





# THIS MONTHS HIGHLIGHTS!

**NEW PRODUCTS** 









#### **SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS**



Ricardo Da Costa



El Mukuka



**Fundi Mbambani** 



Cantrel

**ARTICLES** 







# INTHIS ISSUE!

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# **WELCOME**

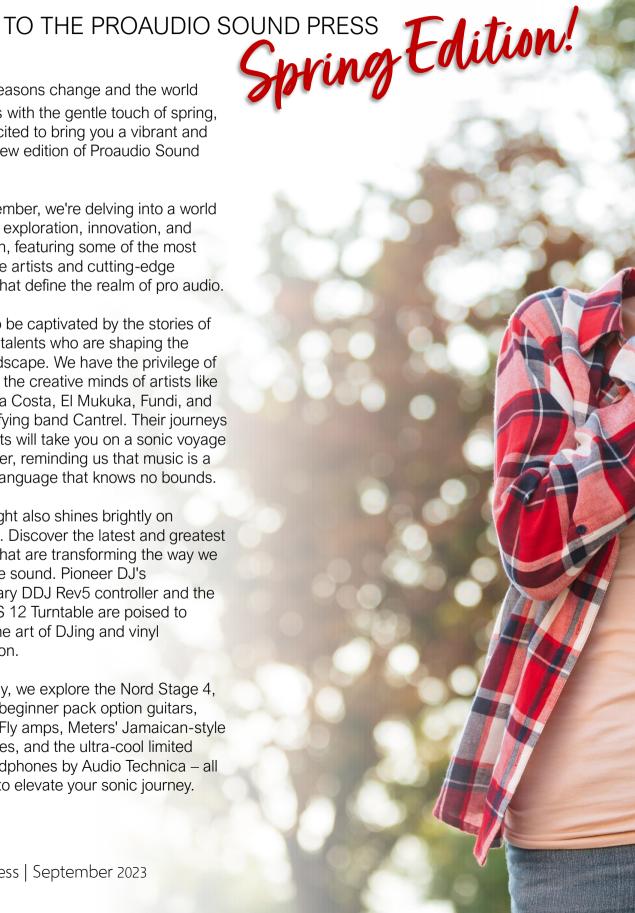
 $oldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$ s the seasons change and the world transforms with the gentle touch of spring, we are excited to bring you a vibrant and inspiring new edition of Proaudio Sound Press.

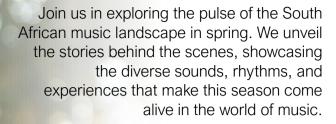
This September, we're delving into a world of musical exploration, innovation, and celebration, featuring some of the most remarkable artists and cutting-edge products that define the realm of pro audio.

Prepare to be captivated by the stories of incredible talents who are shaping the music landscape. We have the privilege of diving into the creative minds of artists like Ricardo Da Costa, El Mukuka, Fundi, and the electrifying band Cantrel. Their journeys and insights will take you on a sonic voyage like no other, reminding us that music is a universal language that knows no bounds.

Our spotlight also shines brightly on innovation. Discover the latest and greatest products that are transforming the way we experience sound. Pioneer DJ's revolutionary DDJ Rev5 controller and the PLX-CRSS 12 Turntable are poised to redefine the art of DJing and vinyl appreciation.

Additionally, we explore the Nord Stage 4. Epiphone beginner pack option guitars, Blackstar Fly amps, Meters' Jamaican-style headphones, and the ultra-cool limited M50x headphones by Audio Technica – all designed to elevate your sonic journey.





The revival of turntables is a captivating phenomenon that's making waves globally. We take you through the nostalgic journey of how these iconic analog devices are rekindling a passionate love for the authentic sound, album art, and curatorial experience that only vinyl can provide.

For DJs, Rekordbox isn't just a tool – it's a game-changer. Delve into an article that explores why this software is an absolute must if you're serious about enhancing your DJ skills and pushing the boundaries of your creativity.

And let's not forget the power of technology that shapes our music experience. Power Works' in-ear monitor systems are here to redefine how you hear and feel music, offering a personalized sonic journey that's unparalleled.

So join us in embracing the spirit of spring, where music and innovation bloom together. From the heartfelt interviews with artists to the deep dive into the world of products and trends, Proaudio Sound Press Spring Edition is your guide to exploring the limitless horizons of sound.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us. Let the music play and the stories unfold as we celebrate the magic of sound.

STAY INSPIRED, The Proaudio Sound Press Team





Former basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, aka DIESEL, has released his debut album 'GORILLA WARFARE' via Monstercat.





# Talking Heads to reunite for Stop Making Sense anniversary restoration screening



The members of Talking Heads have confirmed that they will regroup at the Toronto International Film this September. The band will reunite to do a Q&A on 11th September 2023 during the premiere of A24's Stop Making Sense restoration – a release celebrating 40 years of Jonathan Demme's original concert documentary Stop Making Sense, shot in 1983 and released in 1984.



Armin van Buuren's double record-breaking set from the Burj Khalifa in collaboration with UNTOLD Dubai is available to stream now. The Dutch DJ played a 40-minute set from the 149th floor of the world's tallest building to promote the first UNTOLD Dubai music festival, breaking the world record for the highest-ever DJ performance, as well as the largest LED screen ever used in a show.



The Weeknd says he won't do any more tracks featuring other artists "unless Daft Punk get back together". The Canadian star – real name Abel Tesfaye — announced his decision during a performance at the PGE Narodowy in Warsaw, Poland last Wednesday (9th August), at the same time as previewing a new track, 'Another One Of Me'; his final feature. "I just wanna say, this, this is gonna be the last feature I ever do, ever in my career, so I wanna perform it for you guys tonight."



#### NDLOVO YOUTH CHOIR ANNOUNCES 2023 SA TOUR

After sold-out shows in 2022, Ndlovu Youth Choir returns for six performances in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Established in 2009, the choir is acclaimed nationally and internationally. They've toured the USA, with upcoming shows in Germany and the Netherlands, including North Sea Jazz Festival and Carnegie Hall Summer Festival. Led by Ralf Schmitt, the choir and 3-piece band present hits like Africa, Easy On Me, and Shape of You. Their repertoire includes originals from the album 'Grateful'. From rural Limpopo to America's Got Talent finals, they've excelled globally, collaborating with artists like Pink and performing for Trevor Noah and Bill Gates. Celebrate South Africa's talented Ndlovu Youth Choir in their upcoming concerts.

# **Meet your DJ**





#### SPOTIFY'S AI DJ becomes available to South African users

The streaming service Spotify has finally made its AI DJ feature available for premium South African users, according to a Spotify press release. The feature provides an alternative and more personalised way of listening to music on the application. An artificial intelligence-generated voice acts as a 'DJ' that speaks between songs, providing personal facts to listeners about what songs are being played. The feature uses listening data to assemble playlists and share details with the listener.



# 'Mooiste Meisie',

Angie Oeh Has Sadly Passed Away,

Five Days After Shocking Lung Cancer Diagnosis

Angelique Eurika Greeff (aged 24), known as Afrikaans mumble rapper, Angie oeh, passed away on Saturday, 19 August at Life Wilgers Hospital in Pretoria. She was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer on Monday, 14 August. She has collaborated with Jack Parow, Van Pletzen, Loufi, Biggy and producer, DJ Kay Faith.



Award-winning, multi-platinum-selling band, consisting of brothers Jared and Shannon Leto, release their new song "Seasons" via Concord Records – listen HERE. The fourth song to be released from the band's highly anticipated sixth studio album 'It's The End Of The World But It's A Beautiful Day', "Seasons" asks if we can accept change as we move through the many different seasons of life.

# HOME GROWN MUSIC

Your gateway to discovering the vibrant sounds of local South African artists. On this page, we provide you with direct access to music links, allowing you to dive into the rich tapestry of South African music. CLICK ON THE LINKS



# FIRST CLASS GEEK

The single is about a guy who is falling in love with a girl that's way out of his league! The genre is pop with some British pop influence. It's an ode to my awkward teenage years. It's really something that most geeks (which I am proud to say I am) would have felt. When you're a teenage coming up, and all you have are your passions and hobbies, it's difficult to get into the cool crowd. As you grow older you realise that life is really about finding your own crowd and embracing your first class geek.

THE SONG IS WRITTEN BY SOLOMON JOHN





Tim A Deep whose real name is Themba Kubheka is a South African versatile music producer, disc jockey who has a story that brings tears to your eyes & strength to your heart. Hailing from Rustenburg at the heart of North West, bred from the lusty streets of Sandfontein, the young Deejay has dominated the house scene with his unique soundscapes that blends. Nostalgic house finery and it no wonder is is no wonder he is currently being regarded as the king of house.

\*



THEMBA's track 'Azteca' is a captivating creation that has already become a staple in his DJ sets. This musical masterpiece effortlessly establishes an enchanting atmosphere, captivating partygoers in clubs and dance scenes alike, with its ever-evolving synth stabs and meticulously crafted beats. Released on International label - Armada Music



Multiple Award Winning Singer Kabza De Small & DJ Maphorisa ft Young Stunna is back with the release of a new single titled "Abaphuthume" this new song is coming following the recently released track, "Abaphuthume by Kabza De Small & DJ Maphorisa ft Young Stunna" is a distinct rhythm with mellowing and nostalgic sounds that give stimulation to the ears and mind.



Following the release of 'Voices of Hope 2', DJ Fresh (SA) has reunited with Shona SA to release their new single 'YOLO'. The single comprises elements of DJ Fresh's old-school house sound with a modern electronic twist. 'YOLO' is an acronym for "you only live once"; a slang term that gained internet popularity in 2012. The song is a party anthem that encourages one to live life to the fullest each day and celebrate the little things that it comes with.



