

DJ Midi Controllers: The Ultimate Buyer's Guide 2012

by Phil Morse



The Novation Twitch was a hit this year, bucking the trend of big, four-deck controllers with a compact, controllerist-led two-deck design,

61 64 of the best DJ Midi controllers reviewed and rated

Most people get started in digital DJing with just a laptop. But after a while, it's natural you'll start to hanker after a proper DJ controller. It is now possible to duplicate every part of the traditional DJing experience (except jumping needles!), and much more, with the best DJ controllers – but because there's more choice than ever, it can be difficult to know which to choose. That's where this guide will help you. Nowhere online will you find a more complete DJ controller guide.

About this DJ controller guide

• Pssst! Want a much bigger, more complete version of this guide, in a proper book format? Get our 162-page [DJ Controllers: The Ultimate Buyer's Guide 2012 PDF](#) for free from our [Facebook Page](#).

We've rounded up every major DJ controller currently on the market (or announced and imminent as of December 2011). They're listed below in alphabetical order, by manufacturer and then model, and they range in price from pocket money to thousands.

As well as rating them, we've shown you where to get them from in the USA, UK and Europe. Where we've carried a full review of the controller, we link to that too. We always encourage you to read these full reviews.

Know what you're looking for?

If you know what you're looking for, here are some quick links straight to the controllers:

Allen & Heath:	Xone:4D , Xone:DX
American Audio:	Versadeck , VMS2 , VMS4
Behringer:	BCD3000
Denon DJ:	MC3000 , DN-MC6000
DJ-Tech:	4Mix , DJ For All , i-Mix , i-Mix MKII , i-Mix Reload , i-Mix Reload MkII , MyScratch , Poket DJ , Poket DJ Duo , Reloaded
Faderfox:	DJ3 , FT3
Gemini:	CNTRL-2 , CNTRL-7
Hercules:	DJ 4Set , DJ Console 4Mx , DJ Console RMX , DJ Control MP3 e2
Ion Audio:	iCue Discover
Kam:	Digi Mini
M-Audio:	Torq Mixlab , Torq Xponent

MixVibes:	U-Mix Control Pro
Native Instruments:	Traktor Kontrol S2 , Traktor Kontrol S4 , Traktor Kontrol X1
Novation:	Twitch
Numark:	DJ2GO , iDJ Live , Mixtrack , Mixtrack Pro , N4 , NS6 , NS7FX , Omni Control , Stealth Control , Total Control
Pioneer:	DDJ-ERGO-V , DDJ-S1 , DDJ-T1
Reloop:	Digital Jockey 2 CE , Digital Jockey 2 IE , Digital Jockey 2 ME , Jockey 3 ME , Mixage CE LTD , Mixage IE
Stanton:	SCS.3M , SCS.4DJ
Vestax:	Spin , Typhoon , VCI-100 , VCI-100 MkII , VCI-300 , VCI-300 MkII , VCI-400 , VCM-100

Not sure what you're looking for?

Not sure which one to go for? Here are some pointers to help you choose wisely:

- **Some controllers will work more than one DJ software package, as they allow you to “map” their controls manually.** However, all come with a version of one of the big packages, and we tell you which in the reviews. “LE” means “light edition”; if the software for a controller is not marked “LE”, assume it comes with a full commercial version of that package. Find out more here: [Bundled DJ Controller Software: Facts & Myths](#).
 - **Jog wheels – the bit that replaces the record decks – have moved on immensely in recent years, and the best controllers nowadays can emulate vinyl scratching.** Don't expect cheaper or older controllers to do this though. Here, the wheels are still useful, but they don't sound realistic when scratched. Some controllers don't even have jogwheels, and some people don't miss them; most do though.
 - **You may need a “sound card” too** – this will allow you to plug your headphones in for previewing, and to simultaneously have music going to the main speakers. Many controllers have a sound card built in. They need this to handle external decks, microphones and recording outputs etc. Those that don't, we tell you. With such controllers, you simply buy a sound card separately. Find out more here: [All About Sound Cards for Digital DJing](#).
 - **We have mainly covered DJ Midi controllers for mainstream DJ software.** If you want to use Ableton Live, or DJ with your iPod, or use CDs too, or adapt real record decks to control your MP3s, or have a hard disk on board so you don't need a laptop, or use a standard Midi controller to DJ with, this guide probably won't cover your needs.
 - **Our ratings are reached after careful consideration but are only a guide** – we consider usability, build quality, size/weight (we don't want big for the hell of it, Digital DJ Tips is about portable gear you can party anywhere with), features and – of course value. Ratings in reviews may differ from those here, especially for older controllers, as we constantly reassess.
 - **We know you want to look closely at the controllers!** Click on any picture for a full screen version, then click the icon in the top-right for even closer zooming.
 - **Prices change all the time** – so always check current prices by clicking the prices or the “buy from” links.
- Finally, please check all specifications, dimensions, compatibilities and so on for yourself before buying. We try our hardest, but we're only human and just because we say something may be suitable for you, doesn't mean it is. Do your homework – it's part of the fun! And happy controller hunting...
- Remember, if you need more help choosing, there's plenty of advice in our 162-page [DJ Controllers: The Ultimate Buyer's Guide 2012 PDF](#) – available for free from our [Facebook Page](#).

The Ultimate Buyer's Guide 2012...



Nobody will accuse you of playing with toys if you turn up at a gig with one of these.

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Allen & Heath Xone:4D

Price: [US\\$2,519](#) / [£1,026](#) / [€1,221](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE, Ableton Live demo; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 4; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 17 x 14 x 3.5" (431 x 356 x 89mm), 11lb (5kg)

They say: The Xone:4D continues the seamless integration of computer-based digital media into the traditional DJ workspace, but with a further enhanced feature set.

We say: Highly professional unit aimed at the very high end with a 10-in/10-out soundcard and brilliant filters. Not the best for portable digital DJs because of its size and weight, though.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



Fully featured, fantastic looking, light, strong, compact and a scream to use - It's fair to say we like the Xone:DX.

