

# DJ Controllers: The Ultimate Buyer's Guide 2013

by Phil Morse



From the bedroom to the DJ booth, DJing with digital DJ controllers and DJ software is now massively popular.

*138 142 of the best DJ controllers reviewed and rated*

This is the web's biggest and best guide to DJ controllers, brought to you in association with [UDG Gear](#). Whether you're looking for your first DJ controller, an upgrade, modular DJ gear, club equipment that can work with your laptop and DJ software, or even to built a mini set-up around your iPad or iPhone – if it's out there and in reasonable supply, it's here. This guide is more than twice the size of our 2012 guide.



This guide is brought to you in association with [UDG Gear](#), makers of bags, trolleys, stands and cases for all types of DJ and production gear.

## About this DJ controller guide

We've rounded up every major DJ controller currently on the market (or announced and imminent as of December 2012). That means all in one controllers, plus modular controllers including Midi-enabled

mixers, and deck / pad controllers. Basically, if it can control some aspect of your software, we've included it. We've also listed several (but not all) discontinued models that are still available / reasonably popular.

All of the controllers are in alphabetical order, by manufacturer and then model, and they range in price from pocket money to thousands. Here's what you need to know about the guide:

- **We've focused on DJ controllers for "mainstream" DJ software.** If you want to use production software for DJing, this guide doesn't cover such controllers, and it doesn't cover producer-focused "general" Midi controllers either (or it'd be three times the size!)
- **Our ratings are reached after careful consideration, but are only a guide.** We know all of this gear well, and we assess it from the point of view of the beginner to semi-pro digital DJ. Be aware that ratings in our individual reviews may differ from those here, especially for older controllers, as we constantly reassess as the market changes.
- **We know you want to look closely at the controllers!** Click on any picture for a bigger version, then you can often click the icon in the top-right for even closer zooming.
- **We've included good places to buy from.** As well as rating all of the DJ controllers, we've shown you where to get them from in the USA, UK and Europe. Where we've carried a full review and/or demo video of the controller, we link to that too
- **Prices change all the time** – so always check current prices by clicking the price links 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! If you find errors, or have any suggestions, tell us [here](#). And happy controller hunting...

## Know what you're looking for?

The controllers are listed alphabetically. But if you know what you're looking for, here are some quick links straight to the controllers. You can get back to this table easily from each controller listing.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>4midiloop:</b>          | <a href="#">4midiloop</a> , <a href="#">4TrackTrigger</a>   |
| <b>Allen &amp; Heath:</b>  | <a href="#">Xone:2D</a> , <a href="#">Xone:4D</a> , <a href="#">Xone:DB2</a> , <a href="#">Xone:DB4</a> , <a href="#">Xone:DX</a> , <a href="#">Xone:K2</a>   |
| <b>American Audio:</b>     | <a href="#">10MXR</a> , <a href="#">14MXR</a> , <a href="#">19MXR</a> , <a href="#">Encore 2000</a> , <a href="#">Radius 3000</a> , <a href="#">Versadeck</a> , <a href="#">VMS2</a> , <a href="#">VMS4</a> , <a href="#">VMS4.1</a>  |
| <b>Behringer:</b>          | <a href="#">DDM4000</a>   |
| <b>Denon DJ:</b>           | <a href="#">MC2000</a> , <a href="#">MC3000</a> , <a href="#">SC2900</a> , <a href="#">SC3900</a> , <a href="#">DN-HC1000S</a> , <a href="#">DN-HC4500 mkII</a> , <a href="#">DN-MC6000</a> , <a href="#">DN-S1200</a> , <a href="#">DN-S3700</a> , <a href="#">DN-X1600</a> , <a href="#">DN-X1700</a> , <a href="#">DN-X600</a> |
| <b>DJ-Tech:</b>            | <a href="#">4Mix</a> , <a href="#">DJ For All</a> , <a href="#">Dragon 2</a> , <a href="#">i-Mix</a> , <a href="#">myScratch</a> , <a href="#">Poket DJ</a> , <a href="#">Poket DJ Duo</a> , <a href="#">Reloaded</a>   |
| <b>DJ TechTools:</b>       | <a href="#">Midi Fighter 3D</a> , <a href="#">Midi Fighter Classic</a> , <a href="#">Midi Fighter Pro</a>   |
| <b>Electrix:</b>           | <a href="#">Tweaker</a>   |
| <b>EKS:</b>                | <a href="#">Otus Dualdeck</a> , <a href="#">Otus Plus</a> , <a href="#">Otus Raw</a>  |
| <b>Faderfox:</b>           | <a href="#">DJ3</a> , <a href="#">DL3</a> , <a href="#">DX3</a> , <a href="#">FT3</a> , <a href="#">FX3</a>   |
| <b>Gemini:</b>             | <a href="#">CDJ-650</a> , <a href="#">CDJ-700</a> , <a href="#">CDMP-7000</a> , <a href="#">CNTRL-2</a> , <a href="#">CNTRL-7</a> , <a href="#">FirstMix</a> , <a href="#">FirstMix I/Q</a> , <a href="#">FirstMix Pro</a>  |
| <b>Hercules:</b>           | <a href="#">DJ 4Set</a> , <a href="#">DJ Console 4-Mx</a> , <a href="#">DJ Console Mk4</a> , <a href="#">DJ Console RMX</a> , <a href="#">DJ Console RMX2</a> , <a href="#">DJ Control AIR</a> , <a href="#">DJ Control Instinct</a> , <a href="#">DJ Control MP3 e2</a>  |
| <b>Ion Audio:</b>          | <a href="#">DJ2GO</a> , <a href="#">Discover DJ</a> , <a href="#">iDJ2Go</a>  |
| <b>Keith McMillen:</b>     | <a href="#">QuNeo</a>   |
| <b>M-Audio:</b>            | <a href="#">Torq MixLab</a> , <a href="#">Torq Xponent</a>  |
| <b>MixVibes:</b>           | <a href="#">U-Mix Control 2</a> , <a href="#">U-Mix Control Pro</a> , <a href="#">U-Mix Control Pro 2</a>   |
| <b>Native Instruments:</b> | <a href="#">Traktor Kontrol F1</a> , <a href="#">Traktor Kontrol S2</a> , <a href="#">Traktor Kontrol S4</a> , <a href="#">Traktor Kontrol X1</a> , <a href="#">Traktor Kontrol Z2</a>  |
| <b>Novation:</b>           | <a href="#">Dicers</a> , <a href="#">Twitch</a>   |
| <b>Numark:</b>             | <a href="#">4Trak</a> , <a href="#">iDJ Live</a> , <a href="#">iDJ Pro</a> , <a href="#">Mixdeck</a> , <a href="#">Mixdeck Express</a> , <a href="#">Mixdeck Quad</a> , <a href="#">Mixtrack</a> , <a href="#">Mixtrack Pro</a> , <a href="#">N4</a> , <a href="#">NS6</a> , <a href="#">NS7FX</a> , <a href="#">V7</a>           |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Pioneer:</b>         | <a href="#">CDJ-350</a> , <a href="#">CDJ-850</a> , <a href="#">CDJ-900</a> , <a href="#">CDJ-2000</a> , <a href="#">CDJ-2000nexus</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-ERGO-K</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-ERGO-V</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-S1</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-SX</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-T1</a> , <a href="#">DDJ-WeGO</a> , <a href="#">DJM-700</a> , <a href="#">DJM-800</a> , <a href="#">DJM-850</a> , <a href="#">DJM-900nexus</a> , <a href="#">DJM-2000nexus</a> , <a href="#">DJM-T1</a> , <a href="#">RMX-1000</a> , <a href="#">XDJ-Aero</a> |
| <b>Rane:</b>            | <a href="#">Rane Sixty-One</a> , <a href="#">Rane Sixty-Two</a> , <a href="#">Rane Sixty-Eight</a>   |
| <b>Reloop:</b>          | <a href="#">Beatmix</a> , <a href="#">Contour</a> , <a href="#">Jockey 3 ME</a> , <a href="#">Mixage CE LTD</a> , <a href="#">Mixage IE</a> , <a href="#">Terminal Mix 2</a> , <a href="#">Terminal Mix 4</a>  |
| <b>Smithson Martin:</b> | <a href="#">KS-1974</a> , <a href="#">Emulator DVS</a>   |
| <b>Stanton:</b>         | <a href="#">CMP.800</a> , <a href="#">DJC.4</a> , <a href="#">SCS.1 System</a> , <a href="#">SCS.3 System</a> , <a href="#">SCS.4DJ</a>  |
| <b>Vestax:</b>          | <a href="#">PMC-05ProIV</a> , <a href="#">Spin</a> , <a href="#">Spin2</a> , <a href="#">Typhoon</a> , <a href="#">VCI-100</a> , <a href="#">VCI-100 MkII</a> , <a href="#">VCI-300 MkII</a> , <a href="#">VCI-380</a> , <a href="#">VCI-400</a>   |

## Not sure what you're looking for?



Modular or all-in-one? For most digital DJs, an all in one controller will be the best choice, but some prefer the flexibility of a mix 'n' match approach.

If you're overwhelmed by the choice out there, the information below will help you to choose more wisely and to get the most from this guide:

- **You probably want an “all-in-one” controller, but you may prefer “modular”.** Modular is when you build up a control system of “separates”, a bit like a hi-fi with separate amp, radio, CD player etc. Whereas all-in-one controllers are definitely best for the vast majority of users (they're self-contained, and easy to set up and use), if you're more experienced, you play with digital vinyl, or regularly DJ in clubs, you may prefer the flexibility of a modular system.
- **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 the controller comes with a full commercial version of that package. Find out more here: [Bundled DJ Controller Software: Facts & Myths](#).
- **“Midi” just means that the device can control your DJ software.** In truth, some of these controllers use different technical protocols in addition to Midi, especially for jogwheel control, but that's not a concern for our purposes. However, if a device can't control some aspect of your software (for instance, a DJ audio interface, or a mixer with such an interface built in but no Midi as well), we don't list it here.
- **Jogwheels – the bit that replaces the record decks – have moved on immensely in recent years.** This means if you buy a modern controller (all have release dates on the round-up), the jogwheel performance will be good. Bear in mind, though, that if you want to scratch, Native Instruments's own controllers and all controllers that use Serato software have close-to-perfect

jogwheel-to-software mapping; all others involve a certain amount of compromise. (Some controllers don't even have jogwheels, and some people don't miss them; most prefer to have them though.)

- **You may need a "sound card" or "audio interface" too.** This will allow you to plug your headphones in for previewing, and to simultaneously have music going to the main speakers. Nearly all all-in-one controllers nowadays have a sound card built in. Those that don't, we tell you. With such controllers, you simply buy a sound card separately. With a modular system, you need out least one of your components to have a "four-out" or "two stereo out" digital audio interface built in. Find out more here: [All About Sound Cards for Digital DJing](#).

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*Still not sure where to start? Don't make an expensive mistake! Our [How To Digital DJ Fast](#) video course is especially for beginners, and will help you choose your first controller, as well as teach you all you need to know to play your first show. Thousands of our readers have taken their first steps in DJing with this course. [Click here for more information and to buy](#).*

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## Digital DJ Tips DJ Controller Buyer's Guide 2013...

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### 4midiloop



The 4midiloop is beautifully made in an aluminium case, and has a truly humungous number of controls to let you get to grips with Traktor like never before.

Price: [£1428](#) / [€1724](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 11.4 x 2.4 x 14.2" (290 x 60 x 360mm), 6.1lb (2.8 kg)

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*They say:* The overall concept of 4midiloop is to manufacture with top quality materials and selection of components, as well as presenting a manageable and modern club design with innovative technology.  
*We say:* Designed to unlock nearly every aspect of Traktor, this is also a beautifully built controller in aluminium. While it can't control the Remix Decks (none can officially except the Traktor Kontrol F1), and doesn't have an audio interface built in, it is a true connoisseur's product.  
*Buy from:* [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## 4midiloop 4TrackTrigger



If you use an external mixer with Traktor and want a controller to cover practically everything else, here's your answer: 4TrackTrigger.

*Price:* ~~£1499~~ / €1874

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – loops, transport, effects etc; Launched: July 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 11.4 x 2.34 x 14.2" (290 x 60 x 360 mm), 6.2lb (2.8kg)

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*They say:* 4TrackTrigger is a compact and uncompromising four-deck controller, specifically designed for Traktor Pro 2.5 in the external mixer mode. Everything is fitted into an ergonomically and functional aluminium case, powered by Faderfox!

*We say:* This button- and knob-fest is designed ideally to be mounted behind and above a club four-channel mixer, with an external sound card like the Traktor Audio 10 feeding four Traktor channels into the mixer. It's USB powered, aluminium built, uncompromising, and is priced as such.

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

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## Allen & Heath Xone:2D



You could map the Xone:2D to do all kinds of things, but it is really meant to get multiple digital sources into a second mixer for blending with other sources.

*Price:* [US\\$699](#) / [£389](#) / [€486](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular / all-in-one; Launched: February 2007; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line, 1 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 16.5 x 7.5 x 11.8" (419 x 190 x 300mm), 9lb (4kg)

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*They say:* A combination of an 18-channel USB 2.0 soundcard and Midi controller, which DJs can combine with their existing analogue mixer to create a complete digital DJ mixing system, perfect for integration with DJ software such as Ableton Live and Traktor.