#1 on Metro FM right now

The famous duo 2Point1 has enlisted the talents of Ntate Stunna & Nthabi Sings to feature on their new song "Stimela." Some of the country's best hitmakers have vowed to make their fans dance. That must be the case with the popular duo 2Point1 because they've never disappointed with any of their releases. The talented hitmakers have dominated the scene with good music. They featured Berita M in the song "Nyoka." They also dropped "Jwaleng Mo (Master)," featuring contributions from Deekay. Their contributions to Soul Star's "Umoya Wami" was also impressive. There is no denying the fact that the duo is great at what they do.



Music Industry Trends as South Africa Welcomes September 2023

As the vibrant landscapes of South Africa burst into color with the arrival of spring, so too does the music industry unveil a bouquet of exciting trends and developments. September 2023 marks a pivotal moment for the nation's musical landscape, as it embarks on a journey into a new season of creativity, innovation, and rejuvenation. Let's explore the key themes shaping the South African music scene this spring.

# 1. Fusion of Cultural Rhythms:

South Africa's rich cultural tapestry has always been a wellspring of musical inspiration. This spring, artists are embracing this diversity more than ever. Musicians are interweaving traditional sounds and rhythms with modern genres, creating a fusion that resonates with audiences both locally and globally. Expect to hear the mesmerizing blend of Afrobeat, jazz, and electronic music, showcasing the country's remarkable ability to seamlessly meld heritage and modernity.

#### 2. Rise of Independent Artists:

Independent artists are taking center stage this season, leveraging digital platforms to amplify their voices. With the advent of streaming and social media, musicians are finding new avenues to share their music directly with fans. South African artists are embracing this autonomy to tell their stories authentically and connect with audiences on a personal level. As a result, the industry is witnessing a surge of unique voices that challenge conventional norms.

# 3. Virtual Performances and Hybrid Events:

The pandemic's impact on the music industry has led to an innovative evolution of live performances. Even as traditional venues reopen, virtual and hybrid events remain a staple. This spring, musicians are mastering the art of captivating audiences both in person and through digital interfaces. These immersive experiences allow for unprecedented connections with fans, transcending geographical boundaries and enriching the concert experience.

#### 4. Tech-Infused Music Production:

Cutting-edge technology continues to reshape the music creation process. In September 2023, South African producers are leveraging Al-driven tools, virtual instruments, and spatial audio technologies to craft captivating soundscapes. This fusion of artistry and innovation is resulting in productions that are both technically impressive and emotionally resonant.

#### 5. Eco-Conscious Initiatives:

As the world places an increasing emphasis on sustainability, the South African music industry is also embracing eco-conscious practices. From carbon-neutral events to initiatives that support environmental causes, artists and event organizers are using their platforms to drive positive change. Music festivals are incorporating eco-friendly practices, highlighting the industry's commitment to preserving the planet.

#### 6. Collaborative Cross-Pollination:

Collaboration has always been a driving force behind musical evolution. This spring, artists are embracing cross-genre collaborations that spark new creative energies. By joining forces, musicians are producing tracks that blend diverse musical styles, leading to innovative sonic landscapes that challenge traditional boundaries.

The South African music industry is entering September 2023 with a renewed sense of energy and creativity. As spring unfolds, the industry is embracing cultural fusion, independence, innovation, and sustainability. Audiences can look forward to a season filled with diverse sounds, engaging virtual experiences, and a spirit of collaboration that pushes the boundaries of musical expression. As the nation blooms with natural beauty, so too does the music industry blossom with artistic potential, setting the stage for a harmonious and inspiring spring.



# DDJ-REV5 SCRATCH-STYLE 2-CHANNEL PERFORMANCE DJ CONTROLLER

Pioneer DJ has once again revolutionized the world of DJing with the release of the DDJ-REV5, a cutting-edge controller that seamlessly integrates with Serato DJ Pro and rekordbox. This 2channel powerhouse is designed to deliver an unparalleled scratch experience while introducing innovative features that redefine what's possible behind the decks.



# **REV** OLUTIONARY CONTROL

The Pioneer DJ Rev5, with its powerful features, intuitive design, and innovative functions, is a game-changer in the world of DJ controllers. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a budding enthusiast, the DDJ-REV5 promises to elevate your DJing experience to new heights, making your performances more dynamic, creative, and memorable.



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#### **UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY**

At the heart of the DDJ-REV5 are its large jog wheels, reminiscent of classic CDJ units, offering a responsive and authentic feel. Equipped with a display showing the playhead position, you'll always be in sync with your tracks. What's more, these jog wheels can be tailored to your preferences with customizable Jog Feel settings, allowing you to find your perfect jog wheel "weight." The magnetic MAGVEL FADER ensures precise

scratching, translating even the tiniest movements into precision scratches.



#### PIANO PLAY MODE: UNLEASH YOUR INNER PIANIST

In a stroke of genius, Pioneer DJ introduces Piano Play mode, adding a musical twist to your performances. The 16 Performance Pads are transformed into a piano keyboard, with keys arranged in a familiar layout. Choose from 3 scales, and even without a background in musical theory, you'll find it effortless to play melodies and harmonies.

#### **CONNECTIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY**

The DDJ-REV5's versatility extends to its wide range of inputs and outputs, including a professional-grade XLR master out that's ideal for professional environments. With dual USB Type-C ports for PC/Mac connectivity, transitioning between DJs is as simple as flipping a switch on the controller.



**THE PIONEER DJ REV5**, with its powerful features, intuitive design, and innovative functions, is a game-changer in the world of DJ controllers. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a budding enthusiast, the DDJ-REV5 promises to elevate your DJing experience to new heights, making your performances more dynamic, creative, and memorable.





# Stay Cool this Spring with the 2023 Limited Edition M50x

# Introducing...

the ATH-M50xBT2 Ice Blue - the second generation of our highly acclaimed M-Series wireless over-ear headphones.

These headphones feature large 45 mm aperture drivers within a wireless framework, ensuring listeners experience the same legendary sound of the ATH-M50x studio headphones. In this latest version, we've introduced several notable upgrades, including enhanced vocal clarity for improved call quality, an upgraded USB-C connection, and a convenient multipoint pairing mode.

Whether you're seeking top-notch audio quality for your daily commute, setting up for a conference call, or simply unwinding while enjoying your favorite tunes, the ATH-M50xBT2 provides seamless wireless performance whenever you require it.

Built upon the praised audio characteristics of the ATH-M50x headphones, the ATH-M50xBT2 employs Bluetooth wireless technology while maintaining the same studio-grade sound within a wireless format. The generous aperture drivers ensure precise and deep bass response for an immersive listening encounter. What's more, the AK4331 advanced audio DAC and dedicated internal headphone amplifier guarantee an elevated, crystal-clear, high-fidelity audio experience.

Equipped with dual microphones and beamforming technology, the ATH-M50xBT2 delivers enhanced vocal pickup, resulting in exceptionally clear call audio quality. Users can easily mute their microphone at the touch of a button, access the built-in Amazon Alexa voice assistant, and interface with Google Assistant and Siri seamlessly.

With a remarkable battery life of up to 50 hours on a continuous full charge, along with 3 hours of usage from just a 10-minute rapid charge via the USB-C connection, these headphones stand out as some of the longest-lasting wireless options on the market.

The multipoint pairing capability empowers users to stay connected to two Bluetooth devices simultaneously, simplifying task-switching like never before. The A-T Connect app allows for further personalization and customization of the ATH-M50xBT2 to align with your preferences.

From activating low latency mode to adjusting and saving EQ settings for your headphones, altering the L/R volume balance, choosing your desired voice assistant, and more -

YOU HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

#### INTRODUCING

# PLX-CRSS12 Turntable

# **Elevating DJ Creativity with Cutting-edge Innovation**

In the dynamic world of DJing, innovation never ceases. Enter the Pioneer DJ PLX-CRSS12, a groundbreaking turntable that revolutionizes the art of mixing and scratching. As the world's first turntable to seamlessly blend analog record playback with tone-arm-free DVS control, the PLX-CRSS12 redefines the limits of creativity for DJs seeking to push boundaries and elevate their performances.

# TONE-ARM-FREE DVS CONTROL: NEW ERA OF PRECISION

One of the most remarkable features of the PLX-CRSS12 is its pioneering tone-arm-free Digital Vinyl System (DVS) control. Unlike traditional setups, the new MAGVEL CLAMP secures the record firmly in place, allowing for direct control of digital music files without the need for a traditional tone arm. This revolutionary system guarantees seamless playback, eliminating the frustrating issue of needle skipping even during intense scratching sessions.

# TAILORED FEELING ADJUSTMENT FOR SEAMLESS PERFORMANCE

The PLX-CRSS12 offers a user-friendly dial on the MAGVEL CLAMP, enabling DJs to swiftly adjust the record's "weight" to match their unique style. This feature ensures that performances can flow effortlessly, removing the hassle of changing slip mats or sheets mid-set.

# PERSONALIZED TORQUE LEVEL AND STOPPING SPEED

Recognizing the diverse preferences of DJs, the PLX-CRSS12 allows users to customize turntable rotation torque levels via utility settings.



# Professional direct drive turntable with DVS control



DJs can select from "High" for rapid startup, "Low" for a classic torque speed, or "Mid" for a balanced approach. Additionally, the deck's adjustable stopping speed switch lets DJs control how quickly the turntable comes to a halt when the "STOP" button is pressed, catering to a spectrum of performance styles.