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Allen & Heath Xone:DX

Price: [US\\$889](#) / [£495](#) / [€593](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH. Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 4; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 15 x 14 x 2" (381 x 356 x 51mm), 12lb (5.5kg)

They say: Professional Midi USB controllers integrated with 4-deck Serato ITCH software. The most powerful ITCH controller on the planet.

We say: Thinner, lighter and more portable than the Xone:4D and coming tightly integrated with the elegant Serato ITCH pro software and 4 decks, this is a truly complete controller.

Learn more: [Allen & Heath Xone:DX Review: 4-Deck Serato Superstar?](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

American Audio Versadeck

Price: [US\\$496](#) / [£449](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: yes; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes, 2; Power: external; Size & weight: 16.5 x 11.8 x 3.5" (420 x 299 x 89mm) 10lb (4.4 kg)

They say: The American Audio Versadeck is a 2-channel Midi Controller that includes Virtual DJ LE software so you can start DJing right out of the box.

We say: Suitable for mobile DJs more than anyone, it is a solid controller, let down only by the fact that the USB drive section can only play WAVs and MP3s, plus strange nudge mapping.

Learn more: [Review & Video: American Audio Versadeck](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



Chunky and compact, the VMS2 is built for working DJs, although some of the faders feel flimsy.

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American Audio VMS2

Price: [US\\$301](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: yes; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 15.7 x 12 x 1.5" (399 x 300 x 40mm), 10.9lb (4.9kg)

They say: The VMS2 is designed for performance minded DJs looking for a solid, all-in-one Midi Controller to play MP3 tracks from their laptop, plus have the option to add CD Players and turntables to the mix.

We say: Like its bigger brother the VMS4, you get a lot for your money here, but although it's made of metal, the quality of the faders worries us a little.

Learn more: [Review & Video: American Audio VMS2](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#)



It's one of the most flexible and fully featured DJ controllers in our round up, but it's not the best built.

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American Audio VMS4

Price: US\$419 / [£468](#)

/ [€345](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 4; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 19.1 x 12.6 x 2.7" (487 x 320 x 70mm), 13lb (6kg)

They say: The VMS4 is a 4-Channel "MIDILOG™" controller that fuses both Midi (Midi software) and analog audio control (CD players, turntables etc.) into one unit.

We say: You get a LOT for your money here, like 2 EQed mics, XLR outs, flexible ins, booth control, and great flexibility.

Fair quality build reflected in the price.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Amazon.co.uk](#), [Thomann \(Europe\)](#)



It's lightweight and plastic, but its sober tones separate it from some of the toy-like controllers at this price point.

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Behringer BCD3000

Price: US\$129 / [£97](#) / [€115](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2 phono OR 1 line/1 phono; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 13 x 11.8 x 3.9" (330 x 300 x 99mm), 5lb (2.3kg)

They say: The B-Control DeeJay BCD3000 is a next-generation DJ Machine—Play, mix, perform and scratch your MP3 files like vinyl records.

We say: Getting old now but lots of loyal users out there for this first-gen DJ Midi controller. There are much better options nowadays, though.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Thomann \(UK & rest of Europe\)](#)



The Denon DJ MC3000 is a pro-built, well-balanced controller for Traktor 2 or Virtual DJ, and if you don't need all the features of the DN-MC6000, it could be the one for you.

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Denon DJ MC3000

Price: US\$599 / £499 / €599

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE 2 / Virtual DJ 7 LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 16 x 10 x 2.8in (400 x 255 x 71mm), 6.6lb (3kg)

They say: The MC3000 DJ controller from Denon DJ is an affordable professional MIDI controller for Native Instruments® Traktor 2 Technology Inside products, complete with Traktor LE 2 included, and fully optimised for Virtual DJ.

We say: This is a well-rounded controller, meant for use in public as much as the bedroom. I can see it appealing especially to the party DJ, to mobile DJs, and the bar/lounge DJ.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Denon DJ MC3000](#)

Buy from: Available soon.



Built to the highest of standards, the DN-MC6000 also gets the functions-per-inch quota as high as it possibly can.

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Denon DN-MC6000

Price: [US\\$709](#) / [£679](#) / [€808](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE (UK/Europe) / Virtual DJ 7 LE (US/Canada); Phono/line inputs: 4; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 18.1 x 10 x 2" (460 x 254 x 51mm), 10.3lbs (4.7kg)

They say: A four-channel/eight-source standalone digital DJ mixer with MIDI interface and internal sound card, with an astounding amount of features.

We say: Beautifully built controller that looks like the flight deck of a spaceship, it feels solid and is almost over-equipped. Works as an analogue mixer even with the laptop switched off. Quality kit.

Learn more: [Review: Denon DN-MC6000 4-Deck DJ Midi Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno.co.uk](#)



Pleasingly compact and reassuringly heavy, the 4Mix is made out of a mix of metal and plastic and has chunky, tactile buttons.

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DJ-Tech 4Mix

Price: US\$499

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14 x 10 x 2.6" (360 x 256 x 65mm), 4.9lb (2.2kg)

They say: The 4Mix is a compact USB DJ controller that provides direct access to four decks. The mixer area is a familiar four-channel mixer with three-band EQ, CUE, volume and a filter knob for each channel.

We say: Nice simple design with a lot of potential for remapping. Infuriatingly, the software channels don't line up with the hardware making mixing less than intuitive.

Learn more: [Review & Video: DJ-Tech 4Mix Controller](#)

Buy from: Not yet available.



The DJ-Tech DJ For All is a complete DJ solution in one, but don't expect top quality, especially from those headphones.

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DJ-Tech DJ For All

Price: [US\\$179](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no (splitter provided); Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 17 x 6.9 x 2.4" (434 x 170 x 61mm), 2.7lb (1.2kg)

They say: The easiest way to become a DJ. This computer-DJ package is perfect for anyone, from people wanting to be a DJ to music lovers who have never tried DJing before.