*We say:* Has a single jogwheel and a crossfader, so can be used to add to an existing DJ system in all kinds of ways, feeding multiple digital channels. But could also be used as a cut-down controller in its own right. Pro-grade but jog is sub today's standard.

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

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## Allen & Heath Xone:4D





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

**Price:** [US\\$1900](#) / [£1079](#) / [€1079](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: April 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE, Ableton Live demo; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 17 x 14 x 3.5" (431 x 356 x 89mm), 11lb (5kg)

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*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 \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Allen & Heath Xone:DB2



The Allen & Heath Xone:DB2 retains the same form factor and many of the features of its bigger brother, the Xone:DB4.

**Price:** [US\\$1799](#) / [£999](#) / [€1248](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: September 2011; Intended platform/s: – ; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line, 2 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 14 x 3.5" (320 x 356 x 89mm), 11lb (5kg)

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*They say:* Flexible and versatile mixer controls with an intuitive layout give the DJ full control over the mix. The DB2 boasts twin FX engines, four stereo channels, full Input matrix, and unique Trimodal EQ system.

*We say:* Lightweight, well-built, feature-packed mixer that has plenty of Midi controls mappable to your DJ software to customise your set-up how you wish. High quality on-board effects borrowed from much higher up the range.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Allen & Heath Xone:DB2 Pro DJ Mixer](#)

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

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## Allen & Heath Xone:DB4



Beautifully built in aluminium, the Xone:DB4 is one of the most sophisticated mixers out there.

*Price:* [US\\$2689](#) / [£1670](#) / [€2086](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: September 2011; Intended platform/s: – ; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line, 3 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 14 x 3.5" (320 x 356 x 89mm), 11lb (5kg)

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*They say:* The Xone:DB4 is a truly ground-breaking mixer and by far the most advanced product that we have designed. Every feature has been meticulously researched with a view to offering DJs ultimate creativity.

*We say:* Hugely powerful on-board effects, each channel has its own looper (up to four bars, we'd love to have seen eight...). One of the most powerful club mixers on the planet.

*Our full review:* [Allen & Heath's Andy Rigby-Jones & Xone:DB4](#)

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

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## Allen & Heath Xone:DX



A great looking controller that's built well, but unfortunately it's now outdated and unsupported by its software provider.

**Price:** [US\\$999](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: September 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4; Software decks controllable: 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)

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

*We say:* Now discontinued and no longer being updated by Serato, users are stuck with Serato ITCH as Serato moves other ITCH controllers over to its new platform. Thus can't be recommended any more unless you get a bargain.

*Our full review:* [Allen & Heath Xone:DX Review: 4-Deck Serato Superstar?](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## Allen & Heath Xone:K2



The Xone:K2 sat next to the DB2 mixer for which it is a natural partner, elevated on its (supplied) carry case.

*Price:* [US\\$299](#) / [£198](#) / [€248](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Modular – universal; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: mapping dependent; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 5.3 x 1.2 x 14" (135 x 30 x 358mm), 2.2lb (1kg)

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*They say:* Xone:K2 is a compact, slimline universal Midi controller – incorporating a four-channel audio interface, for use with any DJ software.

*We say:* Neat controller. Can be mapped to do what you want with any DJ software, so you could map four software channels and use it as a slimline mixer utilising its dual stereo outs for headphones and master, or use both outputs into two mixer channels and map it to effects, samples...

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Allen & Heath Xone:K2 DJ Midi Controller](#)

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

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## American Audio 10MXR



The American Audio 10MXR is a basic-looking two-channel mixer but has controls for many features of DJ software, as well as a built-in audio interface.

*Price:* US\$199 / £179 / €222

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: October 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none ; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: Booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 10.2 x 10 x 3.3" (260 x 254 x 85mm), 5.3lb (2.4kg)

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*They say:* The 10MXR is a ground breaking two-channel preamp Midi mixer with built-in 4x4 sound card so DJs can play and mix music from their favourite computer software, yet still have the hands-on hardware control from a compact, two-channel mixer.

*We say:* Really cheap get-in if you want to build a modular DJ system, especially if you're say a mobile DJ who has analogue sources and wants to incorporate digital music too. Can control simple software functions like browser, track loading, sync, cueing etc.

*Buy from:* Available soon.

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## American Audio 14MXR



The American Audio 14MXR gives you enough inputs to run two digital channels and two analogue simultaneously.

**Price:** US\$299 / £219 / €272

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: October 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line, 2 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 2 x combi XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 14 x 12.6 x 3.4" (356 x 320 x 85mm), 9.9lb (4.5 kg)

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*They say:* The 14MXR is a ground breaking four-channel preamp Midi mixer with built-in 4x4 Sound Card so DJs can play and mix music from their favorite computer software, yet still have the hands-on hardware control from a compact, four-channel mixer.

*We say:* Basically the four-channel version of the 10MXR, this also adds an extra mic input (with full EQ) and a couple more Midi-assignable buttons. A good-value hybrid mixer for mobile DJs.

*Buy from:* Available soon.

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## American Audio 19MXR



The American Audio 19MXR is basically the 14MXR in a different form factor.

**Price:** US\$299 / £219 / €272

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: October 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line, 2 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 2 x combi XLR/TRS; Power: mains; Size & weight: 19 x 7.3 x 3.5" (482 x 178 x 85mm), 8lb (3.6kg)

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*They say:* The 19MXR is a ground breaking four-channel preamp Midi mixer with built-in 4x4 sound card so DJs can play and mix music from their favourite computer software, yet still have the hands-on hardware control from a compact, four-channel mixer.

*We say:* Apart from the form factor which will be better suited to certain rack-mounted / installation purposes, this is technically exactly the same mixer as the 14MXR above.

*Buy from:* Available soon.

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## American Audio Encore 2000



Compact and to a budget, the Encore 2000 does manage to offer an awful lot for its small asking price.

**Price:** [US\\$496](#) / [£398](#) / [US\\$497](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: December 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: 2 x USB; Phono/line inputs: 2 x line + 1 x aux; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 17.7 x 11.2 x 4.5 (450 x 285 x 110mm), 11lb (5kg)

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*They say:* The Encore 2000 is a fully loaded multimedia and Midi workstation. A very compact plug 'n' play unit, consisting of two MP3 capable CD players, an USB player with two USB ports and a two-channel mixer. Additionally the Encore 2000 is a legit Midi controller, performing ideal with Virtual DJ LE software bundled to it.

*We say:* A budget jack of all trades. Not sophisticated but if playing basic sets from USB drives, CDs (including MP3 CDs), external sources and software are all important to you, this will let you do it all to a reasonable degree. Good for basic mobile gigs where that kind of flexibility is important.

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

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## American Audio Radius 3000



The American Audio Radius 3000 can control your DJ software, but you'll still need an audio interface.

**Price:** [US\\$392](#) / [£359](#) / [€448](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: October 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: both; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 10.4 x 14 x 4.2in (265 x 356 x 106mm), 7.9lb (3.6kg)

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*They say:* Whether you DJ with CDs or a computer, the American Audio Radius 3000 will help you achieve the next level! The Radius 3000 is a professional CD/MP3/WAV player with Midi capabilities so DJs can control their favourite music playback software.

*We say:* Some nice features as a standalone media player (rotating light to show transport, USB-connected players can share one USB drive), but although it can control DJ software, the lack of a built-in audio interface for this limits its appeal, as you'd need to buy an audio interface separately.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(US\)](#)

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## American Audio Versadeck





Well built and solid feeling, the Versadeck will stand up to life on the road.

*Price:* [US\\$463](#) / [£369](#) / [€461](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: May 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: yes, USB; Phono/line inputs: yes; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 2 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 16.5 x 11.8 x 3.5" (420 x 299 x 89mm), 10lb (4.4 kg)

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*They say:* The American Audio Versadeck is a two-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 somewhat by the fact that the USB drive section can only play WAVs and MP3s, plus strange nudge mapping.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: American Audio Versadeck](#)

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

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## American Audio VMS2



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

*Price:* [US\\$292](#) / [£199](#) / [€249](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 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.

Our full review: [Review & Video: American Audio VMS2](#)

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

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## American Audio VMS4



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

Price: [US\\$400](#) / [£298](#) / [€374](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 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)

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

*We say:* You get a lot for your money here, like two EQed mics, XLR outs, flexible ins, booth control, and great flexibility. Fair quality build reflected in the price, but sadly sound quality is poor.

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

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## American Audio VMS4.1



The American Audio VMS4.1 looks and feels the same as the VMS4, but has much superior sound quality.

Price: [US\\$468](#) / [£348](#) / [€434](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*They say:* The VMS4.1 features four MIDILOG™ channels (compatible with any Midi software or analogue inputs – such as CD players, turntables, etc.), two microphone inputs, balanced XLR outputs, a four-In/four-out sound card built-in, and comes with American Audio's exclusive "DSP D-Core" Audio Engine inside.

*We say:* Basically it's the VMS4 with the ropey sound card fixed. It still offers a lot of bang for your buck. One thing to get used to is the weird rubber attachments on the jogwheels for when you want to use them for nudging.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: American Audio VMS4.1 Controller](#)

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

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*This guide is brought to you in association with [UDG Gear](#), makers of bags, trolleys, stands and cases for all types of DJ and production gear.*

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## Behringer DDM4000

The Behringer DDM4000 has a massive stash of features, one of which unfortunately for a Midi mixer isn't an audio interface.

*Price:* [US\\$299](#) / [£318](#) / [€397](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: February 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4 phono, 4 line (switchable); Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 2 x XLR; Power: external; Size & weight:

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*They say:* The DDM4000 is a state-of-the-art 32-bit digital DJ mixer, jam-packed with creative tools, yet its intuitive layout will let you feel at home in an instant. Editing, storing and recalling your settings is simply a breeze.

*We say:* Highly equipped mixer and great value, missing just one thing – an audio interface. That means to use it with your DJ software you'll need a separate audio interface or media players with audio interfaces built in. (You'll need a Midi-to-USB cable too.)

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

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## Denon DJ MC2000

The Denon DJ MC2000 is well built and does the basics very well. It's one of our favourites.

*Price:* [US\\$349](#) / [£268](#) / [€332](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 x line aux; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 15.7 x 10 x 2.4" (400 x 255 x 62mm) weight 5.9lb (2.7kg)

---

*They say:* Takes the very best in Denon DJ professional quality and technologies, then integrates them into a product that's accessible to everyone, from the "plug and play" link up with Serato DJ Intro to the intuitive layout and controls on the deck.

*We say:* Well-built basic controller, performs excellently with bundled Serato DJ Intro. No VU meters is our only niggle, but you can solve that by paying to upgrade the software to Serato DJ, which has VU meters onscreen. Other than that it's excellent.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Denon MC2000 Serato DJ Intro Controller](#)

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

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## Denon DJ MC3000



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.

**Price:** [US\\$369](#) / [£329](#) / [€411](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE 2 / Virtual DJ 7 LE (PC/Mac); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 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. It has special appeal for the party DJ, the mobile DJ, and the bar/lounge DJ – people who play out a lot.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Denon DJ MC3000](#)

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

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## Denon DJ SC2900

The Denon DJ SC2900: Denon's first fixed-platter turntable, and the closest the company has come to Pioneer's space yet.

**Price:** [£799](#) / [€991](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: May 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac/iOS; Supplied DJ software: Denon Engine; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks



controllable: 1; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 4.9 x 14.4 x 12.8" (124 x 365 x 325mm), 12.8lb (5.8kg)

---

*They say:* Marks a revolution for professional, club and studio DJs by bringing Denon DJ's first ever static-platter controller and media player combining the ultimate in ground-breaking design and the highest in industry-standard quality.

*We say:* A more conventional fixed-platter take on the SC3900. Built to rival Pioneer, innovative Engine software plays nicely with iOS in interesting new ways as well as PC and Mac, networkable for added flexibility. Lacks Pioneer's advanced HID control of Traktor, but its Traktor mapping is nonetheless very good. Great value.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Denon DJ SC2900 Digital Controller & Media Player](#)

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

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## Denon DJ SC3900



With the SC3900, Denon DJ has married an old-school feel with state-of-the-art digital technology to deliver a deck for connoisseurs.

*Price:* [US\\$929](#) / [£799](#) / [€992](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac/iOS; Supplied DJ software: Denon Engine; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: yes, USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 4.9 x 14.4 x 12.8" (124 x 365 x 325mm), 12.8lb (5.8kg)

---

*They say:* Utilising a completely redesigned high-torque direct drive motor that exactly mirrors the feel of vinyl, the SC3900 brings home that familiar feel but with the choice of CD, USB, software, or even a networked media server as your source of tracks.

*We say:* These players are the most fun we've had with any digital DJ gear, ever. When in "hybrid" mode with a DVS system, they can offer you the best analogue feel with the latest digital convenience.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Denon DJ SC3900 Digital Turntable Controller](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of world & Europe\)](#)

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## Denon DN-HC1000S

It's rugged, and it means you can DJ with Serato Scratch Live without constantly using your laptop keyboard.