# PRECISION PERFORMANCE PADS FOR UNPARALLELED CONTROL

While preserving the classic turntable layout, the PLX-CRSS12 introduces four MIDI-mappable Performance Pads placed strategically below the platter. These pads facilitate lightning-fast execution of Hot Cues and samples, granting DJs instantaneous control over their mixes. With native support for various pad modes, the deck offers unmatched flexibility and responsiveness.

# INNOVATIVE OLED DISPLAY FOR SEAMLESS INTERACTION

Designed to minimize distractions, the built-in OLED display on the PLX-CRSS12 offers swift access to vital track information, including tempo range and key details during Step Pitching. When connected via USB to a PC/Mac running DJ software, the display serves as a valuable resource for referencing BPM, key, and deck number information.

# ELEVATED SOUND QUALITY FOR DISCERNING AUDIENCES

The PLX-CRSS12's commitment to sonic excellence is evident through its meticulous construction, building on the acclaimed sound reproduction quality of the PLX-1000 DJ turntable. The turntable's switching power supply minimizes vibration and noise interference, ensuring pristine audio output. Its high-mass die-cast zinc upper chassis, paired with vibration-damping materials, further enhance sound quality, creating an immersive auditory experience.

## **UNCOMPROMISED CONNECTIVITY AND AESTHETIC APPEAL**

The PLX-CRSS12 boasts machined gold-plated RCA terminals for secure and high-quality phono signal transmission. Its robust matte black design, accentuated with special coatings and intricate details, exudes an aura of elegance and durability, making it a sophisticated addition to any DJ setup.



#### **SEAMLESS SOFTWARE INTEGRATION**

Compatible with both Serato DJ Pro and rekordbox, the PLX-CRSS12 seamlessly integrates with popular DJ software. Connecting the turntable to a PC/Mac with the corresponding software allows DJs to enter Digital Vinyl mode and utilize the Performance Pads, opening the door to limitless creative possibilities. In the landscape of DJ equipment, the Pioneer DJ PLX-CRSS12 Turntable stands as an emblem of innovation and evolution. By combining analog warmth with cutting-edge DVS control, it empowers DJs to transcend conventions and craft performances that resonate deeply with audiences worldwide.

# @ rekords

# THE PIONEER DJ PLX-CRSS12

Turntable redefines DJing with its groundbreaking fusion of analog record playback and tone-arm-free DVS control, offering unmatched creative possibilities and uncompromised sound quality.



# Exploring the Dynamic World of Music with

# Ricardo Da Costa

Sound Press Magazine sits down with Ricardo da Costa, a trailblazer in the music industry, to discuss his ventures, inspirations, and insights into the evolving South African music scene.

**SPM:** Can you tell us about your new venue, Artistry, and how it is changing the music scene? What inspired you to open this venue and what unique experiences does it offer to music lovers?

Ricardo da Costa: ARTISTRY is a cultural music and lifestyle space that encompasses a restaurant, a listening bar, and a theatre. This setup allows us to curate an entire evening's experience – starting with dinner, leading to a live music spectacle in the theatre, and culminating in an after-party in the listening bar. The concept of ARTISTRY was brought to life through collaboration with the Black Brick team and artists like J-Something and myself.

**SPM:** You are the host of the annual massive event, Spring Fiesta. How did you come up with the idea for this event, and how has it evolved over the years? What makes it a standout experience for festivalgoers?

Ricardo da Costa: Spring Fiesta was inspired by H20, a multi-stage festival celebrating diverse genres with both local and international headliners. What sets Spring Fiesta apart is its unique location at the Wild Waters Complex, exclusively reserved for the event. With over five stages, the festival offers an unmatched experience for attendees, showcasing a vibrant mix of music.

**SPM:** As the CEO of Soul Candi, you have been at the forefront of the music industry. How has working at Soul Candi influenced your career and shaped your perspective on the South African music scene?

Ricardo da Costa: Soul Candi's music has been the soundtrack to countless dancefloor memories, thanks to a team dedicated to delivering exceptional music. In South Africa, house music is akin to pop music, and we're proud to be known as "the house of house." Our contribution to the SA house music legacy is a source of immense pride.

**SPM:** You also own a venue called the lvy Champagne Garden. Could you tell us a bit about the venue and the kind of atmosphere and experience it provides for visitors?

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**Ricardo da Costa:** The Ivy is my first foray into the food and hospitality industry. It's a dinner bar boasting spectacular views of the Joburg skyline. The atmosphere is both inviting and elevated, with our food stealing the spotlight.

**SPM:** Your album "Funksensual" features the statement "be careful what you wish for." Can you elaborate on the meaning behind this statement and how it has influenced the lives of many upcoming DJs, including myself as the interviewer?

**Ricardo da Costa:** The statement centers on having a clear goal and vision and dedicating oneself to its pursuit. It's a philosophy I still live by today, encouraging dedication and belief in one's aspirations.

**SPM:** Having witnessed the scene and genres change while working at Soul Candi, what is your vision for the future of electronic music in South Africa over the next few years? Are there any emerging trends or artists that excite you?

**Ricardo da Costa:** Music is incredibly exciting right now, with the emergence of a genre known as "3 Step," a fusion of Amapiano and Afrotech. Artists like Atmos Blaq and Thakzin are pushing the boundaries of this captivating sound.

**SPM:** Throughout your career, you have experienced successes and challenges. What are some valuable lessons you have learned that have helped you navigate the music industry with resilience and passion?

Ricardo da Costa: Collaboration is key. This industry thrives on collective effort rather than individual pursuits. Also, perseverance, hard work, and humility are the cornerstones of longevity.

**SPM:** Thank you, Ricardo, for sharing your insights and experiences with us. Your journey in the music industry is an inspiration to many aspiring artists.

**Ricardo da Costa:** Thank you for the opportunity. It's a pleasure to contribute to the vibrant world of music and its enthusiasts.





Ricardo da Costa has left an indelible mark on the dance music landscape, seamlessly blending electro, tribal, and tech house. A South African icon, his journey is a testament to unwavering passion and commitment.

By day, he navigates the helm of Soul Candi Music, a revered dance label. By night, he captivates as a sought-after DJ. This dual role exemplifies his dedication to music.

Ricardo's impact extends beyond his entrancing sets. His knack for spotting dancefloor gems has birthed chart-topping releases, shaping South African music history.

Internationally renowned, he shares stages with giants like Erick Morillo and David Guetta. Ricardo's musical signature echoes across the globe.

From '90s dance influences to his emergence in 1994, Ricardo's journey is transformative. He's graced iconic South African nightclubs, captivating with his magnetic beats.

His charisma birthed monumental events like "Electric Circus" at Truth. A visionary at Soul Candi Records since 2006, his leadership fuels SPRING FIESTA.

Yet, Ricardo's approachable charm belies his accomplishments. A communicator and leader, he's a dance music visionary. Ricardo da Costa: DJ, producer, promoter, and label manager—an enduring beacon in dance music.



For the modern audiophile on the move, the wait is over. We proudly present the KRK GoAux 3 portable nearfield monitors – a symphony of unparalleled sound quality that accompanies you on your journeys. Crafted with a blend of innovation and expertise, these monitors are the ultimate companions for globetrotting musicians and sound engineers who refuse to compromise on sound excellence.

# **Immersive Sound, Compact Design**

Experience the hallmark KRK sound quality in a compact form factor. The GoAux 3 monitors are meticulously engineered to preserve the legendary KRK audio, now optimized for life on the go. Whether you're on a world tour or exploring new sonic landscapes, these monitors ensure that the essence of your music remains unadulterated.

#### **A Traveler's Dream**

Designed for those who carry their passion everywhere, the GoAux 3 monitors come with a sleek nylon carrying bag. This convenient case accommodates both monitors, along with the included monitor stands and any additional cables you wish to bring along. Adjustability takes center stage with the versatile stands, enabling you to find that perfect angle for precise monitoring, no matter where your inspiration takes you.

# **Precision in Every Note**

The GoAux 3 monitors boast a fusion of power and finesse. A 3" glass aramid woofer pairs harmoniously with a 1" soft textile dome tweeter, all elegantly encapsulated within a 60 W RMS (total system power) bi-amplified two-way design. The ingenious rear-ported ABS cabinets deliver durability without compromising on bass extension – a feat that elevates the concept of portable audio.

#### **Simplicity in Power**

Powered by ingenuity, the GoAux 3 monitors offer an intelligent power solution. With one speaker housing the power amps and the second speaker drawing its energy through an integrated speaker-level connection, a single AC outlet fuels the dynamic duo. Streamlined and efficient, it's a setup designed to simplify your experience.

#### **Sound Tailored to You**

Customization takes center stage with built-in LF and HF EQ controls. Adapt your monitors' response to the room acoustics and your personal taste, ensuring your audio landscape remains uniquely yours. Plus, with 1/8" Aux and RCA stereo inputs, and the added convenience of Bluetooth connectivity, you're granted a multitude of options for seamless audio integration.

#### **Immersive, Intimate, Instant**

For moments requiring a more personal connection, the front panel 1/8" stereo headphone output beckons. Engage it, and the GoAux 3 speakers graciously bow out, letting you monitor your masterpiece in solitude. It's a symphony of options at your fingertips.

The KRK GoAux 3 portable monitors redefine what it means to carry exceptional sound wherever life takes you. Elevate your auditory encounters to a legendary status.

**Experience sound, unbound.** 







# ELEVATING PERFORMANCE WITH UNPRECEDENTED SOUND MASTERY

In the realm of stage pianos, few names evoke as much awe and admiration as Nord. Renowned for their commitment to innovation and exceptional sound quality, Nord has once again redefined excellence with the Nord Stage 4 88. This 88-key marvel transcends traditional boundaries, bringing together a symphony of piano, organ, and synthesizer sound engines to elevate your performance experience like never before.