We say: Compact, nice jogwheel-mapped effects and actually quite a lot of features, but cueing solution is a stopgap, and you may not want to stick with Deckadance.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#)



The i-Mix's design is for me let down by the old-style jogwheels and the hard plastic knobs.

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DJ-Tech i-Mix

Price: [US\\$77](#) / [£139](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: MixVibes 3DEX, Traktor 3 LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 10 x 2.6" (360 x 255 x 65mm), size not known

They say: A DJ software controller for DJs who yearn for the control they left behind when they switched from a traditional mixer to the multi-processing power of laptop DJing.

We say: Old-style jogwheels and rather cheap feeling with its plastic case and hard plastic knobs. No audio interface means you have to factor that in too.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



The i-Mix Mk II may look like a toy, but if you can put up with its appearance it packs some good features.

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DJ-Tech i-Mix MkII

Price: US\$250 / £150 / €170

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2 (need software upgrade); Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

They say: I-Mix MKII is a DJ software controller with a high quality sound card built-in. Control your favourite DJ software and plug your headphones and microphone.

We say: This two-channel, two-deck controller may look like a plastic toy, especially with those small, old-style jogwheels and cheaply finished EQ knobs, but its feature set is pretty good.

Buy from: Not currently available.



The DJ-Tech i-Mix Reload has a good feature set, and is thankfully available in black as well as orange!

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DJ-Tech i-Mix Reload

Price: US\$192

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 10 x 2.6" (360 x 255 x 65mm), 3.1lb (1.4kg)

They say: The DJ-Tech i-Mix Reload has been designed to enable mobile DJs as well as club & studio DJs to mix digital music.

We say: Some nice features, but the problem is this kind of controller will, since the launch of the Mixtrack, be compared with that unit – which costs appreciably less and does most of what this does.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



This is basically the i-Mix Reload with a built-in audio interface, including deck inputs.

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DJ-Tech i-Mix Reload MkII

Price: [US\\$229](#) / [£298](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

They say: Not only a hardware controller for performing with the included Deckadance LE software, but it also houses a professional digital-audio interface to feed your headphones and the sound system.

We say: Lots of functions, build quality is OK although knobs are cheap, and overall price isn't bad for a controller with built-in audio and this number of controls.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Pretty shockingly styled in bright red, the MyScratch actually does more than you'd expect from its looks.

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DJ-Tech myScratch

Price: US\$259

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

They say: The myScratch is tailor-made for scratch performance. Its large high-resolution touch sensitive jog wheels provide tactile vinyl emulation. The unit also features an adjustable crossfader curve.

We say: Provides a reasonable consumer experience, in that fiddly way that smaller controllers like this tend to do. Frankly though you'd be hard pressed to get taken seriously DJing on a glossy red box called "myScratch".

Buy from: Not currently available.

DJ-Tech Poket DJ is a truly tiny controller that should be seen as a fun toy.

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DJ-Tech Poket DJ

Price: [US\\$129](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 10.2×4.3×1.3" (260x110x32mm), not known

They say: A digital DJ package that is perfect for anyone who loves music, has never tried DJing, and want to take the first step into the DJ world. There is no need to worry about mixer, turntable or burning CDs.

We say: Too small to do anything remotely serious with, this controller can't be seen as anything more than a gimmick. But having said that, it's a pretty fun little gimmick! Would make a great little stocking filler.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The DJ-Tech Poket DJ Duo amazingly packs a sound card in as well as full two-deck control.

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DJ-Tech Poket DJ Duo

Price: [US\\$199](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 10.2 x 4.3 x 1.3" (260 x 110 x 32mm), 0.9lb (0.4kg)

They say: Welcome to the Poket DJ Duo – the easiest way to become a DJ. The Poket DJ Duo is perfect for anyone who wants to become a DJ. It is the ultimate portable USB controller that you can play anywhere.

We say: Truly tiny yet packing in a lot of features (unusually at the price level, there is a built-in audio interface), this is nevertheless too small to do anything truly serious with.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The DJ-Tech Reloaded is the best yet from DJ-Tech, with good build quality and features.

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DJ-Tech Reloaded

Price: [US\\$399](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4 (6 with upgrade); Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

They say: Features a familiar two-platter layout and six direct deck-select buttons for controlling up to six decks in Virtual DJ Pro, while the included Virtual DJ LE is optimised for four-deck control.

We say: It's a well made, attractive little controller, but you'll need to upgrade the software to unlock some important features.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#)

The Faderfox Micromodul DJ3 is ingeniously mapped to give you excellent all-round control of four decks in Traktor Pro.

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Faderfox Micromodul DJ3

Price: US\$369 / [£219](#) / [€260](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: none; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

They say: DJ3 is the perfect solution if you want to use Traktor's internal software mixer. The device controls linefaders, crossfader, EQs, filters, effects, loops, pitch, key, cues, transport and browser.

We say: if you're a minimalist who doesn't see the point of big anything when small will do, you're likely to fall in love with the little Faderfox DJ3 precisely because it does everything very well, while being just big enough.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Faderfox Micromodul DJ3](#)

Buy from: [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

The Faderfox Micromodul FT3 is tiny but sturdy, and intended for professional use.

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Faderfox Micromodul FT3

Price: US\$369 / [£219](#) / [€260](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: none; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

They say: FT3 is the perfect all-in-one-solution if you want a four-deck-controller for Traktor Pro or Ableton Live. The device controls linefaders, crossfader, EQs, filters, effects, loops, pitch, key, cues, transport and browser.

We say: For any budding Ritchie Hawtins looking for pocket-sized Traktor control, or for Ableton Live DJs who want a compact controller to give tactile control over their Ableton Live DJ sets, the FL3 should definitely be on your shortlist.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Faderfox Micromodul FT3](#)

Buy from: [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

Sober and workmanlike, the plastic-constructed CNTRL-2 is a direct replacement for last year's CTRL-ONE.

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Gemini CNTRL-2

Price: [US\\$149](#) / [£156](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.2 x 10.2 x 1.8" (360 x 260 x 45mm), 4lb (1.8kg)

They say: Building on the momentum of the incredibly successful CTRL-ONE USB DJ controller, Gemini is taking functionality to the next level with the CNTRL-2, with the added versatility of fully mappable Midi.