Price: [US\\$168](#) / [£149](#) / [€184](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – for Serato Scratch Live; Launched: December 2009; Intended platform/s: Mac/PC; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 9.8 x 1 x 3.4" (250 x 25 x 88mm), 2,2lb (1kg)

*They say:* Designed to interface and aid DVS systems (turntables / CD players) with today's most popular DJ software program, Scratch Live, the DN-HC1000S provides DJs a comfortable plug and play, reliable hardware controller for all major features and commands of the Scratch Live software system.

*We say:* Rugged build. Something like this is essential if you're using Serato Scratch Live and don't want to be using laptop shortcuts all the time. Not got controls for everything, though. Can be mapped to other software too.

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

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## Denon DN-HC4500 MkII

The Denon DN-HC4500 was a forward-thinking digital DJ controller designed for professional use, but it's long in the tooth now.

**Price:** [US\\$539](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: modular – dual deck; Launched: August 2007 (Mk I); Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: Yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: no; Power: external; Size & weight: 19 x 5.2 x 4" (482 x 132 x 101mm), 9lbs (4.1kg)

---

*They say:* Denon's first USB Midi/audio interface designed exclusively for computer performance club and mobile DJs worldwide. This feature packed professional PC/Mac compatible controller combines unmatched hardware performance with internal high quality audio processing.

*We say:* Old unit, designed to be a rack or table mounted Midi controller and audio interface for two software decks, and to be used with an external mixer. Good piece of kit in its time, can be mapped to any software, but looking very old fashioned – don't expect anything from those old-style tiny jogs. Interestingly, the LED displays can take track info from Traktor.

**Buy from:** [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## Denon DN-MC6000



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

**Price:** [US\\$749](#) / [£629](#) / [£785](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE (UK/Europe) / Virtual DJ 7 LE (US/Canada); CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4; Software decks controllable: 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.

*Our full review:* [Review: Denon DN-MC6000 4-Deck DJ Midi Controller](#)

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

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## Denon DN-S1200

The Denon DN-S1200 is a good value and capable little media player, that can output timecode saving DVS users from having to put their CDs into it.

*Price:* [US\\$499](#) / [£449](#) / [€553](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: media player; Launched: September 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 8.4 x 4 x 10.3" (213 x 102 x 261mm), 9lb (4.1kg)

---

*They say:* Can support external USB mass storage class devices. Also designed to interface and control a variety of popular audio/video DJ software applications that support USB Midi interface, either by user custom mapping or direct native support.

*We say:* Denon quality, plus an audio interface and Midi compatibility for DJ software, and "Hybrid" mode meaning if you want to use it in a DVS system, you don't need to use your timecode CDs. All of this means this is a versatile and good value media player for this end of the market.

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

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## Denon DN-S3700

The Denon DN-S3700 was the forerunner to today's SC3900, and the newer model is preferable over this one nowadays.

*Price:* [US\\$699](#) / [£574](#) / [€712](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: January 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Denon Music Manager library management; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 4.2 x 16" (320 x 106 x 406mm), 10.1lb (4.6kg)

---

*They say:* Offers the "best of both worlds" from both the digital and analogue realms: rock solid digital audio combined with the feel and response of a real 9" vinyl turntable, driven by Denon DJ's high torque direct drive motor.

*We say:* One of first CDJ decks to offer a "hybrid" mode, with both Midi and DVS timecode control for software like Serato Scratch Live. Been superseded by the more exciting SC3900, though, which corrects many of the niggles people had with this unit, and comes with better library software (Denon Engine).

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

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## Denon DN-X1600

Pro quality with a good mix of features for software DJs, the DN-X1600 is a winner.

**Price:** [US\\$979](#) / [£829](#) / [€1022](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac ; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 3 x phono/line, 1 x line/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR, 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 3.5 x 14" (320 x 90 x 357mm), 13.7lb (6.2kg)

---

*They say:* Born of the same development project that culminated in the flagship DN-X1700 mixer, the DN-X1600 offers premier quality design, build and performance, and shares many of the same features and performance specifications, as well as offering some new and improved features of its own.

*We say:* Top quality four-channel pro/semi-pro club mixer. Traktor Scratch certified, with a four-page Midi control area for mapping your software to. Probably the better choice for software DJs over the DN-X1700, which adds an extra hardware FX channel but has less extensive Midi controls available.

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

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## Denon DN-X1700

The Denon DN-X1700 is the company's flagship mixer, but due to its lack of Midi controls over the DN-X1600, we prefer its younger brother.



Price: [US\\$1699](#) / [£1399](#) / [€1725](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: July 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 4 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 14.1 x 3.5" (320 x 357 x 90mm), 16.7lb (7.6kg)

---

*They say:* It's the levels of sound quality and incorporation of forward-thinking performance features that make the DN-X1700 Professional Digital DJ Mixer the ultimate performance tool for top-flight professionals.

*We say:* Great build quality and sound quality, highly accomplished hardware effects, Traktor Scratch compatible, with a fantastic audio interface. However, Midi is limited compared to the DN-X1600, which taking into account the price differential means the DN-X1600 is probably the best bet for software DJs.

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

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## Denon DN-X600

The Denon DN-X600 has both audio and Midi functions, but is hampered against some of the competition by lack of Traktor Scratch certification.

Price: [US\\$699](#) / [£549](#) / [€676](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: August 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.4 x 9.8 x 3.5" (315 x 250 x 90mm), 8.8lb (4kg)

---

*They say:* A highly spec'd two-channel performance mixer, optimised for both traditional vinyl techniques and the latest digital media and computer DJ systems.

*We say:* Quality little scratch mixer, with on-board hardware FX and a host of other pro features. Midi mapping is limited due to size/number of controls, though. Would make a lovely scratch DVS mixer, although it's not Traktor Scratch-certified like the DN-X1600 and DN-X1700, and the Pioneer DJM-T1 is now much better value if Traktor is your choice.

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

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## DJ-Tech 4Mix



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

*Price:* [US\\$291](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: July 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: DJ-Tech 4Mix Controller](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech DJ For All



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

*Price:* [US\\$144](#) / [£83](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: June 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE; Audio interface: no (splitter provided); Software decks controllable: 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. Don't expect much from those headphones.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech Dragon 2

The DJ-Tech Dragon 2 is a neat little controller with some great features – it's DJ-Tech's best yet.

Price: [US\\$449](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: not available

---

*They say:* The Dragon 2 is DJ Tech Pro's newest digital DJ controller with integrated sound card and analogue mixer. It has high-quality controls and extremely resistant metal housing with aluminium brushed panels.

*We say:* A nicely built controller with analogue mixer, proper XLR master and booth outs, and a simple yet controllerist-friendly layout, designed for four deck control. Best yet from DJ-Tech.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech i-Mix



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

Price: [US\\$238](#) / [£123](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes 3DEX, Traktor 3 LE (PC/Mac); Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.1 x 10 x 2.6" (360 x 255 x 65mm), weight 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 \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech myScratch

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

*Price:* [US\\$215](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: March 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

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*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. Currently bundled with an audio interface and starter headphones.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech Poket DJ

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

*Price:* [US\\$113](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: June 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 10.2 x 4.3 x 1.3" (260 x 110 x 32mm), weight 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 \(US\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech Poket DJ Duo

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

*Price:* [US\\$132](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Deckadance LE (PC/Mac); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: nono; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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 serious with.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## DJ-Tech Reloaded



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

**Price:** [US\\$249](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: June 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 4 (6 with upgrade); Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: not known

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*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 \(US\)](#)

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## Midi Fighter 3D

As with all Midi Fighter controllers, this box of buttons is designed to be used in addition to other gear, to give extra control where needed.

**Price:** [US\\$249](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – button; Launched: February 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: configurable; Power: USB; Size & weight: 6 x 6 x 1.5" (152 x 152 x 38mm), 1lb (0.45kg)

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*They say:* The Midi Fighter 3D is the first instrument of its kind, revolutionising the way we control music and taking electronic music performance into a new dimension of musicality and expression.

*We say:* Designed to control button-friendly functions in Traktor, Ableton or Serato Scratch live (but configurable to any Midi software), unique twist is a gyroscope that lets you control an X/Y function too. This function would benefit from it not having a wire attached, and the jury's out on how many DFJs want to wave their controllers in the air, but kudos to DJ TechTools for trying something new.

*Buy from:* [DJ TechTools store](#)

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## Midi Fighter Classic

The Midi Fighter Classic is being discontinued, but has done its time and won plenty of fans up to now.

*Price:* [US\\$124](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – button; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: configurable; Power: USB; Size & weight: 6 x 6 x 1.5" (152 x 152 x 38mm), 1lb (0.45kg)

---

*They say:* The Midi Fighter Classic controller has become a legend around the world and is used by a wide range of DJs, both casual and professional to inject fun and performance into their sets.

*We say:* If you want a cool, customisable (you get to choose button colours), well made (they're arcade buttons) button controller to add to your DJ set-up, this is a good choice. Comes with excellent Traktor/Ableton mappings and has good support / ecosystem of users. Being discontinued.

*Our full review:* [Controllerism in the Palm of Your Hand](#)

*Buy from:* [DJ TechTools store](#)

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# Midi Fighter Pro

Adding a few extra controls to the ubiquitous 16 arcade buttons, the Midi Fighter Pro gives you a little more control than its stablemates.

**Price:** [US\\$299](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – universal; Launched: May 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: configurable; Power: USB ; Size & weight: 6 x 9.9 x 1.5" (153 x 252 x 39mm), 3.1lb (1.4kg)

---

*They say:* These hand built instruments are designed to take your controllerism skills to the next level and last a lifetime. Each design is built around a specific work flow with matching mappings for their software of choice.

*We say:* Despite having a couple of faders and knobs in addition to its buttons, it's too minimal to be used as a main controller, but it's a good add-on controller to take control of a chosen aspect of your software.

*Buy from:* [DJ TechTools store](#)

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*lleys, stands and cases for all types of DJ and production gear.*

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## Electrix Tweaker

The Electrix Tweaker is one of the most powerful modular control devices we've ever seen, and will work great alongside, for instance, a DVS system.

**Price:** [US\\$399](#) / [£329](#) / [US\\$408](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – universal ; Launched: September 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE 2; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB; Size : 11 x 10.5 x 1.8" (279 x 267 x 44.5mm), 2lb (0.9kg)

---

*They say:* The Electrix Tweaker is a performance controller for Ableton users, Traktor users, and music producers and performers of all genres.

*We say:* Our favourite modular add-on controller. Has a wider range of buttons, dials and pads than is usual for modular devices. Great alongside a DVS system or to unlock software samplers, for example. Comes with mappings and a mapping editor.

*Our full review:* [Electrix Tweaker Review & Video](#)

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

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## EKS Otus Dualdeck

The EKS Otus Dualdeck is the original Otus controller and despite being superseded, is still a bargain at its end-of-line price.

**Price:** [€199](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one/modular; Launched: March 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.3 x 14.3 x 2.8in (365 x 335 x 70mm), 4.4lb (2kg)

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*They say:* EKS Otus's stylish physical appearance, clever design and the solid touch and feel will make any professional DJ feel at home from the very first encounter. The sturdy aluminium frame is built to withstand the physical abuse of DJing and the hazards of travel.

*We say:* This and the following two controllers are record-deck sized (and can sit over a record deck if you wish). They can control everything for you, or work with another controller (same or different), and/or a mixer – it's as modular as you want it to be. A highly original idea, if not for everyone. Now bettered by the two models below.

*Buy from:* [EKS](#)

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## EKS Otus Plus

The direct replacement for the EKS Otus Dualdeck, the EKS Otus Plus improves on its predecessor in a number of areas, not least sound quality.

*Price:* [€499](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one/modular; Launched: September 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: no; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: 14.3 x 14.3 x 2.8in (365 x 335 x 70mm), 4.4lb (2kg)

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*They say:* Otus Plus is the new revision of our award-winning Otus Dualdeck DJ Controller with improvements in many areas. The stylish physical appearance and clever design combined with a solid build will make any professional DJ feel at home.

*We say:* Lighter and better built than its predecessor, it also has a better audio interface and optional mains control for better power, especially from weak USB laptop sockets. Same concept overall though.

*Buy from:* [EKS](#)

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## EKS Otus Raw

Adding pads and two physical pitch faders, the EKS Otus Raw brings another dimension to this controller range.

*Price:* [€539](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one/modular; Launched: March 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: -; Mic in: no; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: 14.3 x 14.3 x 2.8in (365 x 335 x 70mm), 4.4lb (2kg)

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*They say:* The integrated multichannel audio interface which enables the artist to play two virtual decks, sturdy pitch sliders, high resolution 7.5" scratch wheel and other fully configurable innovative controls make Otus RAW a robust tool for the dirty work.

*We say:* A different take on the Otus Plus, it has two pitch sliders so it's effectively two independent decks in one if you want it to be, plus it adds velocity-sensitive pads. As the above models, the two-decks-in-one paradigm works due to the colour-coded layers.