A Masterpiece of Key Action Crafted to satisfy the most discerning pianists, the Nord Stage 4 88 boasts an 88key fully weighted, triple-sensor keybed that offers a fast and remarkably smooth feel. Every keystroke is imbued with nuance and precision, ensuring that your playing style is faithfully translated into a mesmerizing auditory journey.

## The Power of OLED Displays

At the heart of the Nord Stage 4 88's intuitive design lies the power of two OLED displays, guiding you effortlessly through the Program and Synth sections. Clear navigation and operation have never been more accessible, enhancing your on-stage experience with quick access to your musical arsenal.

# Seamless Transitions for Uninterrupted Magic

Say farewell to sound interruptions during crucial moments. The Nord Stage 4 88 features Seamless Transitions, allowing you to navigate between program changes without a hint of disruption in your sonic landscape. Your music flows seamlessly, creating an immersive atmosphere that captivates both you and your audience.



# Sample Fidelity Redefined

Imagine the Nord Piano Library brought to life with doubled sample memory, providing an even greater range and fidelity for your favorite instrument sounds. The Nord Stage 4 88 embraces the essence of every instrument, from the ethereal strings to the resonant voices, delivering a sonic tapestry that resonates with authenticity.

## Synth Enchantment at Your Fingertips

The Wave 2 Synth Engine introduces a new dimension to the Nord Stage 4 88's sonic arsenal. With three independent synth layers that can be effortlessly managed and attenuated, the potential for complex patch construction knows no bounds. Dedicated perlayer FX control adds depth and variety to your sonic explorations, inviting you to sculpt and create with boundless imagination.

#### A World of Instruments Unveiled

Elevating its instrumental selection, the Nord Stage 4 88 beckons you to discover a realm of sonic possibilities. From electric pianos that evoke nostalgia to the rich resonance of strings, the warmth of folk instruments, and beyond, your artistic expression finds its ultimate canvas.

# Integration and Illumination

With the Extern Section, the Nord Stage 4 88 goes beyond traditional confines. Seamlessly integrate external MIDI sound modules, elevating your performance to new heights. LED indicators accompanying physical drawbars for organ sounds provide real-time visual cues, adding an immersive layer to your patch development.

# Your Musical Odyssey Begins

Incorporating support for Program Changes from an external footswitch, the Nord Stage 4 88 stands ready for every gig, session, and musical voyage. With its fusion of innovation, quality, and versatility, it's the ultimate companion for artists who demand nothing less than perfection.

# Experience the Nord Stage 4 88 WHERE ARTISTRY KNOWS NO LIMITS





El Mukuka takes us on a journey through his music, travels, and passion for his homeland, shedding light on the challenges and triumphs of a global artist.

**Sound Press Magazine (SPM):** El Mukuka, your ability to blend genres is commendable. How do you approach crafting sets that seamlessly fuse African and Western elements within the realm of house music?

El Mukuka (EM): Thank you! As a fusion artist, my goal is to create sets that represent my unique style—bringing together African and Western influences in the house music landscape. I look for tracks rich in melody and harmony, as melody is my muse. My sets are a journey where I draw listeners into a world that harmoniously blends cultural flavors, resonating with people from diverse backgrounds.

**SPM:** Your performances are known for their energy and engagement. Could you share some of your tactics for keeping the crowd captivated?

**EM:** DJing is an art that goes beyond the music—it's about crafting an experience. To keep the crowd engaged, I strike a balance between familiar tunes and unexpected tracks, playing with emotions to create dynamic shifts. This "tension and release" approach makes my sets feel like a captivating journey.

I also interact with the audience on a personal level, sharing positive energy that fuels the synergy between the crowd and me.

**SPM:** Touring extensively across Africa and Europe has its rewards and challenges. What are some of the experiences you've gained from being a globetrotting DJ?

**EM:** Touring is a whirlwind of experiences, offering both growth and insights. While sleep deprivation can be tough, the opportunity to connect with new cultures, sounds, and audiences is truly enriching. It's a humbling journey that widens your perspective on the world. Touring reminds me that music is a universal language that transcends borders.

**SPM:** As a successful producer, could you walk us through your creative process?

EM: My creative process varies with each track, but often, I start with a demo vocal. Having a vocal foundation guides my creativity, allowing me to explore new directions while maintaining a sense of focus. From harmonizing melodies to crafting lyrics, I invest time to ensure every element aligns perfectly. The process is fluid, and I embrace the flow of inspiration.

**SPM:** You're a vocal advocate for Zambian music. What excites you about the future of music in Zambia?

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EM: The Zambian music scene is blossoming, and there's an incredible wave of talent emerging. The fusion of traditional elements with contemporary sounds is pushing the boundaries of creativity. As artists gain recognition beyond our borders, Zambia's music will undoubtedly become a vibrant global hotspot. The journey has just begun, and I'm excited to witness the rise.

**SPM:** Martial arts seem to be a significant part of your life. How do you balance this passion with your music career?

EM: Martial arts have shaped my character, instilling discipline and inner strength. Balancing both passions involves time management and a strong sense of focus. Martial arts provide an outlet for self-care and reflection, which positively influences my music career. Both worlds complement each other, fueling my creativity and personal growth.

**SPM:** Your journey in South Africa differs from Zambia. How do you navigate the challenges and opportunities in the South African music scene?

EM: South Africa's music scene is larger with more competition and opportunities. Being non-South African, gaining support from local media has been a hurdle. Yet, the South African audience's appreciation for house music makes performing there exhilarating. It's time for a shift—African DJs stand strong, irrespective of national borders. Unity among DJs across the continent is essential for a thriving music scene.

**SPM:** What advice would you give to aspiring DJs in South Africa?





Having carved for himself a niche between mainstream and underground dance music, Eleftherios "El" Mukuka is an unusual story. Born in Lusaka, Zambia to a Greek mother and Zambian father, his appreciation and love for his two diverse cultures not only enriched his identity but also inspired him deeply.

The rising African star and Berklee College of Music alumnus is best known for fusing traditional African music elements with Western deep house & pop. Mukuka has performed in over 15 countries around the world and on the biggest dance music festival stages Africa has to offer (Ultra Music Festival South Africa, Corona Sunsets South Africa, Vic Falls Carnival and more).

El Mukuka has had releases on some of the most prominent labels in the dance music scene and in 2020 inked a worldwide artist deal with heavyweight record label Ultra Records. With his international career on the rise and growing demand in Europe, El Mukuka relocated to Spain in early 2022, where he currently resides

El Mukuka's journey is a testament to the power of embracing diversity, pushing boundaries, and fostering unity within the music realm. With each performance and production, he continues to bridge cultures and inspire countless hearts.







# By Ashdown Engineering

Based in Jamaica, Jamaica Soundsystem is the result of a partnership with renowned musician/producer Zak Starkey and his partner, musician/producer, Sharna "Sshh" Liguz fused prior to launching their Grammy awardwinning record label, Trojan Jamaica.





#### A SYMPHONY OF FEATURES

From the moment you put on these headphones, you'll be immersed in a world of sonic brilliance:

- Rich Warm Sound Every note comes alive with a richness that resonates deep within. The headphones envelop you in a cocoon of sound, making every listening session an unforgettable experience.
- Incredible Automatic Noise
   Cancelling Bid farewell to
   distractions as the world around you
   fades into the background. Immerse
   yourself fully in your music,
   undisturbed by external noise.
- Iconic VU Meter Design The headphones pay homage to the classic VU meter design, a nod to music's storied past. This unique touch adds a touch of nostalgia to your listening journey.
- Wire-Free Freedom Cut the cords and embrace the freedom of wireless connectivity. The headphones seamlessly pair with any Bluetooth®-equipped device, bringing your music to life without the hassle of wires.
- Intuitive Tap Buttons Navigate your music effortlessly with tap buttons discreetly nestled on the headphones' side. Answer calls and skip tracks without missing a beat.
- Uncompromising Audio Quality Thanks to Qualcomm® aptXTM HD audio technology, your Bluetooth®enabled device delivers High Definition (HD) audio, ensuring your music retains its pristine clarity.

#### PREPARE TO EMBARK ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY THAT TRANSCENDS BOUNDARIES, GENRES, AND EXPECTATIONS.

The Ashdown Meters OV-1-B-SOUNDSYSTEM JAMAICA headphones stand as a testament to the captivating collaboration between the esteemed musician/producer Zak Starkey and the dynamic artist/musician/producer Sharna "Sshh" Liguz. Rooted in the heart of Jamaica, this collaboration is not just about headphones; it's a celebration of heritage, innovation, and the pure magic of sound.

#### **FUSING CULTURES, ELEVATING SOUND**

Jamaica, a vibrant hub of musical heritage that reverberates with echoes of Africa and the soulful depths of American blues, serves as the backdrop for this exceptional creation. The Ashdown Meters OV-1-B-SOUNDSYSTEM JAMAICA headphones capture the essence of this rich cultural tapestry, blending the island's musical legacy with cutting-edge technology.

With the Ashdown Meters OV-1-B-SOUNDSYSTEM JAMAICA, it's not just about listening to music; it's about experiencing the pulse, the rhythm, and the soul of each track. It's about connecting with the heartbeats of artists, feeling the energy of their creations, and letting the music transport you to places you've never been before.