We say: Good size and OK performance, but some of the controls are fiddly and it feels cheaper than some other controls that cost about the same.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)

Pretty much identical to the CNTRL-2, but with the addition of a built-in audio interface.

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Gemini CNTRL-7

Price: [US\\$249](#) / [£288](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: yes; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 15 x 10.2 x 1.7" (360 x 260 x 45mm), 3.9lb (1.8kg)

They say: Building on the momentum of the incredibly successful CTRL-TWO USB DJ controller, Gemini is taking functionality to the next level with the CNTRL-7, with the added versatility of fully mappable Midi.

We say: There's a lot going for this little controller. While build isn't perfect, it's good enough, and the addition of standalone mixer functionality is smart, as are the range of other inputs and outputs.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Gemini CNTRL-7](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.com](#)

The Hercules DJ 4Set is only made of plastic but it has lots of the features of the company's more expensive controllers.

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Hercules DJ 4Set

Price: [US\\$249](#) / [£198](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac), 4.4lb (2kg); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 13.7 x 9.8 x 2.3" (350 x 250 x 57mm)

They say: The Hercules DJ 4Set combines the functions and feel of a pro controller with the simplicity users need to host memorable parties all night long.

We say: The same size as the company's more expensive controllers, the 4Set covers the important stuff. It has built-in sound, and true four-deck DJing with the provided software, right out of the box.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Hercules DJ 4Set](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



The DJ Console 4-Mx is stylistically an improvement on the DJ Console RMX, its predecessor, while still retaining the Hercules look and feel to the knobs and buttons.

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Hercules DJ Console 4-Mx

Price: [US\\$351](#) / [€378](#) / [€450](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic-in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 15 x 9.8 x 2.6" (381 x 249 x 63mm), 10lb (4.5kg)

They say: Large metal DJ controller with built-in audio and large jog wheels. Professional mix station for mobile and club DJs with included carry bag.

We say: The next generation of their dependable DJ Console RMX controller. Sensitive jog wheels look good, and 4 decks future-proofs it. Still somewhat clunky though.

Learn more: [Hercules DJ Console 4-Mx Review & Video](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Hercules DJ Console RMX is well made and sturdy, and has gather many fans over the years.

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Hercules DJ Console RMX

Price: US\$233 / [£221](#) / [£264](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Virtual DJ JE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 13.8 x 10.7 x 2.6" (350 x 250 x 68mm), 8.9lb (4kg)

They say: Cutting-edge DJ controller with built-in audio for live and studio use. Precise jog wheels and faders for mixing. Audio interface tailored for DJing.

We say: Well built, dependable controller. Jogwheels are bettered by modern controllers. Clunky to use, but won't let you down. Good flexibility for the price.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The tiny DJ Control MP3 e2 is a fun little controller that shouldn't be thought of as a serious DJ tool for the long term.

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Hercules DJ Control MP3 e2

Price: US\$94 / ~~£72~~ / ~~€85~~

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Virtual DJ LE; sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 10.5 x 9 x 2.6" (267 x 229 x 68 mm), 1lb (0.5kg)

They say: For Beginners and casual DJs, the DJ Control MP3 e2 features 2 decks to mix 2 music tracks. Save your mixes as your own music files.

We say: Tiny unit for the casual or curious only. You'll need a sound card too if you want to DJ as you're meant to. If you just want to play at home every New Year's Eve, this may be enough for you, but otherwise, get something better.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(Europe\)](#)



The Ion Audio iCUE3 Discover gets it right back to basics, while managing to look funky and fun. Great for messing around with the family on, but you'll get laughed out of a DJ booth.

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Ion Audio iCUE3 Discover

Price: US\$63 / [£79](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: MixVibes Cross LE; Sound card: No; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 12 x 7 x 4" (304 x 178 x 101mm), 3.5lb (1.6kg)

They say: Includes everything you need to DJ with your computer. Two-deck controller with volume, EQ, pitch controls, and scratch wheel for each deck.

We say: Bold little controller looks-wise, strictly for the curious and hobbyists, and you'll need a sound card too. For the living room it's passable (just) but for serious DJing? No.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Amazon.co.uk](#)



The Kam Digi Mini controller has quite a fresh look but not surprisingly considering the price, is built to a budget.

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Kam Digi Mini

Price: [£99](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: Yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 12.2 x 8.1 x 1.5" (310 x 205 x 38mm), 2.2lb (1kg)

They say: The Digi Mini – a sensational audio & video software controller with VirtualDJ software, headphone monitoring and FREE gig bag.

We say: Basic controller but good value for the money – it's the cheapest controller we could find with a built-in sound card. Don't expect pro quality, but will do the job for a real steal of a price.

Buy from: Amazon.co.uk



The M-Audio Torq Mixlab is probably the most minimalist complete solution in this round-up.

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M-Audio Torq MixLab

Price: US\$59 / [£60](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Torq LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 10.5 x 8.5 x 1.3" (267 x 216 x 33mm), 2.6lb (1.2kg)

They say: The Torq MixLab™ system delivers everything you need to start producing and performing your own DJ tracks right away.

We say: No sound card means an extra buy. It's minimal. Add in the price of a sound card and for a bit extra you could get the Kam Digi Mini which would be better value.

Buy from: Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk



Don't let the primary colours fool you - this is a serious, powerful integrated hardware/software DJ system.

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M-Audio Torq Xponent

Price: US\$299 / [£299](#) / [€357](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Torq 1.5; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 18 x 12 x 2.6" (458 x 306 x 65mm), 8.2lb (3.7kg)

They say: The professional-grade Torq Xponent system seamlessly integrates high- performance DJ software with a fully functional hands-on controller.

We say: Quality full control system. High-end features include on-the-fly tempo-synced sampling, lots of FX – in some ways it's forerunner to the Traktor Kontrol S4. No extra inputs or outputs though.

