collaboration with Florence Welch. Fans had been anticipating hearing the two sing together since the pop icon announced Welch would be a featured artist on "TTPD" on Instagram Feb. 5. When "Florida!!!" was released on April 19, Swifties also learned that the duo are credited as the only writers on the track. (Emma Stone, who has been close friends with Swift for years, is listed in the liner notes for a mysterious contribution.)



Teddy Swims

Lose Control

Teddy Swims snagged his first Billboard Hot 100 hit with his powerful breakout hit, "Lose Control," and the song broke into the tally's top 10 on Jan. 20, 2024. Teddy Swims (real name Jaden Dimsdale) from Conyers, Ga., first appeared on a Billboard chart in 2021 when his debut EP, *Unlearning*, debuted and peaked at No. 98 on Top Current Album Sales. Three months later, he appeared on a songs chart for the first time with his track "Simple Things." It reached No. 14 on Digital Song Sales in September 2021, after he performed it on CBS' *The Late Late Show With James Corden*.



Tyla, Gunna, Skillibeng

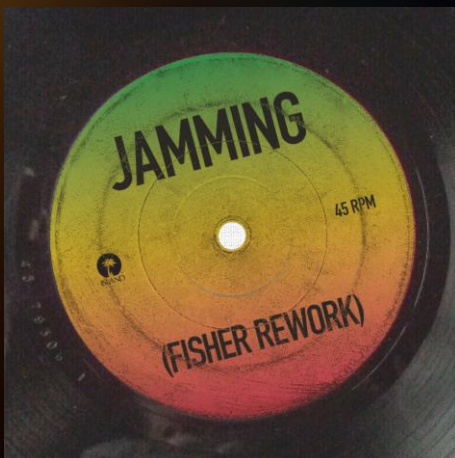
Jump

"They never had a pretty girl from Joburg!" The first verse from Tyla's latest track, Jump is the South African artist's favourite from all the songs on her debut album. Taking TikTok by storm in much the same way as her global hit, Water did, Tyla shared that she would love for Jump to be the flavour of every party across the world.



Fisher Remixes

Bob Marley Classic "Jammin'" For New "One Love" Film



Celebrating the release of the new biopic about the reggae legend, the Aussie DJ puts an updated spin on the iconic tune. In 1977, Bob Marley and the Wailers released the tune "Jammin'." Nine years later, Paul Fisher was born on the Gold Coast of Australia. And today, as one of the globe's most recognizable DJs and music producers, the one-time Reef team rider just covered the classic reggae tune as part of the rollout for the new "One Love" biopic about Marley's life. The full cut hasn't dropped yet, but true to Fisher's musical style, what we can here in the preview of the updated remix, he builds to a crescendo before Marley's timeless vocals kick in and the packed house he's playing to, "loses it," as Fish would say.

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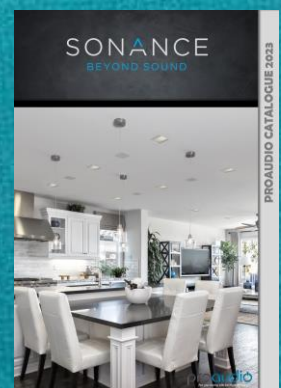
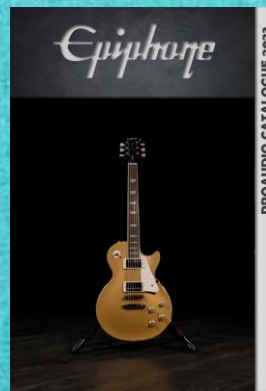
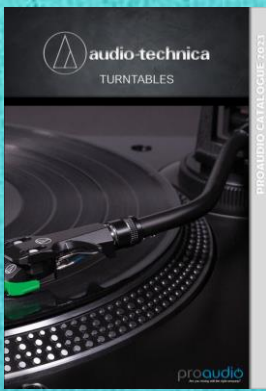
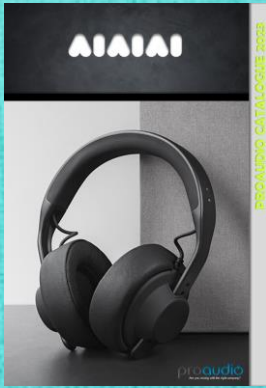
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