*Buy from:* [EKS](#)

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## Faderfox Micromodul DJ3

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

*Price:* [£287](#) / [€359](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: minimal all-in-one / modular – universal; Launched: June 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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 line faders, 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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Faderfox Micromodul DJ3](#)

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

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## Faderfox Micromodul DL3

If loops are your thing, the Faderfox DL3 should be right up your street as an additional controller.

*Price:* [£219](#) / [€271](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – FX/loops + more; Launched: June 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB ; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

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*They say:* DL3 is the perfect solution for FX and loop control in Traktor Pro. The device controls effects, loops, key, cues, transport, filters and browser.

*We say:* This excellent loop and effects controller also has transport controls and would work well as a small and lightweight controller alongside your DVS system, such as Traktor Scratch Pro or Serato Scratch Live. Supplied Traktor mapping is excellent.

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

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## Faderfox Micromodul DS3

The Faderfox DS3 is for you if you're interested in working those sample decks of Traktor, and all from a tiny add-on device that you can throw in your bag and forget.

*Price:* [£199](#) / [€248](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – samples + more; Launched: December 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB ; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

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*They say:* DS3 is the perfect solution if you like to work with samples, loops, hot cues and FX in Traktor Pro 2. The device has 12 extra large keys with a perfect tactile feeling to fire samples and for convenient access to eight hot cues and all the transport functions.

*We say:* As with all of these controllers, this one tries to do one thing really well (in this case, Traktor's Sample Decks and loop recorder – note, not Remix Decks), while still having a bash at most of the software's other functions. You'll be using this alongside another controller and/or a mixer/decks.

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

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# Faderfox Micromodul DX3

Got a mixer and/or decks but want to add a whole lot of control for very little size/weight? The DX3 could be what you're looking for.

*Price:* [£192](#) / [€238](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – decks/transport + more; Launched: June 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

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*They say:* DX3 is the perfect solution for set-ups with external mixer. The device controls effects, loops, pitch, key, cues, transport, filters and browser.

*We say:* This compact transport control device also has loop and effects features and would work well as a small and lightweight controller alongside your DVS system, such as Traktor Scratch Pro (or Serato Scratch Live). Supplied Traktor mapping is excellent.

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

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# Faderfox Micromodul FT3

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

Price: [£192](#) / [€238](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – four decks + more; Launched: June 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

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*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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Faderfox Micromodul FT3](#)

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

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## Faderfox Micromodul FX3

FX3 is the perfect solution if you need a special effects controller for Traktor Pro. The device controls the browser and four effect slots simultaneously.

Price: [£175](#) / [€218](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – effects + more; Launched: June 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 7 x 4.1 x 2.8" (180 x 105 x 70 mm), 0.8lb (0.35kg)

---

*They say:* FX3 is the perfect solution if you need a special effects controller for Traktor Pro. The device controls the browser and four effect slots simultaneously.

*We say:* Gives you total control over four effects slots at once in Traktor, while still managing to cram in a library browse, deck load buttons and more. You'll be using it with at least an external mixer, and probably DVS or other deck controls.

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

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## Gemini CDJ-650

With a smaller footprint and fewer features than its older brother the CDJ-700, this is nonetheless a great replacement for the CDJ-600 and remains good value.

*Price:* [US\\$399](#) / [£329](#) / [€408](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: –; Mic in: –; Power: external; Size & weight:

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*They say:* Keeping the contemporary DJ in mind, the CDJ-650 sports Midi and HID capabilities, giving you the power to use it as a software controller. The unit also boasts a 3.2-inch full-colour TFT screen with contrast adjustment and a comprehensive waveform display.

*We say:* Replaces old CDJ-600, and is a big improvement, coming in as basically a smaller version of the CDJ-700. It loses the touch-control screen, SD card support, onboard effects, and start/stop time adjusters, but apart from that and the smaller form factor it packs most of what the CDJ-700 does.

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

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## Gemini CDJ-700



The Gemini CDJ-700 is a good budget media player, that gives you a lot for your money.

Price: [US\\$439](#) / [£459](#) / [€570](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: both; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight:

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*They say:* The CDJ-700 provides a new dimension of tactile command by incorporating the industry's first touch-sensitive display screen. Now you can navigate between folders and tracks, adjust tempo and even set effect values using the same intuitive controls found on the world's most popular media players and smart phones.

*We say:* Good value media player that covers all bases and comes with good Virtual DJ/Traktor mappings (HID and Midi respectively). Effects are not up to much and the touchscreen is a bit of a gimmick, but you get a great deal for your money nonetheless.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Gemini CDJ-700 Media Player](#)

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

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*lleys, stands and cases for all types of DJ and production gear.*

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## Gemini CDMP-7000

You get an awful lot for your money with the Gemini CDMP-7000, and if you want the CDJ feel but to still use your DJ software, it is one of the cheapest ways of achieving it.

**Price:** [US\\$899](#) / [£829](#) / [€1034](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: July 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: both ; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line ; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR, 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 28.3 x 12.4 x 3.9" (720 x 315 x 100 mm), 17lbs (7.7kg)

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*They say:* Two slot-in CD drives provide compatibility with audio CDs, CD-Rs and MP3 CDs, while one-per-side USB inputs and SD card slots allow you to play tracks directly from USB storage devices and SD cards. And with Midi capabilities, the CDMP-7000 can even act as a software controller for music stored on your computer. Operate the parameters of your favourite DJ software right from the unit and route your audio through its 24-bit/192kHz sound card.

*We say:* Unfortunately only the decks are Midi enabled, but the built in audio interface means you can use your DJ software in external mode, mixing using the unit's analogue mixer. Also good if you use a DVS breakout box for gigs but want a CDJ system to practise on at home. The CDJ decks are versatile and reliable, the mixer is good, and overall you're getting a hell of a lot for your money here. HID Virtual DJ mapping and Midi Traktor mapping available from Gemini, but its tricky to successfully switch between CDs and Midi mid-set.

*Our full review:* [Gemini CDMP-7000 Review & Video](#)

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

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## Gemini CNTRL-2

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

*Price:* [US\\$149](#) / [£137](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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 limiting, and it feels cheaper than some other controllers that cost about the same.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Gemini CNTRL-7



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

Price: [US\\$204](#) / [US\\$214](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: yes; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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:* On paper there's a lot going for this little controller. The addition of standalone mixer functionality is smart, as are the range of other inputs and outputs. But fiddly controls and poor looping functionality let it down.

Our full review: [Review & Video: Gemini CNTRL-7](#)

Buy from: [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Gemini FirstMix

The Gemini FirstMix is a fun little DJ controller but it's too limited to take seriously.

Price: [US\\$69](#) / [£69](#) / [€86](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.2 x 1.8 x 5.2" (360 x 45 x 133mm), 1.6lb (0.7kg)

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*They say:* Whether you're an aspiring DJ interested in performing at parties and clubs, or just a music lover looking for a creative way to enjoy your own song library, FirstMix makes discovering a new realm of digital music easy and fun.

*We say:* Without an audio interface and with this level of simplicity this is really just a toy, and now that Gemini has launched the FirstMix I/O, we'd recommend that over this any time. It's OK for dabbling, but nothing more.

*Our full review:* [Gemini FirstMix DJ Controller Review: Is Small Beautiful?](#)

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

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## FirstMix I/O

The Gemini FirstMix I/O is one of the cheapest DJ controllers with a built-in sound card.

*Price:* [US\\$129](#) / [£109](#) / [€136](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.2 x 1.8 x 5.2" (360 x 45 x 133mm), 2lb (0.9kg)

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*They say:* Featuring a built-in sound card and rotary pitch control, the FirstMix I/O picks up where the FirstMix left off, taking functionality a few steps further.

*We say:* It's the FirstMix, with a sound card. While only intended for consumers to dabble with, it nonetheless has everything you need to learn the basics, and would be fine for parties at home, for instance. One of the cheapest controllers out there with a sound card built in, but if you get serious you'll outgrow it fast.

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

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## Gemini FirstMix Pro

The FirstMix Pro is a good basic controller, but it's in a competitive sector.

*Price:* [US\\$235](#) / [£218](#) / [€175](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight:

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*They say:* The FirstMix Pro rounds out the FirstMix family with the most professional, comprehensive feature-set. Now, budding DJs can use a smooth, accurate pitch fader for beat matching, along with other important tools like hot cues.

*We say:* Does the basics reasonably well for the price point, certainly better than the somewhat under-powered FirstMix and FirstMix I/O models. On its own it's an OK controller, trouble is it's pitched against the runaway successful MixTrack Pro in this price range, which does a little more (more controls, microphone socket) but for less outlay.

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

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## Hercules DJ 4Set

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

*Price:* [US\\$218](#) / [£185](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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), 4.4lb (2kg)

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*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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Hercules DJ 4Set](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Hercules DJ Console 4-Mx



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.

*Price:* [US\\$277](#) / [£284](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic-in: yes; Power: USB; Size & weight: 15 x 9.8 x 2.6" (381 x 249 x 63mm), 6.9lb (3.1kg)

---

*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:* A four-deck update of the dependable DJ Console RMX controller. Sensitive jog wheels look good, and four decks future-proofs it. Still somewhat clunky though.

*Our full review:* [Hercules DJ Console 4-Mx Review & Video](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#) / [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Hercules DJ Console Mk4

The Hercules DJ Console Mk4 has a lot of full-sized features in a tiny, lightweight design.

**Price:** [US\\$168](#) / [£172](#) / [€214](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB; Size & weight: 10.5 x 7.3 x 2.5" (266 x 185 x 63mm), 2.6lb (1.2kg)

---

*They say:* The all-in-one DJ station you can carry on your shoulder. Customize your console by placing the graphic skin (included) underneath the see-through plate on top of the controller.

*We say:* Idiosyncratic little controller with a certain appeal, following in a long line of such controllers by Hercules. Exceedingly small, lightweight, with a hard plastic cover and carry strap included. Limited effects control (indeed, limited control of everything beyond basic functionS), but nonetheless it has enough for basic DJing, including with external sources and using a mic. Much better value in US than elsewhere.

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

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## Hercules DJ Console RMX



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

**Price:** [US\\$203](#) / [£181](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Launched: January 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 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 it won't let you down. Good flexibility for the price. Sound quality only OK. Best to go for the new RMX2 unless you find a real bargain.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#) / [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Hercules DJ Console RMX2

The Hercules DJ Console RMX2 improves on the popular DJ Console RMX in a few vital areas, while adding some clear nods to current DJ controller trends.

*Price:* [US\\$299](#) / [£253](#) / [€344](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: DJUCED 40°, Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 13.7 x 9.8 x 2.3" (350 x 250 x 60mm), 5.5lb (2.5kg)

---

*They say:* High resolution two-deck DJ controller with outstanding audio quality and a metal frame. Designed for mobile DJs.

*We say:* Like the RMX that preceded it, this is built to last. It improves on the RMX with vastly better jogwheels and pitch faders, and it sounds nicer too. Effects / loops / cues are a bit fiddly though, despite being controlled by some rather nice velocity pads. Comes with own carrying case.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Hercules DJ Console RMX2 Controller](#)

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

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## Hercules DJ Control AIR

The Hercules DJ Control AIR has some gimmicky extras that while they won't appeal to everyone, at least they mark it out from the crowd.

*Price:* [US\\$162](#) / [£129](#) / [€160](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: December 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: DJUCED; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 17.5 x 11.6 x 10.6" (445 x 295 x 268mm), 1lb (0.44kg)

---

*They say:* Two-deck DJ controller with two jog wheels with pressure detection, velocity sensitive pads, and air control (one contactless control).

*We say:* At least they're trying something a little different. Velocity pads plus an infrared control for waving your hand in the air to modulate effects means this somewhat gimmicky, small and lightweight controller (plus its equally non-standard DJUCED software) will no doubt appeal to some of its intended bedroom DJ audience.

*Our full review:* [Review: Hercules DJ Control AIR DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Hercules DJ Control Instinct



Want to DJ for the tiniest outlay possible? you get full software and a sound card with this controller, making it good value as a strictly beginner device.

**Price:** [US\\$121](#) / [£84](#) / [€105](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: June 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: DJCUEd; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB; Size & weight: 10.4 x 7.4 x 2" (264 x 187 x 51mm), 2.6lb (1.2kg)

---

*They say:* Get started mixing in just minutes: the controller and the software fit perfectly together.

Instantly view the beats, track lengths, and which songs fit well for the next track to be played.

*We say:* You get a lot for a small outlay here, with full software and a sound card. It's small, plasticky and only really good for bedroom DJing, but nonetheless it has everything you need to get started and learn the skills and is one of the lowest priced "full" DJ controllers there is.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Hercules DJ Control Instinct](#)

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

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## Hercules DJ Control MP3 e2



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.

**Price:** [US\\$92](#) / [£88](#) / [€108](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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 two decks to mix two 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, and for that reason you'd be better off with the Instinct model, above, which provides you that at a similar price to this.

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

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## Ion Audio DJ2GO



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

*Price:* [US\\$47](#) / [£39](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 12 x 3.1 x 1.1" (305 x 80 x 28mm), 0.8lb (0.36kg)

---

*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.