Buy from: Amazon.com, [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

The MixVibes U-Mix Control Pro is well built, portable and easy to use. It's a winner.

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MixVibes U-Mix Control Pro

Price: [US\\$287](#) / [£229](#) / [€296](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross DJ 1.6 (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.7 x 7.6 x 1.7" (375 x 193 x 43mm), 4lb (1.8kg);

They say: MixVibes' U-Mix Control Pro is a Midi DJ controller with an internal soundcard. This controller is perfect for DJs seeking a compact, professional DJing solution, which offer the best Design and Quality.

We say: The unit is compact, attractive and pleasingly heavy; it's obviously a well built, rugged controller and feels much better than many controllers in its class.

Learn more: [U-Mix Control Pro & Cross 1.5 Review & Video](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#), [Juno \(Europe\)](#)



The Traktor Kontrol S2 is in some ways a more balanced controller than the oversized S4.

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Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol S2

Price: [US\\$899](#) / [£489](#), [£582](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor Pro 2; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2 + sample decks; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 19.7 x 12.7 x 2" (500 x 322 x 52mm), 7.5lb (3.4kg)

They say: Native Instruments brings you Traktor Kontrol S2 – the two-deck, all-in-one DJ controller system built to professional standards throughout, and the perfect introduction to the world of Traktor.

We say: For many this will be their dream Traktor controller. The S4 is unnecessarily big, and the space saved by having two mixer channels here could make all the difference to portability-conscious DJs.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Traktor Kontrol S2](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



Traktor is the most popular DJ software, so a controller designed by its makers specially for it is bound to be big news.

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Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol S4

Price: [US\\$899](#) / [£749](#) / [€892](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor S4; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: yes; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 19.7 x 12.7 x 2" (500 x 322 x 52mm), 7.5lb (3.4kg)

They say: Traktor Kontrol S4 was designed from its conception as a fully integrated system where software and hardware are fused in perfect harmony.

We say: A high-quality, fully integrated Traktor controller with dedicated new software boasting numerous innovations like sample decks and real-time sampling/scratching. Setting the Traktor standard. Bulky, though.

Learn more: [Review: Traktor Kontrol S4](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



It's certainly compact, and would make a good controller if all you want to do is break some of Traktor's functions out of your laptop.

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Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol X1

Price: [US\\$189](#) / [£159](#) / [€189](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card; no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 4.7 x 11.5 x 2" (120 x 294 x 52mm), 1.5lb (0.9kg)

They say: Provides super-intuitive control over Traktor's looping, syncing and effects, with precision-designed knobs and plug & play functionality.

We say: Included here out of sheer popularity. You'll need sound card to complete your set-up, and maybe a mixer – but you could use your keyboard for that. It controls Traktor's other functions perfectly. Good if modular is your thing.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

One of the most original controller released this year, the Twitch is light, portable and fun,

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Novation Twitch

Price: [US\\$426](#) / [£399](#) / [€475](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2.0; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1 (line); Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 13.8 x 10.8 x 2.6" (350 x 275 x 65mm), 4lb (1.8kg)

They say: Instead of simply mixing tracks together with "decks in a box", Twitch re-focuses on cutting up beats, glitch-esque looping, firing off cue points and getting a totally different level of control over FX.

We say: One of the most innovative DJ controller in years, and at a great price including world-class software. It's small, lightweight, high quality and fun to use. Shame it can't use Serato 2.0's sample decks, but that's our only gripe.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Novation Twitch](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Numark DJ2GO is tiny but strangely it's a lot of fun to use.

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Numark DJ2GO

Price: [US\\$48](#) / [£49](#) / [€58](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 12 x 3.1 x 1.1" (305 x 80 x 28mm), 0.8lb (0.36kg)/small>

They say: DJs love to perform but it isn't always easy to set something up on a moment's notice. Now for the first time ever, DJs can throw their entire rig into a backpack and have room to spare.

We say: As a second system, a backup, a travel set-up or for the minimalist who doesn't think they'll ever want anything more, it does what it does with a single vision, and does it well.

Learn more: [Review: Numark DJ2GO](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Numark iDJ Live is toy-like in appearance but novel in conception.

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Numark iDJ Live

Price: [US\\$84](#) / [£79](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: djay (iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch); Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: from iOS device; Size & weight: 19.1 x 8.5 x 1.7" (485 x 215 x 40mm), 2.6lb (1.2kg)

They say: iDJ Live is the easiest way to become a DJ with your iPod touch, iPhone or iPad. This iOS-DJ controller is perfect for anyone from Pro DJs to music lovers who have never tried DJing before.
We say: it's brilliant fun, and feels like a little glimpse of the future. Sure it's flawed, but it's worth your time if you want to DJ on the iPad with a controller that's simple and reasonably cheap.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Numark iDJ Live](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



The Mixtrack is a decent size and everything is laid out clearly making it easy to use.

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Numark Mixtrack

Price: [US\\$140](#) / [£129](#) / [€149](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 18.8 x 11.1 x 1.6in (478 x 282 x 40mm), 3.2lb (1.45kg)

They say: Mixtrack is a powerhouse controller in a compact chassis for performing and producing with DJ software. The layout works just like 2 decks and a mixer.

We say: Runaway successful budget controller. You'll need a sound card and it's made to budget, but it's got great jogs, is well-sized and deserves its popularity. Hard to fault for the price.

Learn more: [Review: Numark Mixtrack](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Mixtrack Pro is in the same case and has almost identical styling of the Mixtrack, its smaller brother.

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Numark Mixtrack Pro

Price: [US\\$279](#) / [£169](#) / [€201](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Virtual DJ LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line input: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & dimensions: 18.8 x 11.1 x 1.6in (478 x 282 x 40mm), 5.1lb (2.3kg)

They say: Mixtrack Pro is a complete DJ system that works with the music on your Mac or PC. It connects to your computer so you can scratch, mix, loop, and much more.

We say: Swaps Traktor LE for Virtual DJ LE (a better choice at this level) and crucially adds a soundcard, but apart from that practically identical to the Mixtrack. Built to a price, but what a price! At this level, this controller is unbeaten.