So, whether you're swaying to reggae beats, losing yourself in soulful melodies, or discovering the hidden layers of blues, let these headphones be your gateway to the extraordinary. Step into the world of Ashdown Meters OV-1-B-SOUNDSYSTEM JAMAICA, and let the magic unfold.

Elevate Your Sound Experience with Ashdown Meters OV-1-B-SOUNDSYSTEM JAMAICA – Where Heritage Meets Innovation in Perfect Harmony.





For those dreaming of plucking the strings of an acoustic guitar, the Epiphone Songmaker ft-100 player pack stands as your ultimate gateway.

This comprehensive package equips aspiring guitarists with everything they need to kickstart their musical odyssey. With the perfect blend of quality craftsmanship and essential accessories, the Songmaker FT-100 Player Pack sets the stage for your melodic adventure.

## INTRODUCING THE EPIPHONE SONGMAKER FT-100 GUITAR

At the heart of the Songmaker FT-100 Player Pack is the Epiphone Songmaker FT-100 acoustic guitar. This classic dreadnought-style instrument boasts a full and expressive tone, thanks to its select spruce top, mahogany sides, and solid mahogany neck. The neck is meticulously joined to the body with a traditional dovetail joint, optimizing vibration transfer for resonant soundscapes.

The 1960s SlimTaper™ profile of the neck ensures effortless playability, while the dot inlays on the fretboard guide your fingers along the musical path.

## UNVEILING YOUR MUSICAL POTENTIAL

With a 25.5" scale and the iconic Epiphone "Dovewing" style headstock, the FT-100 guitar embodies tradition with a touch of modern flair. The 2-way adjustable truss rod enhances playability, allowing you to fine-tune your instrument to perfection. Epiphone's Limited Lifetime Guarantee underscores their commitment to quality craftsmanship and stands as a testament to their dedication to musicians worldwide.

#### YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS NOW

To power the clip-on headstock chromatic tuner included in the pack, remember to have a 3-volt (CR2032) battery on hand. With the Epiphone Songmaker FT-100 Player Pack, you're not just acquiring an acoustic guitar – you're stepping onto a musical path, armed with the tools and inspiration to create melodies that resonate with your soul.



### **Everything You Need to Start Playing Acoustic Guitar**

#### A COMPLETE SET FOR ASPIRING MUSICIANS

- The Epiphone Songmaker FT-100 Player Pack is more than just a collection of items; it's a curated ensemble designed to nurture your guitar-playing journey. Inside this pack, you'll discover:
- Epiphone Songmaker FT-100 Acoustic Guitar: A true gem, the FT-100 acoustic guitar embraces the classic dreadnought style. Its select spruce top and mahogany sides produce a full, expressive tone that resonates with every strum.
- Epiphone Gig Bag: Keep your prized possession safe and sound with the included gig bag. Designed to safeguard your guitar while on the move, it ensures that your musical companion is always protected.

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- Epiphone Strap: Find your groove comfortably with the Epiphone strap.
   Designed for hours of playing, this strap lets you focus on your music without compromising on comfort.
- Epiphone Picks: The pack includes a set of Epiphone picks, offering various thicknesses to suit your playing style. Let your creativity flow as you experiment with different sounds.
- Clip-On Headstock Chromatic Tuner:
   Achieving perfect pitch has never been easier. The clip-on headstock chromatic tuner ensures your guitar is always in tune, letting you create harmonious melodies effortlessly.

Unlock the Melodic Realm with Epiphone Songmaker FT-100 Player Pack.

YOUR FIRST NOTE AWAITS.





### **Exploring the Harmonious Fusion**



Sound Press Magazine delves into the dynamic world of Cantrel, an innovative musical endeavor that brings together father and son, Neil and Jesse Breytenbach.

Through a unique blend of grunge, rap, and pop, Cantrel has carved a distinct path in the Alternative Hip Hop Rock Pop genre. Neil, a songwriter, keyboardist, and co-songwriter for Prime Circle, shares insights into the origins, dynamics, and future plans of Cantrel.

# 1. Can you tell us about the origins of Cantrel and how the band came together?

**Neil:** The Cantrel journey began during lockdown. My son Jesse and I decided to write and jam music together, resulting in a captivating sound. Encouraged by the overwhelming response from global listeners, we embraced the opportunity to release our music into the world.

# 2. How did the collaboration between father and son contribute to Cantrel's unique sound?

**Neil:** Jesse's grunge rock rhythm guitar prowess and strong vocals harmoniously meshed with my bass playing and rap style, forming the distinct Grunge Rap Style of Music. We aimed for versatility, ensuring we could deliver both rock shows and acoustic performances to captivate audiences.

## 3. What led you to explore the Alternative Hip Hop Rock Pop style with Cantrel?

**Neil:** Influenced by bands like Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park, the style effortlessly resonates with me. While we infuse elements of Grunge Rap, we also explore piano-vocal ballads to diversify our sound.

# 4. How do you create music within the Cantrel Collective and blend different influences cohesively?

**Neil:** Our process typically involves crafting a musical riff, followed by adding catchy melodies phonetically. This naturally guides the song's style, keeping it authentic and flowing.

## 5. How do you balance your commitments to Cantrel and Prime Circle?

**Neil:** Juggling both bands is a challenge, but my unwavering passion for music keeps me motivated. Creating music alongside my son, Jesse, also provides a powerful source of inspiration.

# 6. What are the challenges and rewards of balancing gigs and touring with both bands?

**Neil:** One challenge is maintaining separate sounds for each band. Nonetheless, performing together and touring with Jesse brings immense reward, strengthening our father-son bond.

# 7. How does Cantrel differentiate itself within the Alternative Hip Hop Rock Pop genre?

**Neil:** Our approach to tuning guitars, chords, melody, and blending catchy pop elements contributes to our unique sound—Grunge Rap with a touch of pop.

#### 8. Does Cantrel extend beyond music?

**Neil:** Yes, Cantrel boasts its Craft Lager Range and merchandise store, accessible via Instagram (@cantrel\_merchandise).

# 9. How does surfing and music intertwine in Cantrel's creative process?

**Neil:** Both surfing and music provide spiritual energy. Just as we draw from the ocean's energy while surfing, we channel audience energy at shows. This synergy fuels our creative process.

#### 10. What's in store for Cantrel's fans?

Neil: We're thrilled to announce the release of our full-length album, "Drive," towards the end of 2023. Stay tuned for updates on our social media accounts (@cantrelmusic on Instagram, Cantrel on Facebook). We're also excited about our upcoming anthem pop song, "Walls," set to release in early 2024 for the charity RADA.

## 11. How does Jesse's role contribute to Cantrel's dynamics?

**Neil:** Jesse's youth and grunge rock talent blend seamlessly with my bass playing and rapping, creating the Grunge Rap Style that defines Cantrel.

# 12. Could you share an anecdote highlighting the father-son bond within Cantrel?

Neil: During lockdown, we wrote and recorded "what if flowers burn," a raw piano and vocal ballad. Jesse was 16 years old at the time. We released the song along with a live music video performance, capturing the special bond between us.

## Cantrel

led by Neil Breytenbach, the brain child behind this Songwriter, producer/vocal-collective concept. Starting as a creative outlet for the Multi – talented songwriter, keyboardist, producer from Durban South Africa, the collective subsequently became a commercial reality and The 'Cantrel Collective' was designed as an Alternative Hip Hop Rock Pop style of music, drawing inspiration from bands such as Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Crosses, Fort Minor, Muse, Rage Against The Machine, The Beastie Boys & Twenty one Pilots while still keeping true to a unique genre of its own.





























Music, in its essence, transcends barriers and speaks directly to the soul. In the realm of musical instruments, the guitar holds a unique place, resonating with both musicians and audiences alike. The pursuit of crafting an ideal blend of portability, innovation, and exceptional sound quality has led to the emergence of the Blackstar Amp Fly 3 and Fly 103 - a duo that signifies a new chapter in the world of amplification.

Blackstar Amp Fly 3: Miniaturizing Excellence In a world where mobility and efficiency are paramount, the Blackstar Amp Fly 3 stands as a testament to ingenuity. With a mere 3 watts of power, it belies its size, delivering a tonal range that far exceeds expectations. What sets this mini amp apart is not just its compact form, but the wealth of features it brings to the table.

At its core are two channels – Clean and Overdrive. This dual-channel setup caters to the guitarist's dynamic needs, enabling seamless transitions between pristine tones and the gritty nuances of overdrive. Yet, the true marvel lies in the patented Infinite Shape Feature (ISF). This innovation enables the sculpting of tone in ways that redefine traditional expectations. The ability to shift from classic British to modern American tones with finesse showcases the versatility that sets the Fly 3 apart.

Adding depth to the sonic experience is the digital 'tape' delay effect. With each note, a gentle echo envelops the sound, creating an atmosphere that's both ethereal and captivating.

## YOUR TUNES, ANYWHERE.



## Blackstar®

The Fly 3 goes beyond individual practice, inviting collaboration with its MP3 / Line In functionality. Jamming to backing tracks or immersing oneself in a favorite song becomes an integral part of the learning process.

The Fly 3 doesn't merely cater to practice – it beckons professional usability. The emulated line out transforms it into a studio-grade tool, enabling pristine recording while preserving its authentic tones. This transformation is a testament to Blackstar's commitment to both novice players and seasoned musicians.

While the Fly 3 lays the foundation, the Blackstar Amp Fly 103 serves as its sonic companion, extending the journey into uncharted territories. Transforming the Fly 3 into a 6-watt stereo setup, the Fly 103 introduces a true stereo experience that envelopes the listener. It's not merely an extension – it's a transformation that elevates sound quality to a new echelon.