*Our full review:* [Review: Ion Audio/Numark DJ2GO](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#) / [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Ion Audio Discover DJ



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

**Price:** [US\\$99](#) / [US\\$69](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: December 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross LE; Audio interface: No; Software decks controllable: 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 \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Ion Audio iDJ2Go



The Ion Audio iDJ2Go is a very basic controller, but it nevertheless does give you some hardware control over iOS DJ software.

**Price:** [US\\$76](#) / [£49](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: iOS; Supplied DJ software: none (designed for Algoriddim djay); Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: from iOS device; Size & weight: 13.5 x 5.1 x 2 (342 x 79 x 50mm); 13oz (360g)

---

*They say:* iDJ2Go is the easiest way to become a DJ with your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch. iDJ2Go is the only ultra-compact DJ controller that lets beginners perform like a pro wherever they go.

*We say:* The iDJ2Go would be perfect for those who want to get more serious than just running an app on their iOS device but perhaps aren't ready for a fully mapped USB controller, especially if you're on a budget. Great for a bit of holiday DJing – but watch that battery time.

*Our full review:* [Review: ION iDJ2Go USB Controller For iOS](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Keith McMillen QuNeo



It's a pleasing design, exactly the same size as an iPad and made out of pretty indestructible plastic.

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

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one/modular; Launched: July 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac/iOS; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: none; Software decks controllable: 2 (with Traktor & supplied mapping); Power: USB; Size & weight: 9.5 x 7.5 x 0.5" (242 x 189 x 13mm), 0.8lb (0.4kg)

---

*They say:* QuNeo is a different species of pad controller for electronic musicians, DJs, VJs and DIY hackers. While it covers all of the functionality of other pad controllers, QuNeo adds the power of touch recognition in other dimensions.

*We say:* Advanced controller for those who want to roll their sleeves up and create their own unique control surface. That said, it comes with a Traktor mapping that gets you DJing out of the box. The controls are a mixture of pressure, velocity and location sensitive – often all three! – with multi-coloured LED feedback.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: QuNeo 3D Multitouch Pad Controller](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#)

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## M-Audio Torq MixLab



The M-Audio Torq Mixlab is tired, old, and under-specified. Avoid.

Price: [US\\$79](#), [£47](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2006; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac ; Supplied DJ software: Torq LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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:* Completely obsolete, severe lack of controls, software dead in the water – not worth your money.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## M-Audio Torq Xponent



Once a serious, powerful integrated hardware/software DJ system, the lack of support has killed this one off.

Price: [US\\$199](#) / [£208](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: December 2006; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Torq 2.0; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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:* Was once ahead of its time and a good recommendation, sadly both software and hardware have been discontinued and it's now not a good buy.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## MixVibes U-Mix Control 2

The MixVibes U-Mix Control 2 is really well built for the money, but only has cut-down software and no sound card.

*Price:* [£79](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.7 x 7.6 x 1.7" (375 x 193 x 43mm), 3.6lb (1.6kg)

---

*They say:* MixVibes' U-Mix Control 2 is a professional DJ set-up consisting of our high-end Midi DJ controller and our CrossDJ LE software. This controller is perfect for DJs seeking a compact, professional DJing solution, which offers the best design and quality.

*We say:* Loses the full-strength software and built in audio interface of its older brother, but you still get the best build quality and performance at the price point (including 14-bit pitch faders).

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## MixVibes U-Mix Control Pro

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

Price: [US\\$275](#) / [£139](#) / [€173](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: May 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross DJ 1.6; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 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 sound card. This controller is perfect for DJs seeking a compact, professional DJing solution, which offer the best Design and Quality.

*We say:* The unit is now superseded by the U-Mix Control Pro 2, which has been updated to accommodate the new Mixvibes Cross DJ 2 software. It's good value as the software is "full strength", not LE.

*Our full review:* [U-Mix Control Pro & Cross 1.5 Review & Video](#)

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

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## MixVibes U-Mix Control Pro 2





The U-Mix Control Pro 2 gives you decent build quality and nearly full strength software – but you still need to upgrade to properly unlock the external inputs.

Price: [£189](#) / [€235](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: MixVibes Cross DJ; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 14.7 x 7.6 x 1.7" (375 x 193 x 43mm), 4lb (1.8kg)

---

*They say:* Perfectly matches the layout of our CrossDJ 2.0 software, supplied with the unit, and allows for better control of the FX units and samples. This controller is perfect for DJs seeking a compact, professional DJing solution, which offers the best design and quality.

*We say:* Good build quality, competent software, 14-bit pitch faders – a lot for your money, basically.

However, you'll need to upgrade the software a step further to proper use the external inputs for timecode or playing regular vinyl/CDs (ie bypass).

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

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## Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol F1



The Traktor Kontrol F1 introduces something completely new to the world of DJing, but it won't be something that appeals to everyone.

Price: [US\\$249](#) / [£195](#) / [€242](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – samples; Launched: March 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor Pro 2; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2 x Remix Decks; Power: USB; Size & weight: 11.5 x 4.7 x 2" (29.4 x 12 x 5.2cm), 1.6lb (0.7 kg)

---

*They say:* The definitive and only hardware for controlling Traktor's powerful Remix Decks, with 16 stylish, multi-coloured pads to fire loops and one-shot samples and the full version of the flagship software Traktor Pro 2.

*We say:* A whole new concept of DJing, controlling banks of samples which act like a single track for crossfading, tempo control, scratching etc. It's well executed and there's a learning curve, but if the idea inspires you, it's worth investigating further.



Our full review: [Review & Video: Traktor Pro 2.5 & Traktor Kontrol F1](#)  
Buy from: [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol S2



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

Price: [US\\$449](#) / [£389](#) / [€486](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor Pro 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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 people this will be their dream Traktor controller. The S4 is for some unnecessarily big, and the space saved by having just two mixer channels here could make all the difference to portability-conscious DJs.

Our full review: [Review & Video: Traktor Kontrol S2](#)

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

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## Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol S4



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

*Price:* [US\\$899](#) / [£699](#) / [€873](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor S4; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: yes; Software decks controllable: 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 software boasting numerous innovations like "Remix Decks" (although you'll need the Kontrol F1 to properly unlock them) and real-time sampling/scratching. Setting the Traktor standard. Bulky, though, and looking pricey nowadays.

*Our full review:* [Review: Traktor Kontrol S4](#)

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

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## Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol X1



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.

Price: [US\\$199](#) / [£188](#) / [€151](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular; Launched: November 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Sound card; no; Software decks controllable: 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:* Perfect alongside Traktor Scratch Pro and an old school mixer/turntables set up, but also used as a minimal Traktor controller in its own right by many.

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

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## Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol Z2



The Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol Z2 is the perfect mixer if you're using Traktor with external decks of any kind, and is well built to boot.

Price: [US\\$799](#) / [£629](#) / [€781](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: Oct 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor Scratch Pro 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2 + 2 sample decks; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 11 x 15 x 3" (279 x 381 x 76mm), 11.5lb (5.2kg)

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*They say:* Traktor Kontrol Z2 puts our most advanced DJ controller in the body of a professional 2+2 channel mixer. Two standalone channels, two full Remix Channels, Sturdy aluminium chassis with Innofaders, intuitive control of Macro FX, and Flux Mode.

*We say:* If you're using Traktor with external decks of any type, this is your perfect mixer. The new effects are useful, the multicoloured cue/sample buttons unique in a Traktor mixer (although it doesn't give you full control over the Remix Decks as Native's wording suggests; for that you'll still need the F1), and the quality is supremely high. Comes with control vinyl and CDs.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Traktor Kontrol Z2 Mixer](#)

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

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## Novation Dicers



Cute and functional, the little Dicers may be all the extra control you need for your DVS set-up.

Price: [US\\$91](#) / [£79](#) / [€97](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – samples/cue points/loops/FX; Launched: October 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: user mappable; Power: USB; Shipping size & weight: 6.5 x 2.4 x 9.5" (164 x 63 x 241mm), 0.9lb (0.4kg)

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*They say:* This palm-sized cue point and looping controller has been designed to fit exactly where you need it: on your turntables, CDJs, mixer or laptop. Dicer always ships in pairs – one for each side. Dicer works with almost any DJ software and it is optimised for use with Serato Scratch Live, Traktor Scratch Duo/Pro, Traktor Pro.

*We say:* Neat and funky little idea, designed to fit into the spindle adaptor hole on a Technics record deck for use with DVS software, or just to tuck anywhere you want otherwise. Well built and fun, despite the additional wires a pair adds to your set-up. Best for DVS use.

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

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## Novation Twitch

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

*Price:* [US\\$380](#) / [£299](#) / [€373](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: April 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 (line); Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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, original, high quality and fun to use.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Novation Twitch](#)

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

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## Numark 4Trak

The Numark 4trak is both a comprehensive Traktor controller, and a standalone mixer.

**Price:** [US\\$669](#) / [£699](#) / [€868](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line + 2 x line/mic; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 2 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 23.8 x 15 x 3.5" (605 x 381 x 89mm), 15.8lb (7.2kg)

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*They say:* Four decks of software control, a four-channel mixer and total command over all effects: Meet 4Trak, the ultimate controller for Traktor DJ software.

*We say:* It's substantial, supremely well built and offers a full "flight deck" of controls over Traktor (except the Remix Decks, you'll need a Kontrol F1 for that), plus a standalone mixer. Only thing that lets it down is limited VU metering making manual gain staging fiddly.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Numark 4Trak Traktor Controller & Mixer](#)

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

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## Numark iDJ Live



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

Price: [US\\$87](#) / [£79](#) / [€98](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: iOS (iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch); Supplied DJ software: djay; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Power: from iOS device; Size & weight: 19.1 x 8.5 x 1.7" (485 x 215 x 40mm), 2.6lb (1.2kg)

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*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 iOS with a controller that's simple and reasonably cheap.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Numark iDJ Live](#)

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

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## Numark iDJ Pro



The Numark iDJ Pro is a bold and exciting idea, bringing the iPad literally right into your DJ console.

Price: [US\\$379](#), [£309](#), [€381](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: April 2012; Intended platform/s: iOS (iPad); Supplied DJ software: none (designed for Algoriddim's djay software, sold separately) ; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: none; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 22.1 x 13.1 x 2" (561 x 333 x 51mm); 5lb 6oz (2.5kg)

---

*They say:* Deck out your iPad for some serious mixing. iDJ Pro from Numark is a professional DJ controller that expands your iPad's touch interface, seamlessly integrating with Algoriddim's djay for iPad app to form a completely new DJ experience.

*We say:* Bold, exciting concept that works well. The special version of the excellent Algoriddim djay software works seamlessly with the unit. It's consumer-grade construction, though – don't expect pro build quality at this price.

Our full review: [Review & Video: Numark iDJ Pro iPad DJ Controller](#)  
Buy from: [Amazon \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(US\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Numark Mixdeck

The Numark Mixdeck is a versatile unit, but the iPod dock is in our opinion a bit of an after-thought, and won't work with newer models.

Price: [US\\$559](#) / [£699](#) / [€868](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: both ; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 11.5 x 24.5 x 4" (292 x 622 x 102mm), 12.1lb (5.5kg)

---

*They say:* Mixdeck is a complete system for every DJ who blends different kinds of music sources. Whether your music is on CDs, MP3 CDs, USB flash drives, iPod, your computer, or even other analog players, you can mix and perform with it all using Mixdeck.

*We say:* Two channel (plus iPod) budget all-in-one unit. Two good CD/MP3/USB drive decks that also double as Midi controllers for your software. Like the Gemini CDMP-7000, the mixer isn't Midi, just analogue, but it still works well with software. iPod dock is a bit of an add-on and is incompatible with newer models; you can use it to record on or play a tune back through the unit, but nothing more. CDs have individual outs so you could use it as a DVS.

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

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## Numark Mixdeck Express





The Numark Mixdeck Express can play CDs, MP3s and control DJ software, but it has quite a few limitations when compared to the Mixdeck and especially the Mixdeck Quad.

**Price:** [US\\$399](#) / [£409](#) / [£607](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: July 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: yes; Phono/line inputs: 1 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: 2; Power: external; Size & weight: 14.4 x 27 x 8.1" (363 x 688 x 208 mm), 13.2lb (6kg)

---

*They say:* Mixdeck Express is a full-featured DJ controller that comes complete with Serato DJ Intro software, two CD decks, dual USB flash drives, and a fully integrated three-channel mixer.

*We say:* Cut down from the Mixdeck, you can't use it as a DVS as no CD outs and only one line/phono in. Mixer is analogue but CDJs are Midi in order to control supplied Serato DJ Intro software. Reasonable budget controller if you want to DJ with software and CD/USB sources. Consumer build quality.

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

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## Numark Mixdeck Quad



The Numark Mixdeck Quad is a true all-rounder, adding a Midi mixer, iOS compatibility, DVS capability and four channels to the mix.

**Price:** [US\\$673](#) / [£749](#) / [€931](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one ; Launched: July 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phone/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 29 x 17.3 x 6" (737 x 439 x 152mm); 19lb 7oz (9kg)

---

*They say:* Based upon the popular Mixdeck controller, the Mixdeck Quad kicks it up a notch by adding support for core Midi on the iPad, opening the world of apps like Algoriddim's djay to your DJ rig. In addition we added a fully functional four-channel digital / analogue Midi mixer.