Learn more: [Numark Mixtrack Pro Video Review](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

It's like the Mixtrack on steroids: the Numark N4 is a well laid out four-channel controller with lots of pro features.

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Numark N4

Price: [US\\$499](#) / [£349](#) / [£415](#)

Rating: ★★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE & Serato Intro (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4 (2 with Intro); Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: not known

They say: Featuring four decks of software control plus a built-in mixer that can be used with or without a computer, N4 is designed for DJs who want powerful capability in a lightweight, portable package.

We say: For home, hobbyist and party DJs who want a system that can be the heart of a truly flexible set-up, this could be the answer. As a step up from the company's successful Mixtrack Pro, it should do well.

Buy from: [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

Big, heavy and built in dark, brushed metal, this is a serious controller with a pro feel.

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Numark NS6

Price: [US\\$851](#) / [£799](#) / [€952](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2.0 (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 4; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes, 2; Power: external; Size & weight: 24 x 13.5 x 2.5" (600 x 340 x 65mm), 14lb (6.3kg)

They say: NS6 is a four-channel Digital DJ controller with complete built-in mixer and four decks of software control. NS6 is the first truly pro-grade DJ controller and standalone 4-channel mixer with effects, allowing you to mix external sources with tracks on your computer.

We say: The ultimate plug-and-play four-deck DJ controller? Quite possibly. A joy to look at and touch, this is professional gear through and through. Only the plastic-edged jogwheels feel anything other than built to last forever.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Numark NS6 DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



Those turntables have real record deck motors powering them, and that's real vinyl on the top... the NS7FX is no toy.

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Numark NS7FX

Price: [US\\$887](#) / [£1,229](#) / [€1,463](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Serato ITCH; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 30 x 16 x 4" (762 x 403 x 98 mm), 35.5 lb (16.1 kg)

They say: Designed with Serato, NS7FX represents the pinnacle of digital DJ performance. combining a premium mixer with two motorized, adjustable-torque turntables.

We say: Heavy, bulky and expensive, the NS7FX is nonetheless the best fun you can have on two virtual decks. Put your hand on your heart and say you don't want one. Would like to see it work with the 4-deck ITCH though.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK & rest of Europe\)](#)



Numark Omni Control is extremely well built and slight enough to slip into as bag.

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Numark Omni Control

Price: [US\\$149](#) / [£122](#) / [€145](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line input: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 12.3 x 10.9 x 2.5" (312 x 277 x 63mm), 6.8lb (3.1kg)

They say: This high-quality, heavyweight, rugged DJ device is not only a controller; it also houses a pro audio interface to feed your headphones and the sound system.

We say: Similar to the Hercules RMX controller, this is a workhorse – well made but now a out of date. The jogs aren't the best, but two stereo outputs is a welcome addition.

Buy from: [Thomann \(UK & rest of Europe\)](#)



Practically identical to the Numark Omni Control, the Stealth is well built and will stand the knocks and bumps of the gigging DJ.

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Numark Stealth Control

Price: [US\\$218](#) / [£189](#) / [€225](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 12.3 x 10.9 x 2.5" (312 x 277 x 63mm), 6.8lb (3.1kg)

They say: Professional DJ performance in a sleek, heavy-duty metal chassis. Spend less time with your keyboard and trackpad, and more time focused on the music.

We say: Similar to the Hercules Steel controller, this is a workhorse – well made but now out of date. The jogs are poor, and you'll need a sound card.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK & rest of Europe\)](#)



The Numark Total Control is built to a budget, but is well lit and looks good.

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Numark Total Control

Price: [US\\$170](#) / [£159](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 17 x 15 x 5.9" (43.2 x 38.1 x 15.2cm), 7.5lb (3.4kg)

They say: A powerful control surface for performing and producing with DJ software. It's portable so you can grab it and your laptop and go to wherever the gig is.

We say: Aging controller, which shows most in its poor jog wheels. Hard to justify the purchase when you can get the Mixtrack Pro instead for round about the same cash.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)

The Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-V has an unashamed consumer look, but its hard, mean knobs and reams of plastic mean it also feels cheap.

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Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-V

Price: [US\\$599](#) / [£429](#) / [€511](#)

Rating: ★★★☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1 (line only); Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 21.8 x 11 x 4.1" (555 x 280 x 103mm), 6.4lb (2.9kg)

They say: This ultra-compact controller gives any music enthusiast the ability to make their own unique music mixes. The DDJ-ERGO controller enables consumers to be creative with their music collection as soon as they take the unit out of the box.

We say: Good jogs, good size (maybe too big), and good ergonomics. But it's expensive considering you don't get a full software package, and those flashing lights strike us as unnecessarily garish and a lesson in style over substance.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-V](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

The Pioneer DDJ-S1 has the Pioneer 'feel', although it feels like it's built to a budget, which is surprising at this price point.

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Pioneer DDJ-S1

Price: [US\\$918](#) / [£999](#) / [€1190](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2.0 (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes, 2; Power: external; Size & weight: 26.7 x 12.5 x 3.7" (680 x 318 x 95mm), 11lb (5kg)

They say: The DDJ-S1 allows for easy transfer of music from the user's laptop with a USB connection for simplicity and quick "plug-and-play" capability with Serato ITCH 2.0 DJ software. For additional convenience, the controller also comes with a space saving computer dock.

We say: Good sized controller that looks the part and allows for easy, intuitive control over the basic two-deck version of Serato ITCH 2.0. It is made with reams of plastic which seems a little stingy for the price.

Learn more: [Review: Pioneer DDJ-S1 DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Pioneer DDJ-T1 controls four channels independently in Traktor, and has the 'Pioneer' feel, especially with regard to the jogwheels.

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Pioneer DDJ-T1

Price: [US\\$918](#) / [£815](#) / [£971](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor 2 Pioneer Edition (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1 (line only); Digital decks: 4 ; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 26.7 x 12.5 x 3.7" (680 x 318 x 95mm), 12lb (5.5kg)

They say: OBJ*OBJ*OBJ*OBJ* The controller layout and Traktor Pioneer DDJ-T1 Edition 2 DJ software interface are identical, ensuring ease-of-use and precise control. The DDJ-T1 is modeled after the proven design of the professional Pioneer DJ player.