What sets the Fly 103 apart is its adaptability. It's not limited to amplifying the Fly 3; it transcends its role as an amp extension. The Fly 103 effortlessly transitions into a portable speaker, transforming spaces into realms of music. It's also an ingenious solution for computer or PC speakers, lending its exquisite sound quality to digital landscapes.

In this union of technology and artistry, Blackstar has achieved a feat that goes beyond the ordinary. The Fly 3 and Fly 103 aren't just amplifiers; they're catalysts for a musical revolution. They challenge conventions, expanding the boundaries of what compact amplification can achieve. They embody the fusion of innovation and sound quality, redefining the experience of both practicing and performing.

The Blackstar Amp Fly 3 and Fly 103 duo is more than just an equipment choice; it's a statement. It's a declaration that innovation and sonic excellence can coexist harmoniously. It's a testament to the fact that, regardless of their size, these amplifiers have the power to transform musical experiences, inspiring artists and audiences alike to embrace the limitless possibilities of sound.





The FLY 3 is an innovative, cutting edge 3 watt mini amp which combines two channels, tape delay and the Blackstar patented Infinite Shape Feature (ISF) to create the perfect compact and portable guitar amplifier. It's advantageously small and packs a punch with big TONE, even at the lowest volumes.

- 3 Watt compact mini guitar amp
- 2 channels Clean and Overdrive
- Patented ISF (Infinite Shape Feature)
- Digital 'tape' delay effect
- MP3 / Line In for jamming along or listening to music
- Emulated Line Out for 'silent' practice or recording
- 3" speaker producing true Blackstar tones
- Battery or DC powered
- Revolutionary sonic performance



The FLY 103 is the official extension speaker for the FLY 3 compact mini amp. The FLY 103 comes with its own built-in cable to connect it to the FLY 3, making it a true stereo set-up. The extension cabinet is sold separately or as part of a FLY Stereo Pack that provides a power supply to power both units.

When connected to the FLY 3 it makes a set of portable speakers to play your music through or it can be used as a set of pc speakers or computer speakers.

- Turns the FLY 3 into a 6 Watt stereo set-up
- 3" speaker produces true Blackstar tones
- Revolutionary sonic performance
- Portable speakers / computer speakers

# VINYL REVIVAL

## The Global Resurgence of Turntables

In a world of rapidly advancing technology and digital streaming, there's a remarkable phenomenon taking place – the resurgence of turntables.

Analog audio, once thought to be eclipsed by the convenience of digital formats, is making a remarkable comeback on a global scale. From nostalgic music enthusiasts to curious newcomers, the allure of turntables is captivating a diverse audience and redefining the way we experience music.

One of the driving forces behind the resurgence of turntables is the **nostalgia** factor. Many music lovers yearn for a **tangible connection** to their favorite albums, a feeling that digital streams simply can't replicate.

Vinyl records offer a sensory experience that engages multiple senses – the tactile sensation of handling a record, the visual appeal of album art, and the warm, analog sound that resonates with authenticity.

For those who grew up with vinyl records, the return to turntables represents a sentimental journey back to the days of physical music collections and intimate listening sessions.

Turntables are renowned for their unique sound aesthetics. Audiophiles and music connoisseurs appreciate the **warmth**, **richness**, and depth that vinyl records bring to the listening experience. The analog nature of vinyl offers a more dynamic and nuanced sound, creating an immersive atmosphere that digital formats struggle to replicate.

As a result, turntables are experiencing a resurgence not just among older generations, but also among younger listeners seeking **high-quality sound** that transcends the limitations of compressed digital files.



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Vinyl records encourage intentional listening and a **deeper connection** to music. Choosing an album to play involves a deliberate decision, contrasting with the algorithm-driven playlists that dominate digital streaming. This curatorial aspect fosters a deeper appreciation for artists' work and encourages listeners to engage with albums in their entirety. The larger format of vinyl records also allows for detailed and visually captivating album art, which further enhances the overall experience and creates a sense of anticipation as the needle drops onto the groove.

Collecting vinyl records has become a cultural phenomenon. The resurgence of turntables has led to a renewed interest in physical music, and collectors are eagerly hunting for rare and **limited-edition** vinyl releases. The allure of owning a tangible piece of music history and the exclusivity of owning a specific pressing have contributed to the revival of vinyl as a collector's item. From vintage classics to modern releases, the world of vinyl records offers an ever-expanding landscape of treasures waiting to be discovered.

Beyond its intrinsic qualities, the resurgence of turntables has fostered a **sense of community** among enthusiasts. Record stores, vinyl fairs, and music events centered around vinyl culture provide spaces for likeminded individuals to connect, share stories, and discover new music. Turntables have become a **cultural bridge that spans generations**, uniting people through a shared passion for music and the art of vinyl.

The **modern turntable** landscape is also marked by innovation. Manufacturers are blending classic aesthetics with modern technology, incorporating features such as built-in preamps, wireless connectivity, and USB outputs for digital archiving. This fusion of vintage charm and contemporary convenience broadens the appeal of turntables to a tech-savvy generation while retaining the essence of analog audio.

The **global comeback** of turntables is a testament to the enduring allure of analog audio and the human desire for a more meaningful and sensory music experience. Whether driven by nostalgia, a quest for quality sound, or a love of curation and community, turntables are revitalizing the way we engage with music. As vinyl records continue to spin their way back into the mainstream, the unmistakable crackle of a needle hitting a groove is becoming a symbol of the enduring magic of music in its most authentic form.



# Crystal Clear Bluetooth® Wireless Audio

Compatible with most Bluetooth® speakers and headphones, the LP120XBT-USB pairs seamlessly to your devices. Simply press the Bluetooth® button, located next to the tonearm, for 4 seconds and connect to your chosen speakers, it's that simple.

You can also connect to Bluetooth® wireless headphones, giving you the flexibility to enjoy your vinyl records without the clutter of wires or having to be near your turntable and music setup. Sink into your comfiest chair and wirelessly enjoy over half a century of Japanese audio engineering and sound excellence.



This manual turntable is based on the AT-LP120XUSB model but comes with the added convenience of Bluetooth wireless connection, in addition to the existing analog and USB outputs.

The AT-LP120XBT-USB turntable has a special motor that drives the record directly and can be adjusted to prevent the needle from skipping. It can play records that spin at 33-1/3, 45, and 78 RPM and send out high-quality sound to your chosen device. You can use the included cable to connect to your home stereo or powered speakers, or you can use the USB cable to connect to your computer.

This allows you to use recording software like Audacity to convert your records into digital audio files. Alternatively, you can use the Bluetooth technology to connect the turntable to wireless speakers, headphones, or other devices, including those that support high-quality audio.

The turntable also has a tonearm with adjustable tracking force and a headshell with a phono cartridge. The cartridge is a special part that reads the music from the record. Audio-Technica is known for its expertise in making good cartridges, and the one that comes with the turntable is versatile and performs well. It has a stylus that's designed to fit into the grooves of the record and play the sound. You can also replace the stylus with other options if you prefer.

Other features of the turntable include a sturdy aluminum platter with a soft mat, a button to start and stop the rotation, a control to adjust the speed of the rotation, a stroboscopic platter with a speed indicator, a light that shines on the record, an external power supply, and a cover to protect the turntable from dust.





"Wake up and do it today for tomorrow is not guaranteed, a positive attitude is everything. Music is medication and healing. Live to inspire/aspire."



In the realm of inspiring DJs and musicians, Fundi Mbambani's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of dedication and mentorship. From humble beginnings, Fundi's passion for music and community has led her to become an influential figure in the South African music scene. In this exclusive interview with Sound Press magazine, Fundi shares her remarkable journey, the organizations that have shaped her path, and her unwavering commitment to fostering young talent.

**Sound Press:** Fundi, you've become a beacon of inspiration for up-and-coming DJs. Could you share how you started your DJing journey and the driving force behind it?

Fundi Mbambani: My DJing journey began amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. An opportunity presented itself through Bridges Academy, where I enrolled in a DJing program powered by Pioneer and founded by Athie Umghido, a passionate DJ and educator. The moment I touched the decks, I realized it was a lifelong connection. I dared myself to explore new horizons and embraced music school with curiosity and passion. After graduation, I joined the Bridges Academy employment pathways program, where my interests expanded to include tourism and working with kids.

This journey led me to Africa Rising Music Conference (ARMC) when I met SJ in Amsterdam during ADE 2022. My love for music has been a binding force, connecting me with amazing people and opportunities, such as the START FROM SCRATCH CLASSES I facilitated in Johannesburg.

**Sound Press:** You're deeply involved with Bridges for Music and Africa Rising Music Conference. What inspired you to become an ambassador for these organizations, and what role do you play in supporting the music community?

Fundi Mbambani: Both Bridges for Music and ARMC hold a special place in my heart. As an ambassador, I'm privileged to support the music community, especially youth and aspiring DJs. My involvement includes teaching DJing to young and underprivileged kids in Langa Township. We offer after-school programs that cover mindfulness, piano, dance, singing, and more. I find joy in sharing my self-awareness journey with these young minds. These initiatives, alongside my role at a music academy, enable me to wake up every morning knowing I can inspire young lives from my community.

**Sound Press:** Giving back is a cornerstone of your journey. Could you highlight some initiatives or programs you've been part of to help others learn DJing and navigate the music industry?

Fundi Mbambani: Mentorship is crucial in our industry, as many passionate individuals lack music business knowledge. I've been involved in facilitating START FROM SCRATCH CLASSES in Joburg, powered by Pioneer, where I've had the privilege of guiding aspiring DJs. Through mentorship and various programs, I strive to provide a template for those entering the music scene.