*We say:* Best of the Mixdeck series, as it has a proper Midi mixer (four channel), can also be used as a DVS, full master/booth/record outs, and is iOS compatible out of the box so it can control iPad software like Algoriddim's djay. Still shares the same consumer build quality though.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Numark Mixdeck Quad](#)

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

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## Numark Mixtrack

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

*Price:* [US\\$113](#) / [£119](#) / [€148](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: June 2010; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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 two 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. Not bad for the price, but trumped by the Mixtrack Pro.

*Our full review:* [Review: Numark Mixtrack](#)

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

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## Numark Mixtrack Pro



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

*Price:* [US\\$179](#) / [£149](#) / [€186](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE, Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line input: no; Software decks controllable: 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:* Especially with Serato DJ Intro, this is a great first controller. Not perfect, but as close as you'll get for the price. Deserves its success. Getting on a bit now though.

*Our full review:* [Numark Mixtrack Pro Video Review](#)

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

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## Numark N4

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

**Price:** [US\\$394](#) / [£309](#) / [€386](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: September 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE & Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 4 (2 with Intro); Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 22.5 x 12 x 2.4" (571 x 304 x 61mm), 7lb (3.2kg)

---

*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. A step up from the company's successful Mixtrack Pro.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Numark N4 DJ Controller & Mixer](#)

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

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## Numark NS6



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

**Price:** [US\\$861](#), [£699](#), [€873](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 4; Software decks controllable: 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 four-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 (for Serato at least, and before the Pioneer DDJ-SX came along...) A joy to look at and touch, this is professional gear through and through. Only let down by less than adequate VU metering.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Numark NS6 DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Numark NS7FX



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

*Price:* [US\\$1167](#) / [£1199](#) / [€1498](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: ; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: ; SD card/USB drive inputs: ; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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. Try it, then put your hand on your heart and say you don't want one! Would like to see it work with the four-deck Serato software though.

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

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## Numark V7



The Numark V7 is a beautifully built software deck and a pleasure to play on thanks to its motorised platter.

Price: [US\\$489](#) / [£549](#) / [€683](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: digital deck; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 1; Booth/record out: - ; Mic in: - ; Power: external; Size & weight: 29.9 x 14.9 x 3.8" (759 x 378 x 96mm); Weight 34.6lb (15.7kg)

*They say:* V7 is based around the acclaimed adjustable torque, motorised-platter design from Numark's NS7 and delivers a host of professional features including real vinyl and a slipmat that analogue turntablists will love.

*We say:* Designed exclusively to control Serato software. Performs flawlessly, but it's a shame two of them can't control four decks in Serato between them.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(Europe\)](#)

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## Pioneer CDJ-350



DJResource.eu

The Pioneer CDJ-350 feels like a consumer device rather than a serious piece of DJ gear, which for the price means we're not big fans of it. Best saving for the '850.

Price: [US\\$528](#) / [£527](#) / [€655](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: July 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 8.6 x 4.2 x 11.3" (220 x 107 x 288mm) 5.1lb (2.3kg)

---

*They say:* Allows users to create DJ performances with various digital music files including MP3, AAC, WAV and AIFF files that are stored on different forms of media, including USB mass storage device class products or CD-R/RW discs. The media player also includes Pioneer's proprietary music management software, rekordbox™, making it possible to manage music files on a computer for quick song selection when played back on compatible Pioneer players.

*We say:* Pioneer's entry level media player, but still has Midi and HID (you can control DVS without the need for timecode CDs) and an audio interface onboard. Non-weighted jogwheel mean it doesn't feel like a club CDJ, but you can use rekordbox to prepare and practise your sets for later use in a club. Worth saving more for the CDJ-850.

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

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## Pioneer CDJ-850

The entry level of Pioneer's "pro" CDJs, the '850 has the build quality of the more expensive 900 and 2000 models, but fewer features.

Price: [US\\$775](#) / [£769](#) / [€956](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: July 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 14.4 x 12 x 4.2in (366 x 304 x 107mm); 7.3lb (3.3kg)

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*They say:* The CDJ-850 player adopts many of the technical advances made in the industry standard pro-series versions and invites all levels of DJs to create, perform and share mixes like a professional.

*We say:* Missing some key features of the CDJ-900 (no quantised looping, no digital out for instance) and has a smaller screen than that model, but is still a sophisticated player with Midi, HID and DVS software compatibility. It plays nicely with Traktor and is certainly worth saving up for over the CDJ-350.

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

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## Pioneer CDJ-900

The Pioneer CDJ-900 has most of the features of the more expensive CDJ-2000, and is a popular choice among pros.

Price: [US\\$1119](#) / [£1049](#) / [€1304](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: December 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 12 x 14.8 x 4.6" (305 x 376 x 117mm), 8.6lb (3.9kg)

---

*They say:* The CDJ-900's new multi-format digital turntables allow the DJs to access, search and control their content directly from the player itself. The CDJ-900 provides the same legendary quality standards and playability of the CDJ-800 with the added convenience of native playback of key DJ digital media files formats.

*We say:* Adds some key features missing from the CDJ-850, including slip mode, "auto beat loop", digital output, and a bigger screen. Of course, it retains the Midi/HID/DVS compatibility of the CDJ-850, and like the '850, it plays nicely with Traktor. Not exactly cheap though.

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

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## Pioneer CDJ-2000



The CDJ2000 has now been superseded by the streets-ahead CDJ2000nexus, which has masses of new features over this model.

*Price:* [US\\$1399](#) / [£1487](#) / [€1848](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: December 2009; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac ; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: both; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 15.9 x 12.6 x 4.2in (404 x 320 x 107mm), 10.1lb (4.6kg)

---

*They say:* The CDJ-2000 is the ultimate technologically advanced multi-format player in the world. No matter what your media preference is, the CDJ-2000 can handle them all with great performance, reliability, and confidence.

*We say:* Same form factor and layout as CDJ-900, but there are improvements: Full colour screen, more LEDs (transport buttons and jog), hot loops and cues saveable to SD card (the 900 doesn't even have an SD card slot), and separate start/brake speed controls. Mystifyingly it doesn't have the CDJ-900's useful Slip mode, and we'd go for the 900 for the considerable saving, or the new 2000nexus which is streets ahead.

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

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## Pioneer CDJ-2000nexus

The new flagship, which brings much of the power of software/controller DJing right into pro DJ booth hardware, and adds a whole host of WiFi features as well.

**Price:** [US\\$1995](#) / [£1499](#) / [€1863](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: November 2012; Intended platform/s: Pc/Mac/iOS/Android; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: both; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on software; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 15.9 x 12.6 x 4.2in (404 x 320 x 107mm), 10.1lb (4.6kg)

---

*They say:* Inheriting the DNA of the much-loved CDJ-2000, the CDJ-2000 nexus has evolved beyond DJs' wildest dreams. DJs can prepare amazing sets and playlists using the included rekordbox software or download the new rekordbox app to access the same features on their iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, Android smartphones or tablets.

*We say:* Insanely expensive but gets top marks for setting a new standard. Wifi for rekordbox, really good zoomable, beat and bar-gridded colour waveforms, apps for mobile devices to prepare tunes and "throw" them to the players on arrival at the club, quantise on playback for cues etc (just like Traktor), needle search, editable beatgrids on the fly... it's basically software controller functionality in a hardware player. Oh and Slip mode is back (hurray!).

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

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## Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-K

The Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-K gets a smart new livery and comes bundled with a light edition of Traktor instead of Virtual DJ LE.

Price: [US\\$489](#) / [£429](#) / [€533](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE, Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 x line (RCA, aux); Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB; Size & weight: 21.8 x 11 x 4.1" (555 x 280 x 103mm), 6.4lb (2.9kg)

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*They say:* More than just a colour update, the DDJ-ERGO-K places the emphasis on the DJ experience with a polished, professional appearance and user-friendly layout. The DDJ-ERGO-K has been ergonomically designed to work natively with the Traktor LE 2 software which comes bundled in the box.

*We say:* The original DDJ-ERGO-V was for Virtual DJ, so Pioneer is covering its bases here, although the new black livery will no doubt appear to some. Serato DJ Intro also in the box gives users a second software choice. A little pricey for a controller with LE software.

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

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## Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-V

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

Price: [US\\$487](#) / [£379](#) / [€473](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: Sept 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE, Serato DJ Intro ; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 (RCA, aux); Software

decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB; Size & weight: 21.8 x 11 x 4.1" (555 x 280 x 103mm), 6.4lb (2.9kg)

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*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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Pioneer DDJ-ERGO-V](#)

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

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## Pioneer DDJ-S1

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

*Price:* [US\\$815](#), [£899](#), [€1123](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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. But it is made with reams of plastic and is now utterly overshadowed by Pioneer's excellent DDJ-SX, which is better in nearly every way and costs very little more.

*Our full review:* [Review: Pioneer DDJ-S1 DJ Controller](#)

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

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# Pioneer DDJ-SX



The Pioneer DDJ-SX is probably the most 'complete' mainstream all-in-one DJ controller that exists today.

**Price:** [US\\$999](#) / [£809](#) / [€1005](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: November 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phone/line, 2 x line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: ; Size & weight: 26.1 x 14 x 2.8 (664 x 357 x 70mm), 12.8lb (5.8 kg)

---

*They say:* Four-channel controller for Serato DJ featuring performance pads and big jogs. The DDJ-SX comes with four individual input terminals that can be connected to external devices such as CD players or analogue turntables.

*We say:* Probably the most complete DJ controller out there. It's too big to be truly portable, but it's top quality, and apart from disappointing control over the SP-6 sample player, it really does offer complete control over the new Serato DJ software, as well as a true four-channel standalone mixer. Impressive.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Pioneer DDJ-SX Serato DJ Controller](#)

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

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# Pioneer DDJ-T1



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

**Price:** [US\\$841](#) / [£599](#) / [€748](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor 2 Pioneer Edition (PC/Mac); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 (line only); Software decks controllable: 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)

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*They say:* 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 modelled 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.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Pioneer DDJ-T1 4-Channel DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Pioneer DDJ-WeGO

The Pioneer DDJ-WeGO is unashamedly funky and consumerist, but has some smart ideas going on alongside all of that.

*Price:* [US\\$269](#) / [£249](#) / [€309](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB; Size & weight: 15 x 8.2 x 2.6" (381 x 208 x 66mm), 3.5lb (1.6kg)

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*They say:* The compact, easy-to-carry DDJ-WeGO DJ controller features customisation with various light colours to suit the user's style. As well as being able to choose from five body colours, the DDJ-WeGO also features a multi-coloured LED for light colour customisation on its jog dials.

*We say:* Bold, smart little controller with an unashamedly consumer focus and costing considerably less than the DDJ-Ergo range, albeit still more than equivalent controllers in some other ranges. Some nice design and software ideas mark it out from the crowd. Also works with (but is not supplied with)

Algoriddim's [djay](#) software.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video : Pioneer DDJ-WeGO DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Pioneer DJM-700

You can find the now-discontinued DJM700 in silver or black, and while it has a rather old fashioned Midi interface, it may be worth considering if you see a bargain somewhere.

*Price:* [US\\$915](#) / [£738](#) / [€914](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: September 2007; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 3 x line/phono, 1 x line/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 19 x 16.5 x 9.2in (483 x 419 x 234mm), 14.5lb (6.6kg)

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*They say:* Delivering breathtaking scope for creativity, consummate clarity and a world first in terms of its Effect Frequency Filter, the ingenious new DJM-700 is dramatically different.

*We say:* A stripped-down DJM-800. Discontinued now and the Midi capabilities are dated (it only has a traditional output-only Midi socket, no USB). However, you could still use it to control DJ software. It has no audio interface, though, so you'd need a separate interface or media players with built-in audio interfaces. Nice additional filter on the FX.

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

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## Pioneer DJM-800

Pretty much the club standard for a long time, this doesn't look a good deal nowadays against its replacement, the DJM-850.

**Price:** [US\\$1699](#) / [£1097](#) / [€1359](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: March 2006; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 3 x phono/line, 1x line/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 19 x 16.5 x 9.2in (483 x 419 x 234mm), 14.5lb (7.5kg)

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*They say:* A powerful four-channel 96kHz / 24 bit digital mixer that's complemented by 61 assignable Midi control channels. It features "Harmonic Mixing", a landmark innovation that detects a track's key and automatically aligns it to the closest true key, removing inaccuracies created when adjusting the pitch.  
*We say:* The club standard for years, but limited appeal to digital DJs as there's no USB for Midi hence you'd need a Midi-to-USB cable to use it with software, there's no audio interface onboard for DJ software to use, plus it's very expensive. Nonetheless it has great hardware "Color FX" (filters and more), digital ins and outs, a bigger display than the '700 although it lacks the DJM-700's FX filter knob. Discontinued now, though it's still a huge player out there.

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

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## Pioneer DJM-850



The Pioneer DJM-850 is very Traktor friendly but can be used with all DJ software, and is our favourite all-round software DJ's mixer from the company.