We say: Some will love this controller because it feels like using two entry-level Pioneer CDJs and a mixer – which is because that's pretty much what it is, with the innards ripped out. Great jogs and fun to use but expensive for what you get.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Pioneer DDJ-T1 4-Channel DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The Reloop Digital Jockey 2 Controller Edition is a good-looking and well laid-out DJ controller.

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Reloop Digital Jockey 2 Controller Edition

Price: [£198](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 4; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 13 x 11.6 x 1.5" (370 x 38 x 295mm), 5.5lb (2.5kg)

They say: With the Digital Jockey 2 Reloop gives Traktor DJs a controller that will make sound become truly tangible: A perfect team up.

We say: Sturdy build, there are a few complaints about the cue buttons failing though. Nice size, but no sound card. Well featured and professional looking. One of the first controllers to offer four-deck support.

Buy from: Amazon.co.uk



The interface edition is practically identical to the controller edition except of course for the sound card elements like mike and headphones inputs and RCAs round the back.

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Reloop Digital Jockey 2 Interface Edition

Price: [US\\$350](#) / [£298](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size and weight: 13 x 11.6 x 1.5" (370 x 38 x 295 mm), 6lb (2.7kg)

They say: With the Digital Jockey 2, Reloop gives Traktor DJs a controller that will make sound become truly tangible: A perfect team up.

We say: Adds a soundcard, touch-sensitive jog wheels and input for one external source to the features of the interface edition. An extra line in would have been good – why just one?

Buy from: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



The Reloop Digital Jockey 2 Master Edition packs a lot of technology into the same case as the rest of the Reloop controller series.

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Reloop Digital Jockey 2 Master Edition

Price: [US\\$518](#) / [£335](#) / [€398](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound car: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; power: external; Size & weight: 13 x 11.6 x 1.5" (370 x 38 x 295 mm), 6lb (2.7kg)

They say: All the critically acclaimed controller features are still on board, but now it comes with symmetric output, booth output and standalone mixing.

We say: Sophisticated channel routing, club, booth and master outputs, works as an analogue mixer without laptop plugged in, and can control 4 decks. A player. Not the cheapest though.

Buy from: [Juno \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

The Reloop Jockey 3 is a joy to behold, being built in high quality gun metal with great jogs and controls.

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Reloop Jockey 3 ME

Price: [US\\$699](#) / [£499](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE (PC/Mac); Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4 (2 with supplied Traktor LE); Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 16.5 x 11.8 x 1.7" (420 x 300 x 45mm), 11lb (5kg)

They say: Once you hold the Jockey 3 in your hands, you will directly notice the solid metal construction as well as high-quality knobs and encoders, smooth-running faders and backlit rubberised buttons deluxe.

We say: High-end Traktor Pro 2 controller, built to the highest of standards in gun metal. Great range of inputs and outputs, including full standalone functionality and pro balanced outs as well as a separate booth out.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Reloop Jockey 3 ME](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



We quite like the bold whites, silvers and lime greens of the Mixage CE LTD.

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Reloop Mixage CE LTD

Price: [US\\$208](#) / [£135](#) / [€160](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: No; Digital decks: 4 (requires Traktor Pro); Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.6 x 10.2 x 1.7" (370 x 258 x 44mm), 4.2lb (1.9 kg)

They say: The perfect introduction to digital mixing: based on the Digital Jockey, The Reloop Mixage CE LTD does not accept compromise on quality and feeling.

We say: Adjustable backlight brightness and 4-deck support are pro features. But unless you already have a sound card (or are also taken with the curious white and lime green colour scheme!), best going for the bigger brother, the Mixage IE.

Buy from: [Juno \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The compact but powerful Reloop Mixage IE - note the big cue buttons, which are assignable.

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Reloop Mixage IE

Price: [US\\$212](#) / [£179](#) / [€213](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound car: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 4 (with Traktor Pro); Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.6 x 10.2 x 1.7" (370 x 258 x 44mm), 4.2lb (1.9 kg)

They say: The perfect introduction to digital mixing: based on the Digital Jockey, The Reloop Mixage IE does not accept compromise when regarding quality and feeling.

We say: May even take some sales off the Digital Jockey 2 series – well made little controller with four reassignable buttons that could easily be used as cues, plus 4-deck support and an adjustable backlight.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Reloop Mixage DJ controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



One of the best looking little controllers in the test, with three parts that clip together magnetically.

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Stanton SCS.3M

Price: [US\\$299](#) / [£249](#) / [€296](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.2 x 8.5 x 1.4in (360 x 216 x 35mm), 3.5lb (1.6kg)

They say: The most innovative, completely mobile Midi control solution available, with 2 touch-sensitive control surfaces for customizable software control.

We say: Compact, innovative, clever and capable, this is a bold and well thought-out innovation from Stanton. It's tricky to set up though and the workflow isn't for everyone.

Learn more: [Stanton SC System 3 Review](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

Highly innovative, this is nonetheless more aimed at the consumer or for a pro wanting a 'second system'.

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Stanton SCS.4DJ

Price: [US\\$449](#) / [£459](#) / [£546](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied DJ software: Stanton library software; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 17.4 x 11.4 x 2.9 (442 x 291 x 73mm), 5lbs (2.3kg)

They say: The Stanton SCS.4DJ is the first truly integrated DJ system offering one-button automatic synchronization. The embedded computer system assists your mixing by automatically synchronising the tracks at the push of a button.

We say: As a consumer buying this as his or her first DJ controller, it'll blow you away, especially at this price point.

They've recently improved some of its initial failing through software updates.

Learn more: [Review: Stanton SCS.4DJ](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



Styled to look great sat next to your Mac, the Vestax Spin is smaller than you might imagine.