**Sound Press:** How do you believe mentorship and support for young talents contribute to the growth of the music scene in South Africa?

Fundi Mbambani: Mentorship offers guidance, a crucial factor in the often daunting music industry. By sharing experiences and knowledge, we empower aspiring talents to navigate challenges effectively. This fosters a sense of community and helps shape a vibrant, informed music scene.

**Sound Press:** Your involvement has had a profound impact. Can you share how being part of these organizations has connected you with the local music community and beyond?

Fundi Mbambani: Being connected with Bridges for Music and ARMC has expanded my horizons immensely. I've had unforgettable experiences, from playing at ADE and Afrika Burn to successfully facilitating START FROM SCRATCH classes. These experiences have connected me with incredible individuals and provided a platform to inspire and be inspired.

**Sound Press:** Mentorship helps others overcome challenges. How do you approach mentoring aspiring DJs and musicians in overcoming hurdles?

Fundi Mbambani: I approach mentoring with empathy and understanding. I share my own journey, including the obstacles I've faced. By highlighting that challenges are part of growth, I encourage aspiring DJs to stay resilient, surround themselves with support, and learn from every experience.

**Sound Press:** Balancing your DJ career, personal life, and dedication to supporting others can be demanding. How do you manage this delicate balance?

Fundi Mbambani: Balance is a continuous effort. I prioritize mindfulness, meditating daily, and practicing self-awareness. Journaling and mental breaks are essential. I cherish my family time on Sundays, and my accessible nature on Instagram fosters communication with Cape Town creatives.

**Sound Press:** Established artists giving back is crucial. How do you view the role of established artists in inspiring the next generation of musicians?

Fundi Mbambani: Established artists play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation. By sharing their experiences, offering guidance, and demonstrating that success is achievable, they provide a roadmap for aspiring musicians to follow.

**Sound Press:** What future plans or projects do you have that involve supporting the music community or promoting the growth of aspiring DJs?



Fundi Mbambani: We're preparing to officially open our second term DJing Afterschool program. Additionally, I'm excited to perform at Rocking The Daisies. These steps reflect my commitment to continuous growth and creating opportunities for young talent.

**Sound Press:** Lastly, what message do you have for young aspiring DJs and musicians looking up to you? What advice would you offer those wanting to make a positive impact on their local music scene?

Fundi Mbambani: To aspiring DJs and musicians, I say: Wake up and seize the day, for tomorrow is not guaranteed. Approach life with a positive attitude. Music is not only a source of joy but also a form of healing. Use your passion to inspire and aspire, creating a positive impact wherever you go.

Fundi Mbambani's journey is a testament to the profound influence that mentorship and dedication can have on both personal growth and the music community.

Through her involvement with Bridges for Music, Africa Rising Music Conference, and her commitment to uplifting aspiring DJs, Fundi continues to pave the way for a more inclusive and empowered South African music scene.



In 2012, the music world was introduced to a groundbreaking DJ software named Rekordbox. Developed by Pioneer, this software was designed to streamline music preparation and performance for DJs using Pioneer CDJs. Over the years, Rekordbox has evolved from its modest beginnings into a robust performance software that stands among the best in the industry. This essay delves into the journey of Rekordbox's evolution, its essential features, and its role in the digital DJ landscape.

#### **EVOLUTION OF REKORDBOX**

From its inception, Rekordbox aimed to simplify the process of exporting music for Pioneer CDJ players. However, its functionality rapidly expanded beyond this initial scope. Today, Rekordbox has become a comprehensive performance software offering two primary modes: export and performance. Remarkably, these modes share a central library, allowing DJs to progress seamlessly from entry-level controllers to larger stage setups.

#### **ESSENTIAL FEATURES**

Rekordbox's necessity in the digital DJ realm is underscored by its indispensable features that cater to both novice and professional DJs.

#### LIBRARY IMPORT OPTIONS

Rekordbox offers various ways to import tracks into its library, such as individual track imports, folder imports, and playlist imports. DJs can efficiently manage extensive music collections using these versatile import tools.

#### **INFLYTE INTEGRATION**

Rekordbox 6 introduces Inflyte integration, enabling professional DJs to seamlessly integrate music from the world's largest music promo delivery service into their library. This feature is particularly beneficial for DJs reliant on promo music.

#### STREAMING CAPABILITIES

Rekordbox DJ supports streaming from platforms like Soundcloud GO and Beatport Link. DJs can access a vast library of tracks, enhancing their performance options. However, streaming is available only in performance mode and may require an online connection.

#### LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

DJs can organize their music library based on various attributes like artist, key, BPM, and more. The inclusion of playlists, smart playlists, and the My Tag system facilitates efficient categorization and quick access to relevant tracks during performances.

#### **PERFORMANCE TOOLS**

Rekordbox offers a suite of performance features, including effects, performance pads, MIDI mapping, and DJ tools like quantize and sync. These tools empower DJs to enhance their live sets with creativity and precision.

#### **CLOUD LIBRARY SYNC**

A novel addition in Rekordbox 6, cloud library sync allows DJs to share track metadata across up to four devices. This feature facilitates seamless track management and preparation across different systems.

#### **EXPANSION PACKS**

Rekordbox's expansion packs add extra dimensions to performances. Video expansion enables live mixing of videos and images with effects, while the Lyric expansion displays song lyrics in video performances. Additionally, the RMX expansion brings hardware effects to the software.

Pioneer's Rekordbox has emerged as an indispensable tool in the world of digital DJing. From its origins as a CDJ preparation software, Rekordbox has matured into a comprehensive performance platform with features catering to DJs of all levels.

Its ability to seamlessly integrate with hardware, stream music, and offer powerful performance tools sets it apart as an essential companion for DJs seeking to elevate their craft. Dame! 157.02 BP

OOP

DJs that don't use
REKORDBOX are
like explorers
without a map,
embarking on a
musical journey
without a clear
navigation system.

DJs who choose not to use REKORDBOX might be missing out on the precision and control that this software brings to their musical expeditions.



## **ELEVATING LIVE SOUND**



FLY-100 T+R

In the dynamic world of sound technology, innovation never ceases to amaze. One breakthrough that has transformed the way we experience audio is Wireless Audio Transmission. Imagine a world where the tangle of cords and cables becomes a thing of the past, and the freedom to move seamlessly while delivering pristine sound is at your fingertips. This is the reality offered by the revolutionary 20-channel wireless PA audio transmission set, boasting UHF PLL technology.

# **One-Key To Pairing**



sound press | September 2023



#### **KEY FEATURES AND ADVANCEMENTS**

- UHF PLL TECHNOLOGY: The foundation of this innovation lies in UHF PLL (Phase Locked Loop) technology. This cutting-edge technology ensures a stable and interference-free audio transmission experience, even in crowded and challenging environments.
- DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSOR: The inclusion of a digital signal processor elevates the quality of audio transmission to unprecedented levels. This technology ensures that the transmitted audio retains its original integrity, free from distortions and degradation.
- UNIQUE ID ADDRESS: The wireless audio transmission set employs a unique ID address system, preventing any cross-interference with other devices. This means that your audio remains secure and isolated from external disruptions.
- SUPER ANTI-JAMMING CIRCUIT DESIGN:
   Unwanted interference and signal degradation are now a thing of the past, thanks to the super anti-jamming circuit design. This design optimizes signal clarity and consistency.
- SUPER-LOW BACKGROUND NOISE: A
  revolution in wireless audio transmission wouldn't
  be complete without addressing background noise.
  With super-low background noise, your audio
  remains pristine and unblemished.
- FREQUENCY AUTO-SEARCH: Searching for a non-interference frequency is now a breeze with the frequency auto-search feature. This intelligent feature ensures that your transmission is operating in an interference-free zone.
- UNIVERSAL MICROPHONE COMPATIBILITY:
   Versatility is key, and this wireless set caters to it.
   The microphone can be used with any compatible receiver, ensuring that your setup remains flexible and adaptable to your needs.
- MICROPHONE HIGH-LOW CONTROL: Finetune your audio experience with the microphone high-low control. This feature allows for personalized adjustments, so your audio is perfectly tailored to your requirements.



transmission set with UHF PLL
technology is more than a
technological advancement – it's a
game-changer. Say goodbye to
limitations and boundaries, and
embrace the boundless possibilities
of wireless audio transmission. As we
venture into this new era of sound
connectivity, the only limits are those
of your creativity.

Experience the future of sound with the 20-channel wireless PA audio transmission set. Unleash your audio potential and redefine what's possible in the world of live sound and audio transmission.



At the heart of Sunderland's cultural revival stands The Fire Station, a mid-scale performance venue that is continually pushing boundaries. Its recent expansion introduces the outdoor Parade Ground within its arts and culture complex, a move that showcases RCF's HDL line array platform. The main highlight is the relocation of the ultra-compact HDL 26-A active line array from the main auditorium to the outdoor space alongside the HDL 30-A PA, enhancing the venue's capacity to deliver powerful audio to a 600-cap audience. This dynamic setup infuses an outdoor festival vibe into performances.

Sunderland's cultural resurgence, sparked by the creation of Sunderland Culture, has turned the city into a hub of artistic activity. This consortium, comprising the University of Sunderland, Sunderland City Council, and Sunderland Music Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust, has spearheaded transformative projects like The Fire Station. Over the past year and a half, The Fire Station has become a focal point of entertainment, enriching the city's cultural scene.

The new auditorium, a brainchild of Flanagan Lawrence, is seamlessly integrated into The Fire Station's complex. Technical consultants Clair Willis and Chris Durant, previously associated with Sage Gateshead and now Northern Stage, were instrumental in conceptualizing the space. Drawing on their familiarity with RCF's HDL line array solution, they crafted a vision that was brought to life by Adlib, led by project manager Paul Holt.