*Price:* [US\\$1449](#) / [£1299](#) / [€1608](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: February 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none (Traktor Scratch certified); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 3 x phono/line, 1 x line/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: main; Size & weight: 12.6 x 4.3 x 15" (320 x 108 x 381mm), 17lb (7.7kg)

---

*They say:* Inheriting many of the same technologies, reliability and operability of Pioneer's industry standard DJM-900nexus mixer, the DJM-850 also features a built-in high-performance USB sound card, various functions for laptop-connected DJ performances, and the industry's first Beat Color FX function, which changes effects by linking the audio input of each channel.

*We say:* Highly capable mixer for the digital DJ. No need for an audio interface for Traktor Scratch DJs – just plug in to the top-mounted USB and you're off. Can be used as an audio interface for all DJ software, too, and most controls are Midi mappable if you wish. Contains most of what a software DJ would want from the DJM-900nexus, but at a lower price.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Pioneer DJM-850 Traktor-Certified DJ Mixer](#)

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

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## Pioneer DJM-900nexus

The DJM-900nexus is a great club mixer, but for software DJs it doesn't add an awful lot more over the DJM-850 for your extra cash.

**Price:** [US\\$1669](#) / [£1599](#) / [€1979](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: February 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none (Traktor Scratch certified); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 3 x phono/line, 1 x line/line; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x TRS, 1 x TRS/XLR; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 4.3 x 15" (320 x 108 x 381mm), 15.8lb (7.2kg)

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*They say:* A high performance digital mixer designed for today's professional DJ performers. An ideal combination with Pioneer's latest CDJ line of players, the DJM-900nexus offers a multitude of new features that includes a variety of onboard effects, increased sound quality, and direct PC or Mac connection.

*We say:* Less scary and we guess more popular than the DJM-2000 (and now DJM-2000nexus), this mixer adds digital inputs and some better hardware effects to the spec of the DJM-850. For software DJs, we think it's probably not worth paying the extra for the '900nexus, but if you're thinking of going down Pioneer's rekordbox route, it definitely is – even though you'll pay royally for the privilege.

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

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## Pioneer DJM-2000nexus

It's big and scary, but the Pioneer DJM-2000nexus has just about everything you'd ever need in a mixer... except Traktor Scratch compatibility, that is.

**Price:** [£1,989](#) / [€2,299](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: November 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 2 x line/CD, 2 x phono/CD; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 12.6 x 16 x 4.2" (320 x 406 x 107mm), 10.3lb (4.7 kg)

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*They say:* The updated DJM-2000nexus performance DJ mixer for professional DJs/clubs allows new tracks to be arranged using a touch panel. The new model inherits the same layout and functions of the DJM-2000 and comes with the new "BEAT SLICE" function that allows tracks to be sliced and arranged in real-time.

*We say:* The main addition here over and above the CDJ-900nexus is the screen, which is used for beatslicing and to control a seven-band crossfader EQ, among other things. ProLink means syncing up to four CDJs and everything syncs nicely with laptops running rekordbox too. Obviously there is full Midi mode for software control, but it's not Traktor Scratch certified like the '850 and the '900nexus.

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

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## Pioneer DJM-T1

The Pioneer DJM-T1 is Pioneer's take on the Traktor Kontrol Z2, although it came out first and isn't quite so tightly integrated as the Native Instruments mixer is.

*Price:* [US\\$999](#) / [£569](#) / [€703](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: April 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor Scratch Duo 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 10.4 x 15.9 x 4.3in (264 x 403 x 109mm) 13.5lb (6.1kg)

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*They say:* Fully Traktor Scratch Duo 2 certified and is equipped with a high end USB audio interface, DJs simply need to use the included timecode CD or vinyl to operate the scratch functionality. Additional functions are available straight from the mixer such as library navigation, hot cues, sampling, loops and FX.

*We say:* A Midi-enabled two-channel hardware mixer with Traktor audio interface built in and buttons and knobs for control over many of Traktor's features. Somewhat eclipsed by the arrival of the Traktor Kontrol Z2, though.

*Buy from:* [Amazon /US](#)), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Pioneer RMX-1000

The Pioneer RMX-1000 is primarily a hardware FX/sample unit, although there are various ways it can be incorporated into software DJing.

*Price:* [US\\$744](#) / [£598](#) / [€740](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled hardware FX unit; Launched: March 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: RemixBox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: SD (for transferring settings); Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: – ; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 13.1 x 6.2 x 2.2" (332 x 157 x 56mm), 2.9lb (1.3kg)

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*They say:* An innovative technologically advanced device for enhancing DJ performances with its ability to create and add a variety of new and unique remix effects, as well as rhythmic sampling capabilities.

*We say:* VST capabilities and the ability to use it as a Midi controller notwithstanding, this is primarily a hardware DJ FX/sample device and so will have limited appeal for computer/software DJs, although in the Pioneer workflow it is great fun.

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

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## Pioneer XDJ-Aero

The Pioneer XDJ-Aero is an innovative wireless-based system that relies heavily on rekordbox software although you can use it with other DJ software too.

**Price:** [US\\$1043](#) / [£809](#) / [€999](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: August 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac/iOS/Android; Supplied DJ software: rekordbox; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: no ; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 24.5 x 11.4 x 2.5in (622 x 289 x 64mm), 8.2lb (3.7kg)

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*They say:* By downloading special mobile applications for smart phones and tablets (free of charge), and connecting the Wireless DJ System via Wi-Fi, DJ play can be enjoyed using music stored in each of these devices (max four devices). In addition, the included rekordbox music management software enables DJing with music stored inside a Windows PCs and Mac.

*We say:* Innovative, consumer-led take on the “wireless tablet / smartphone / laptop plus USB” functionality of the new CDJ-2000nexus players, in an all-in-one format. Pricy, somewhat gimmicky device, built in plastic, but undeniably fun. While it can be used with DJ software, this unit makes that optional.

*Our full review:* [Pioneer XDJ-Aero Review & Video](#)

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

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## Rane Sixty-One

Basic two-channel Serato Scratch Live mixer; high quality, but few bells and whistles.

*Price:* [US\\$1251](#) / [£1198](#) / [€1480](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato Scratch Live; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 4 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS/XLR Power: external; Size & weight: 13.3 x 10 x 4" (338 x 254 x 102mm), 8lb (3.7 kg)

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*They say:* The Sixty-One is a plug-and-play package supporting two-deck digital vinyl simulation, software effects and all the record and playback channels you need.

*We say:* Serato Scratch Live mixer, although Midi control over the software is limited to FX. You'd probably therefore want an extra Midi controller too for loops, sample deck control and so on. Comes with control vinyl and CDs. Expensive.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Rane Sixty-One Digital Mixer for Serato Scratch Live](#)

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

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## Rane Sixty-Two

The Rane Sixty-Two is a fully featured two-channel Serato Scratch live mixer.

*Price:* [US\\$1799](#) / [£1625](#) / [€2008](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: January 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato Scratch Live; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 4 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 14.2 x 10.5 x 4" (362 x 267 x 102 mm), 10lb (4.3kg)

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*They say:* A plug-and-play package supporting two computers, two-deck digital vinyl simulation, SP-6 sample player, software and hardware effects and all the record and playback channels you need.

Software controls for library, loops, cues and SP-6 are laid out for fast and intuitive access.

*We say:* Roughly Rane's equivalent to the Traktor Kontrol Z2, but for Serato Scratch Live – although this is higher specified than that mixer. The ultimate in two-channel Serato Scratch Live mixing – albeit at a price. Comes with control vinyl and CDs.

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

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## Rane Sixty-Eight

The Rane Sixty-Eight is a fully featured four-channel Serato Scratch live mixer.

*Price:* [US\\$2339](#) / [£1897](#) / [€2344](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato Scratch Live; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: – ; SD card/USB drive inputs: – ; Phono/line inputs: 4 x phono/line ; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 2 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 14.3 x 12 x 4" (364 x 305 x 102mm, 11.3lb (5.2 kg)

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*They say:* The Sixty-Eight easily connects up to four turntables or CD players, with four additional Aux inputs for samplers or instruments, and four more USB playback channels. Midi controllers can be added with their functions mapped to Scratch Live.

*We say:* A plethora of Midi buttons for control over Serato Scratch Live's functions, plus the ability to plug in two computers, masses of ins and outs (four aux ins; four line/phono ins; digital, master, booth and "session" outs) and other high-end features make this the flagship Serato Scratch Live mixer out there. Expensive, but the best. Comes with control vinyl and CDs.

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

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# Reloop Beatmix

If Virtual DJ is your software of choice, this is a good value intro, but don't expect pro performance at this price.

*Price:* [US\\$279](#) / [£164](#) / [€204](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: March 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: record; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB; Size & weight: 16.5 x 10.7 x 1.6" (420 x 274 x 41mm), 4.1lb (1.9kg)

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*They say:* Reloop Beatmix is the first controller developed especially for the popular worldwide software platform, Virtual DJ. Newbies and experienced DJs alike will soon familiarise themselves with this intuitive two-channel controller.

*We say:* Cheap, easy to use and fun, but despite the jogwheels being nice to touch, they aren't the best performers, and the overall construction is a little too plasticky for our tastes.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Reloop Beatmix Virtual DJ Controller](#)

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

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# Reloop Contour



The Reloop Contour can control four software decks – but beware the lack of a pitch fader!

*Price:* [US\\$249](#) / [£131](#) / [€162](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: modular – decks; Launched: October 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor 2 LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 6.3 x 2.5 x 14.8" (160 x 63.3 x 376mm), 4lb (1.8kg)

---

*They say:* Can be perfectly integrated in every DJ software surroundings. Configured and optimised for Traktor Pro 2, it is possible to control up to four decks, due to the intelligent deck switching system.

*We say:* Nicely built and quite large despite only being one “deck”, this four-channel, single-deck controller will suit some workflows very well, although a lack of a pitch fader will be off-putting to some.

*Our review:* [Review & Video: The Reloop Contour Interface Edition DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Reloop Jockey 3 ME

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

Price: [US\\$699](#) / [£447](#) / [US\\$559](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 4 (2 with supplied Traktor LE); Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: yes; Power: USB/external; Size & weight: 16.5 x 11.8 x 1.7" (420 x 300 x 45mm), 11lb (5kg)

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*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. You'll want to upgrade to pro software.

Our full review: [Review & Video: Reloop Jockey 3 ME](#)

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

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## Reloop Mixage CE LTD



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

Price: [£132](#) / [€166](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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. Smart alternative to the Numark Mixtrack.

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

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## Reloop Mixage IE



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

Price: [US\\$247](#), [£179](#), [€211](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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:* Well made little controller with four reassignable buttons that could easily be used as cues, plus four-deck support and an adjustable backlight. A smart alternative to the Numark Mixtrack Pro.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Reloop Mixage DJ controller](#)

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

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## Reloop Terminal Mix 2

The Reloop Terminal Mix 2: Close to the perfect Serato two-deck controller, but factor in the cost of the Serato DJ software upgrade.

*Price:* [£345](#) / [€428](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro, Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 x aux (phono/line); Software decks controllable: 2 (Serato DJ Intro) / 4 (Virtual DJ LE); Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS ; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: 17.3 x 13.2 x 2.4" (440 x 337 x 62mm), 9lb (4.1kg)

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*They say:* With the Terminal Mix 2 Reloop complements its Serato controller series with a dedicated two-deck variant. Reloop has developed brand new ultra-flat aluminium jog platters which with an impressive XXL diameter of 15.5cm.

*We say:* Well built Serato controller with excellent jogwheels. At the time of writing the ability to pay to upgrade the supplied software from Serato DJ Intro to Serato DJ is imminent, which would make it close to a perfect Serato two-deck controller, but not so cheap.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Reloop Terminal Mix 2 Serato DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Reloop Terminal Mix 4

The Reloop Terminal Mix 4 is a great software controller, although it's not a true standalone mixer and only has one external phono/line input.

*Price:* [US\\$509](#) / [£379](#) / [€469](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: February 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato DJ Intro, Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: 26.2 x 20.2 x 13.2" (625 x 515 x 337mm), 10.6lb (4.8kg)

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*They say:* Reloop is proud to present its first digital mixing controller designed especially for Serato: Terminal Mix 4. By introducing the Terminal Mix 4, Reloop has broken new ground once again with this fully integrated four-channel mixer offering a wealth of features.

*We say:* Well made and lovely to use, it nonetheless requires the upgrade to Serato DJ software to "unlock" all four decks and many advanced features, so budget that in to your thinking when pricing it up.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Reloop Terminal Mix 4 Serato Controller](#)

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

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## Smithson Martin KS-1974

The KS-1974 is a beautifully made unit, but it's basically a touchscreen with overlay software – it's up to you what use you put it to.

**Price:** [US\\$999](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one or modular; Launched: Dec 2011; Intended platform/s: PC; Supplied DJ software: Emulator (interface software to be used in conjunction with your choice of DJ package); Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: user definable; Power: external; Size & weight: 5.9 x 12.6 x 20.5" (150 x 320 x 520mm), 17.6lb (8kg)

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*They say:* KS-1974 is an ultra durable Midi controller and a state-of-the-art DJ, VJ, and studio production tool. KS-1974 is the perfect size for any DJ booth or studio desk.