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Vestax Spin

Price: [US\\$279](#) / [£193](#) / [£231](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: djay; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power; USB; Size & weight: 14 x 9.5 x 1.5" (356 x 241 x 38mm), 3.3lb (1.5kg)

They say: Designed for Mac, Spin is the perfect all-in-one bundle of digital DJ hardware and software. It offers total control to mix, scratch, and play music as a DJ would.

We say: Compact home DJ set-up, even comes with a mike. Consumer-quality but a joy to use with good jogs & easy, dedicated software including great iTunes integration.

Learn more: [Vestax Spin DJ Controller Review](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



Its bold styling may not be to everyone's taste, but it's fun to use thanks to Vestax's top-quality jog wheels.

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Vestax Typhoon

Price: [US\\$265](#) / [£199](#) / [€205](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14 x 9.5 x 1.5" (356 x 241 x 38mm), 3.3lb (1.5kg)

They say: Typhoon is an all-in-one bundle of digital DJ hardware and software, offering total control to mix, scratch, and play music as a DJ would right at your fingertips.

We say: Compact home DJ set-up. Consumer-quality but fun to use with good jog wheels. Sliders are a little unusual but if you can live with the styling, it's a good basic Traktor controller.

Learn more: [Review: Vestax Typhoon DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#), [Thomann \(Europe\)](#)



The Vestax VCI-100 was the first controller people started taking seriously, and it was immensely popular. It is still a good buy today.

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Vestax VCI-100

Price: [US\\$299](#) / [£399](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: no; Digital decks: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 9.9 x 1.4in (360 x 252 x 35mm), 5.7lb (2.6kg)

They say: The VCI-100 is a highly professional MIDI controller that has two jog wheels built with sensor and control technology straight from our turntables.

We say: Arguably the first “serious” DJ controller. Built like a tank, highly popular, highly adaptable. Famously hacked by Ean Golden of [DJTechTools](#). No sound card though.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Amazon.co.uk](#)



More logically laid out but with blue underlighting that may not be to everyone's taste: The Vestax VCI-100 MkII.

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Vestax VCI-100 MkII

Price: [US\\$559](#) / [£367](#) / [€438](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Decks usable with supplied software: ; Sound card: yes; Phono/line in: no; Physical channels: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: no; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 10.6 x 1.5" (368 x 270 x 38mm), 4.4lb (2kg)

They say: Over the years as the entire DJ scene made its shift to computer based DJing, we kept collecting requests and demands for a new model. Here it is: VCI-100 MkII.

We say: It's lighter, still well made, it's got 4-deck control, it has a built-in sound card, the jog wheels have torque controls, and it's jam-packed with features. Would be better with a mic input and ideally external line/phono inputs too.

Learn more: [Review: Vestax VCI-100 Mk II DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK, rest of Europe, world\)](#)



Solidly built and impressive in matt silver and black gloss, the VCI-300 has won design awards.

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Vestax VCI-300

Price: [US\\$475](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Serato ITCH; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record outputs: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 9.9 x 1.4" (410 x 272 x 40mm), 7.1lb (3.2kg)

They say: Sharing their technology and feedback from Pro DJs and users, Vestax and Serato have created a dedicated DJ system offering absolute control.

We say: Elegant, brilliantly made and highly professional DJ system that's a joy to use – but sorely lacking effects.

Learn more: [Vestax VCI-300 & Serato ITCH – 3 Months In](#)

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#)



To look at, the VCI-300 MkII is identical to the VCI-300. the changes are all under the hood.

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Vestax VCI-300 MkII

Price: [US\\$475](#) / [£589](#) / [€701](#)

Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Supplied software: Serato ITCH; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: no; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record outputs: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 9.9 x 1.4" (410 x 272 x 40mm), 7.1lb (3.2kg)

They say: Preserving the concept of the VCI-300 and ITCH, the VCI-300MkII comes with usability improvements based on feedback from VCI-300 customers.

We say: Just a few niggles from the original VCI-300 (headphone volume being the main one) have been corrected. It's on offer at time of writing with free VFX-1 effects unit.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

The metal-built Vestax VCI-400 is aiming to be the ultimate controller, especially for those who like to map their own controls.

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Vestax VCI-400

Price: US\$999 / [£699](#) / [€832](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE, Serato Intro; Sound card: yes; Phono/line inputs: 2; Digital decks: 4 ; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight:

They say: The VCI-400 is the hardware solution for DJs who have been seeking an instrument that perfectly adapts to their style of performance. Shifting focus from integrity with bundled DJ software to any DJ software has made the VCI-400 the most versatile and intuitive DJ controller in its league.

We say: It's probably the fullest featured, best built four-channel Midi controller there is, and all packed into a box slightly smaller than the Traktor Kontrol S4. You'll want to upgrade the software though.

Learn more: [Review & Video: Vestax VCI-400 DJ Controller](#)

Buy from: [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)



The VCM-100 will appeal to minimalists - especially if you're happy to use your laptop itself for cues, looping etc.

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Vestax VCM-100

Price: [US\\$499](#) / [£303](#) / [€362](#)

Rating: ★★★★★

Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card: yes; Phono/line ins: 2; Digital decks: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: no; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 1.8kg 13.8 x 5 x 1.6" (350 x 126 x 40mm), 4lb (1.8kg)

They say: A compact USB Midi & audio system, Despite its size, the VCM-100 comes with stereo x 2 in/out connection, phones output and high quality controls.

We say: Highly portable and well made, nonetheless it misses too many features for us to be able to recommend it in 2012.

Buy from: [Amazon.com](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe\)](#)

Conclusion

There are some truly magnificent controllers here. The truth is that you could record killer DJ sets on absolutely any of them.

Our advice is to choose first and foremost whether you want a built-in sound card or a separate one, then whether you want two or four decks, then set your budget and start sifting through.

There are some truly magnificent controllers here. The truth is that you could record killer DJ sets on absolutely any of them.

In the end, go with your gut feeling. You're going to spend a lot of time in the company of the one you choose, so go with something that looks good to you, and that you can see yourself performing on in front of a crowd of people.

Good luck!