Willis and Durant's vision prioritized adaptability across diverse programming needs, making RCF's products an ideal choice. The relocation of the HDL 26-A ultracompact line array alongside the HDL 30-A PA has resulted in a sound configuration that caters to different scenarios, offering flexible deployment while maintaining exceptional audio quality.

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Technical manager Dan Shilling, a recent addition to the team, outlined the venue's development in three stages. This journey began with the renovation of the old Fire Station into the Engine Room bar/bistro. Subsequent phases included an extension and conversion of spaces into studios and, finally, the construction of the adjacent auditorium. This holistic transformation paved the way for The Fire Station's current versatility.

The PA setup, featuring HDL 30-A and SUB 9004-AS units, supplemented by HDL 26-A and HDL 35-AS sub units as front fill, has been optimized for the auditorium's unique layout. The real magic lies in the integration of RCF's RDNet network, housing various scenario presets. Expertly tuned by Andy Magee from RCF Engineering Support Group, this network allows seamless adjustments to PA positions, accommodating diverse performance requirements.

The venue's adaptability owes much to theatre acoustic specialist Nicholas Edwards from Idibri. Edwards' expertise, coupled with thoughtful design and sound-proofing, ensures optimal acoustics.

His contributions extend to managing sound containment during room transformations, enhancing the auditory experience.

By advocating for the house system, Dan Shilling has established The Fire Station as a haven for diverse performances. The RCF system's versatility and expert tuning have made it an essential element of every show, gaining acclaim from crews and sound engineers.

Sound engineer Simon Flint, a regular at The Fire Station, commends the system's clarity, coverage, and adaptability. The HDL 30-A line array, combined with HDL 26-A front and lip fills, offers consistent coverage and a balanced mix.

The Fire Station embodies the fusion of architectural innovation, cutting-edge technology, and acoustic mastery. Sunderland's cultural resurgence finds expression in this venue, where innovation meets tradition to deliver exceptional performances. As The Fire Station's influence continues to grow, its commitment to excellence and versatility will undoubtedly shape Sunderland's cultural landscape for years to come.





# ADVANCING EXCELLENCE HK Audio's LINEAR 5 MK II Series

HK Audio, renowned for its unwavering commitment to exceptional sound quality and craftsmanship, has undertaken a comprehensive overhaul of its successful LINEAR 5 series.

This revamp involves the incorporation of new speakers and cutting-edge technology, resulting in a series that delivers greater power while being lighter and more compact. The introduction of remotely controllable digital electronics sets a new benchmark for everyday audio tasks.

The upgraded LINEAR 5 MK II series stands as an ideal companion for professional performers and rental companies seeking a tool that transcends reliability to offer high-performance capabilities. With its expressive full-range capabilities and versatile mid/high units, robust wooden cabinets, network-controllable DSPs, preset-configurable Cardioid setups for subwoofers, and an array of accessories, the LINEAR 5 MK II series is a powerful and innovative solution, designed to captivate audiences consistently.

The features of the LINEAR 5 MK II mid/high units are nothing short of impressive.

- A peak power of 1200 W from bi-amped Class-D power amplifiers
- Rotatable horns allowing dispersion pattern adjustments for optimal sound in various configurations
- Enhanced impulse fidelity and intricate sound resolution
- Increased "Gain before Feedback" sensitivity, making it less susceptible to feedback issues
- Greater usable sound pressure levels enabled by digital limiters
- A more streamlined design, shedding up to 3 kg in weight while maintaining superior power compared to its predecessor

The LINEAR 5 MK II series also brings remote-controllable high-performance DSP to the table, complete with integrated presets for commonly used applications. This professional DSP can be conveniently accessed and manipulated via the DSP CONTROL software. The system's versatility is elevated through a lockable EtherCon connector, connecting seamlessly to Mac or PC for centralized control.

LINEAR 5 MK II is a powerful and innovative drive for all those who want to impress their audiences day after day. First-class sound and high performance made in Germany.



The series boasts a host of features designed for flexible deployment.

- Balanced XLR/TRS Combo input and balanced XLR output for analog looping
- DSP Out: balanced XLR output for transmitting processed signals to nonnetwork-compatible speakers, customizable through the DSP CONTROL software
- HK Audio DuoTilt with adjustable tilt angles for use on mounting poles
- Reinforced M8 mounting points and MultiGrips for rigging frames, offering versatile installation options
- The use of Birch multiplex hybrid enclosure, showcasing the meticulous craftsmanship of products made in Germany

HK Audio's LINEAR 5 MK II series stands as a testament to innovation and dedication. This upgraded series not only amplifies audio performance but also simplifies control through advanced DSP capabilities.

With its lightweight design, powerful amplification, and versatile features, the LINEAR 5 MK II series reaffirms HK Audio's commitment to delivering exceptional sound experiences. Whether on stage or in rental applications, this series emerges as a reliable and impressive solution that resonates with professionals and audiences alike.





When it comes to on-stage performance or studio recording, the right monitoring equipment can make all the difference in delivering an exceptional performance.

The Power Works PWP-1
Personal In-Ear Monitor Amplifier
has arrived as a game-changer,
providing performers and recording
artists with an affordable and reliable
solution for personalized monitoring.





#### **KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- High Power Headphones Output: Musicians and performers need a powerful output to cut through the noise of live performances. The PWP-1 boasts a "drummer proof" headphones output, ensuring that even the most intense live settings won't compromise the sound quality.
- Dual XLR Inputs for Flexibility: The amplifier offers dual XLR inputs, allowing for two-channel mono or stereo operation. This versatility ensures compatibility with various sound setups and preferences, making it suitable for solo artists, bands, and studios alike.
- Switchable Stereo/Mono Operation: The PWP-1 provides
  the flexibility of both stereo and mono operation, giving
  musicians the freedom to choose the monitoring setup that suits
  their needs. The mix function allows for personalized control over
  the balance of audio channels.
- Precise Control: The Level and Balance/Mix controls give users the ability to fine-tune their monitoring experience. This level of control is essential for achieving the perfect balance of instruments and vocals, resulting in an optimal performance.
- Extended Battery Life: With the ability to run up to 12 hours on a 9 V battery (not included), the PWP-1 ensures that your monitoring experience remains uninterrupted throughout lengthy sessions or performances.
- Battery Control with Dual LED Indicators: The integrated battery control features dual LED indicators, providing clear visual cues of the battery's status. This intuitive feature allows you to monitor the battery level with ease.
- **Ergonomic Design:** The amplifier comes with a convenient belt-pack clip, making it easy to attach securely during performances. It can also be effortlessly mounted on a standard mic stand with 5/8" and 3/8" threads, keeping your setup organized and efficient.
- Built to Last: Encased in an impact-resistant metal chassis, the PWP-1 is "built-like-a-tank," ensuring durability and longevity. This rugged construction is designed to withstand the demands of live performances and studio environments.









When it comes to home and commercial theatres, every auditory nuance matters. The symphony of sound must envelop the audience, whisking them away into the world of the film or performance. Behind this seamless and immersive experience lies a powerhouse of technology that ensures every note, dialogue, and effect is delivered with unparalleled clarity. That powerhouse is none other than Powersoft Amplifiers.

Theatre design isn't just about visuals; it's about creating an environment where sound can flourish. Every whisper, crescendo, and thundering roar must be orchestrated flawlessly to engage and captivate the audience. Powersoft amplifiers are the unsung heroes of this auditory symphony, ensuring that every sonic detail is delivered precisely as intended.

#### PRECISION IN DESIGN

Powersoft's dedication to excellence is evident in their install dedicated amplifier platforms. These technological marvels come equipped with state-of-the-art DSP (Digital Signal Processing), a game-changer in the world of audio refinement. The DSP technology enables fine-tuning of audio signals to perfection, allowing the theatre's audio system to be optimized for every seat in the house.

#### **REMOTE CONTROL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

The magic doesn't stop there. With Powersoft's amplifiers and Armonía, the entire audio experience can be orchestrated remotely. Armonía is a powerful software that grants you control over the audio system from decentralized locations. Imagine being able to fine-tune audio levels, adjust frequencies, and optimize sound quality without leaving your seat. Powersoft empowers you to harness the full potential of your audio setup with precision and ease.



In the world of theatre, unobtrusiveness is key. Powersoft amplifiers seamlessly integrate into any audio system, blending harmoniously into the setup while delivering remarkable performance. This allows the audience to be immersed in the artistry of the performance without being distracted by the technology behind it.

#### **ELEVATE EVERY EXPERIENCE**

Whether it's a gripping movie or a live performance, Powersoft amplifiers ensure that every auditory moment is a masterpiece. These amplifiers are not just tools; they're instruments that elevate the theatre experience to a new level of excellence.

#### A PROMISE OF EXCELLENCE

Powersoft's dedication to audio excellence shines through in every note that resonates within the theatre. Their amplifiers are more than devices – they are the catalysts that transform sound into emotion, transporting the audience to new realms of sensation.

When you choose Powersoft for your home or commercial theatre, you're not just investing in technology; you're investing in the power of audio to evoke emotions, capture imaginations, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Let Powersoft amplify the magic of your theatre, bringing every moment to life with unparalleled clarity and precision.

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# Product Catalogues Click on the links below





















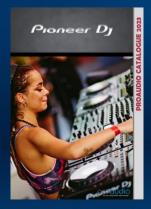






















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#### Reception







## Quality Brands Never Go Bankrupt

- Richard Branson -

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This newsletter 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.