*We say:* It's a beautifully made cabinet with a big colour multi-touch display behind glass, that using the supplied Emulator Modular software you can design a control surface for any software of your choice on, as an "overlay". Can be used for DJ, VJ, lighting, production. Specialist, though.

*Details from:* [Smithson Martin website](#)

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## Smithson Martin Emulator DVS

A massive head-turner, the Emulator DVS makes up for in spectacle what it loses in practicality.

**Price:** [Smithson Martin website](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: January 2011; Intended platform/s: PC; Supplied DJ software: Emulator (interface software to be used in conjunction with your choice of DJ package); Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: user definable; Power: external; Size & weight: 32", 42" & 46" screens

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*They say:* The first real and usable multi-touch Midi control system that allows the crowd to see exactly what the artist is doing on a huge transparent touch screen.

*We say:* Unlike anything else, this works in much the same way as the KS-1974 above, with Emulator software "sitting over" your copy of Traktor to give you your controls. It's certainly a spectacle, but it can be tricky to use and is obviously expensive.

*Details from:* [Smithson Martin website](#)

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## Stanton CMP.800

The Stanton CMP.800 is OK as a hybrid media player, but lacks an audio interface which is what would be needed to make it properly useful for digital DJs.

*Price:* [US\\$355](#) / [£347](#) / [€431](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: Midi-enabled media player; Launched: April 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; CD slot/s: yes; SD card/USB drive inputs: USB; Phono/line inputs: – ; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: – ; Mic in: – ; Power: external; Size & weight: 11.6 x 8.6 x 4" (296 x 218 x 103mm), 5.5lb (2.5kg)

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*They say:* The CMP.800 Cross-Media Player provides all the features needed for today's technology-minded DJ, providing a newly-designed high-resolution jogwheel with multi-style, illuminated position indicator, CD and mass-storage device playback, built-in sampler, hot-cues, loops beat-synchronised FX and full Midi control

*We say:* Good value little hybrid player, but not an ideal choice for digital DJs unless you're pairing it with a mixer that has a built in audio interface, as these units have none. They don't come with any DJ software mappings either.

Our full review: [Review: Stanton CMP.800 Multiformat DJ Players With Midi](#)  
Buy from: [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Stanton DJC.4

The Stanton DJC.4 is well built and has some nice touches, but just beware it'll cost you extra in software to use the external deck inputs.

Price: [US\\$329](#) / [£299](#) / [€370](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: April 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 65 x 410 x 297 mm (2.5 x 16.1 x 11.7"); 6.4lb (2.9kg)

---

*They say:* A DJ controller with audio interface bundled with an enhanced four-deck version of Virtual DJ LE. The DJC.4 allows users to scratch and mix four decks of audio, as well as control video. The integrated four-channel audio interface allows users to integrate analog turntables or CD decks into their performance.

*We say:* Well built, capabler little controller with some nice touches including fader FX. Bear in mind that you'll have to upgrade the software to "Pro" at extra cost to unlock the advertised video and external input options, something the manufacturer doesn't make clear.

Our full review: [Review & Video: Stanton DJC.4 Virtual DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Stanton SCS.1 System



Here showing one deck and the mixer, the SCS.1 System is a bold attempt to bring the best of analogue DJing to the digital world.

*Price:* decks (each): [US\\$499](#) / [£329](#) / [€408](#); mixer: [US\\$499](#) / [£383](#) / [€475](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: modular decks & mixer; Launched: August 2008; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 1 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 4; Booth/record out: yes; Mic in: 2 x TRS; Power:mains ; Size & weight: Decks: 3.3 x 14.5 x 16.8" (83 x 368 x 428mm), 13.9lbs (6.3kg); mixer: 3 x 10.8 x 16.8" (76 x 274 x 426mm), 6lbs (2.7 kg)

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*They say:* A premium feature set including built-in FireWire connections, a high-torque motorised platter with vinyl control disc, motorised faders, rotary encoders, massive flexibility, and integration into DJ software with advanced two-way feedback.

*We say:* Those motorised platters (and pitch faders!) are a blast, and it has some sophisticated technology inside. But it's big, heavy, tricky to set up, it needs FireWire, and Midi is devilishly hard to manipulate – plus it's old now. We'd say go for it if it appeals to you (it's pretty unique), but only if you know what you're doing.

*Our full review:* [Stanton SCS.1M Review & Video: The Ultimate In Digital DJing?](#)

*Buy from:* decks: [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#); mixer: [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Stanton SCS.3 System



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

**Price:** [US\\$199](#) / [£199](#) / [€149](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: modular – complete; Launched: February 2009; Supplied software: Virtual DJ LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 4; Power: USB; Size & weight: 14.2 x 8.5 x 1.4in (360 x 216 x 35mm), 3.5lb (1.6kg)

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

*We say:* Great idea and well made, but was tricky to use with the supplied Midi software at first. Now relaunched with Virtual DJ in the box (check before you buy) and still worth a look if the idea appeals to you.

*Our full review:* [Stanton SC System 3 Review](#)

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

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## Stanton SCS.4DJ

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

**Price:** [US\\$437](#) / [£398](#) / [€497](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in one; Launched: April 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac for library software, computer is built in; Supplied DJ software: Stanton library software; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: yes, USB;

Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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)

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

*We say:* Bold move. Stanton has squeezed a dedicated DJ computer, DJ software and a full two-channel controller into one box and at a barely-past-entry-level price point. Latest firmware updates have improved the operating experience immensely, but it's still fiddly to use compared to a laptop system.

*Our full review:* [Review: Stanton SCS.4DJ – Proper Digital DJing Without The Laptop](#)

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

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## Vestax PMC-05 ProIV

The scratch mixer, dragged kicking and screaming into the Midi-enabled, digital present. No on-board audio interface, though.

*Price:* [US\\$1075](#) / [£665](#) / [€822](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★★★★

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Controller type: Midi-enabled mixer; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: none; Audio interface: no; Phono/line inputs: 5 x phono, 2 x line; Software decks controllable: depends on mapping; Booth/record out: both; Mic in: 1 x XLR/TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 10.3 x 4.1 x 13" (263 x 105 x 330mm), 9.9lb (4.5kg)

---

*They say:* The world's first innovative DJ mixer, PMC-05Pro, has been re-innovated, once again, for optimal performance for all DJs – the pursuit of happiness for all DJs to mix and/or scratch to his or her heart's content. This mixer will make all DJs night a vibrant one rather than a raney one.

*We say:* A legend in its own lifetime, the PMC mixer is a scratch mixer of choice for many, and the ProIV updates the mixer with a Midi button/knob section, easy DVS routing and digital crossfader. No sound card on board though, so if you want to use this as part of a digital set-up look for media players with audio interfaces, or budget for a separate one. It really sings in a DVS set-up.

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

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## Vestax Spin



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

Price: [US\\$249](#) / [£185](#) / [€231](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: November 2009; Intended platform/s: Mac; Supplied DJ software: djay; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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 mic. Consumer-quality but a joy to use with good jogs and easy, dedicated software including great iTunes integration. The new Spin2 adds iOS integration into the mix, but this is still a good choice.

*Our full review:* [Vestax Spin DJ Controller Review](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#), [Juno \(Europe\)](#)

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## Vestax Spin2

Now iOS users can take part in the Spin/Algoriddim marriage, as the Spin2 is Apple approved.

Price: [US\\$399](#) / [£299](#) / [€379](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: All-in-one; Launched: October 2012; Intended platform/s: Mac/iOS; Supplied DJ software: none (made for Algoriddim's djay); Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: none; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: no; Power: USB/mains; Size & weight: 35.4 x 25.0 x 4.7 cm; Weight: 1.45 kg

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*They say:* An all-in-one DJ controller designed together with Algoriddim, the creators of the popular music mixing app djay for Mac, iPhone and iPad. Spin2 plug and plays with djay, bypassing complicated setups to immediately mix songs from your iTunes library.

*We say:* Tiny bit bigger than the Typhoon and Spin controller to which it is related, its big selling point is Apple-approved connection to iOS gear through the hardwired 30-pin (note, not new-style) iOS lead. You're paying a premium for this feature, however, because apart from that it's a basic-featured controller at a quite high price.

*Buy from:* Not yet available.

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## Vestax Typhoon



Its bold styling may not be to everyone's taste, but it's fun to use and control's Traktor's basic functions well enough.

Price: [US\\$284](#) / [US\\$194](#) / [US\\$242](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2010; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line: no; Software decks controllable: 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 passable if expensive basic Traktor controller.

*Our full review:* [Review: Vestax Typhoon DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Vestax VCI-100



The Vestax VCI-100 was the first controller people started taking seriously, and it was immensely popular. It is still in widespread use.

*Price:* [US\\$249](#) / [£399](#)

*This year's rating:* ★★☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: December 2006; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Audio interface: no; Software decks controllable: 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. There are so many of these still happily in use and you can still find them to buy, which is why such an old and discontinued controller remains in the guide. A classic.

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

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## Vestax VCI-100 MkII



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

Price: [US\\$524](#) / [£377](#) / [€471](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2010; Supplied software: Traktor LE; Decks: 4; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line in: no; 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 four-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, plus it's expensive.

*Our full review:* [Review: Vestax VCI-100 Mk II DJ Controller](#)

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

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## Vestax VCI-300 MkII



To look at, the VCI-300 MkII is identical to the VCI-300 that came before it - and it's basically the same controller.

Price: [US\\$479](#) / [£549](#) / [€685](#)

This year's rating: ★★☆☆☆

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: January 2008 (original version); Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH 2; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: no; Software decks controllable: 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)

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*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. Avoid the VCI-300 and go for this one instead. You may find it on offer with a free VFX-1 effects unit, but it's still expensive even with that.

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

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## Vestax VCI-380

The VCI-380 is the best compact Serato controller out there, and is built to last as well.

Price: [US\\$849](#) / [£599](#) / [€740](#)

This year's rating: ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: March 2012; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Serato ITCH; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2 x phono/line; Software decks controllable: 2; Booth/record out: booth; Mic in: 1 x XLR, 1 x TRS; Power: external; Size & weight: 16.8 x 12 x 2.4" (427 x 304 x 60mm), 7.7lb (3.5kg)

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*They say:* A two-channel DJ controller with a built-in digital DJ mixer, powerful and creative, opening the door to limitless possibilities of controllerism. Mix, scratch, cue, effect, sample, trigger, loop and slice.

*We say:* Lovely controllerist-friendly controller, which is beautifully built, portable and highly capable, especially when you consider that it's a standalone mixer too. Best small controller for Serato software.

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

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## Vestax VCI-400



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

**Price:** [US\\$798](#) / [£619](#) / [€773](#)

**This year's rating:** ★★★★★

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Controller type: all-in-one; Launched: October 2011; Intended platform/s: PC/Mac; Supplied DJ software: Virtual DJ LE, Serato DJ Intro; Audio interface: yes; CD slot/s: no; SD card/USB drive inputs: no; Phono/line inputs: 2; Software decks controllable: 4 ; Booth/record out: no; Mic in: yes; Power: external; Size & weight: 18 x 12.9 x 2.4" (457 x 328 x 61mm) 12lb (5.4kg)

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*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. It's also a standalone mixer, and it's all packed into a box slightly smaller than the Traktor Kontrol S4. Also available with modified firmware / Traktor mapping & livery from DJ TechTools. A winner, but you'll want to upgrade to Pro software.

*Our full review:* [Review & Video: Vestax VCI-400 DJ Controller](#)

*Buy from:* [Amazon \(US\)](#), [Juno \(UK\)](#) / [Juno \(rest of Europe & world\)](#)

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## Conclusion

More than ever before, it is possible to control digital DJ software with a truly wide range of hardware. When I started DJing with DJ software in 2004, the hardware was so poor that I gave up on it entirely, instead spending weeks learning how to map the software to my keyboard. I DJed professionally with that set-up for several years!

My advice if you're stuck is to choose your DJ software, then look at the controllers that are available. That way you'll considerably narrow down the field with your first step.

Nowadays, from the cheapest little consumer plastic box, to pro-grade all-in-one controllers, to specialist modular system, all the way up to the actual gear that's installed in clubs – all of it can control your DJ software. It's just a case of working out what you want the gear to do, where you're going to use it, and how much you can afford.

Finally, trust us: There is *no "best" digital DJ controller*. For someone, every single unit listed here is the "best". And remember, these are just *controllers* – they *control* something – in this case, your DJ software. My advice if you're stuck is to choose your DJ software, then look at the controllers that are available. That way you'll considerably narrow down the field with your first step.

- To help you choose and then use your new controller, join the thousands of readers who have bought our [How To Digital DJ Fast](#) video course for beginners. It's specially for DJs starting out with "all-in-one" controllers, whatever type and whatever DJ software you're using.

Good luck!

*Do you agree with our ratings? Are there any controllers we've left out you'd like to see included? Have you had good or bad experiences with any of these controllers? Please let us know in the comments.*

**Now go to:**

[How To Digital DJ Fast](#)

[The One Big Mistake Nearly Every New Digital DJ Makes](#)

[Are CDJs Better Than Midi Controllers?](#)

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