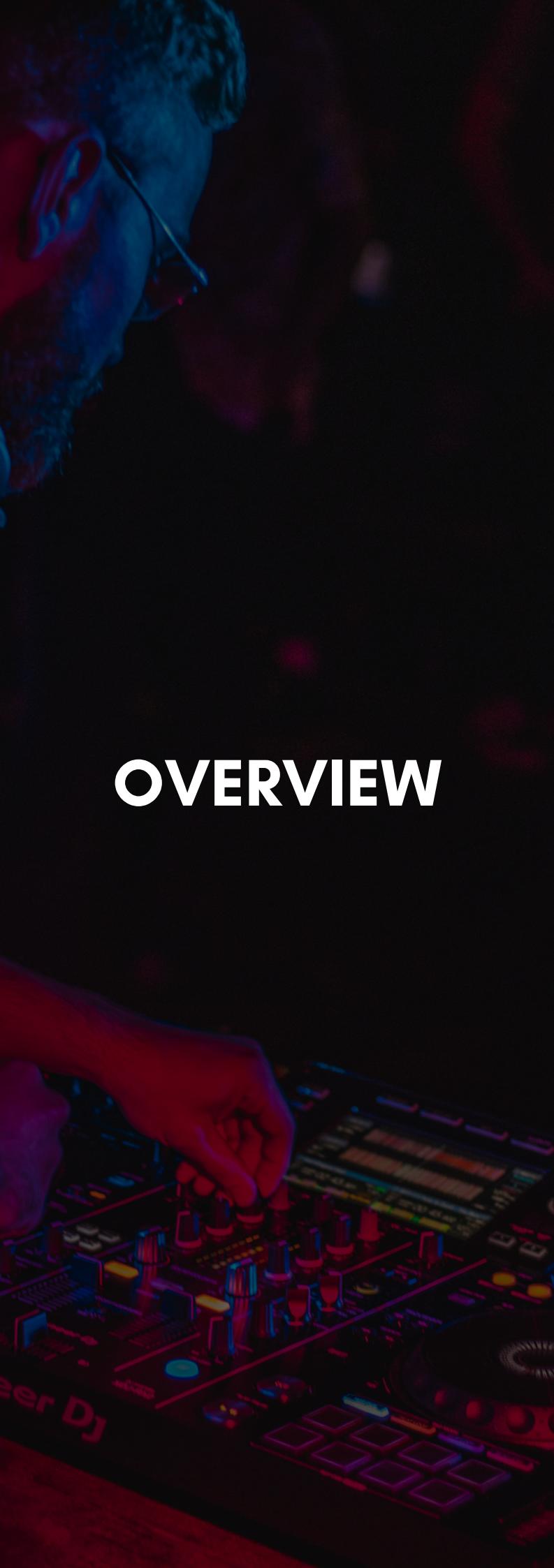




A large, semi-transparent white triangle is positioned diagonally across the center of the image, covering the middle portion of the blurred DJ equipment.

20 OF THE BEST DJ CONTROLLERS IN 2024

A NO-NONSENSE
BUYER'S GUIDE!



OVERVIEW

In this no-nonsense guide, we'll provide a simple overview of **the 20 best DJ controllers and all-in-one DJ systems in the market right now** - together with everything you need to make a buying decision.

To make life easier, we've broken them down into **4 different categories -- Beginner range, Mid-tier range, Top-tier range, and All-In-one DJ Systems.**

The idea of the guide isn't to give an *exhaustive* review of each controller, but instead to help you quickly identify the most appropriate DJ controllers/systems for your circumstances.



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Let's get started!

5 OF THE BEST DJ CONTROLLERS FOR BEGINNERS (PAGES 5-21)

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- Traktor Kontrol S2 Mk3
- Numark Mixstream Pro (series)
- Numark Mixtrack Platinum FX
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4 OF THE BEST 'MID-TIER' DJ CONTROLLERS (PAGES 22-34)

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- Denon DJ Prime 4+
- Pioneer DJ XDJ-XZ
- Denon DJ SC Live 4
- Pioneer DJ XDJ-RX3

HOW TO CHOOSE

As we've already put all the controllers (and DJ systems) into their appropriate market-grouping, we're already half way there.

So, once you have an idea of which DJ software you plan on using (for help with that check out [this post](#)), then we'd recommend you start by choosing the most appropriate buyer category.

From there, you'll want to consider the unique selling points of each controller in that category and assess what that means to you and your situation.

SO LET'S GET STARTED!

At the start of each category (as you scroll down), we'll briefly explain exactly **who** those controllers might be **best** suited to.

Here are the approximate price brackets associated with each category...

**5 of The Best DJ Controllers
For Beginners (pages 5-21)**

Price bracket:
\$200 - \$800 USD

**4 of The Best 'Mid-Tier' DJ
Controllers (pages 22-34)**

Price bracket:
\$500 - \$1,100 USD

**7 of The Best 'Top-Tier' DJ
Controllers (pages 35-54)**

Price bracket:
\$900 - \$2,000 USD

**4 of The Best 'All-in-one'
DJ Systems (from page 55)**

Price bracket:
\$1,100 - \$3,200 USD



SECTION 1 - BEGINNER RANGE

2023



WHO ARE THESE CONTROLLERS FOR?

The 5 DJ controllers in this section will be most appropriate if you *roughly* fall into one of these 4 categories:

1. You're an aspiring/beginner DJ that's just starting out.
2. You're a 'just for fun' or party DJ on a tight budget.
3. You're a 'just for fun' or party DJ that wants something basic and portable.
4. You're a working DJ (of some kind) that's looking for a budget back-up controller to add to their existing home or studio setup.

1: PIONEER DJ DDJ-FLX4



DESCRIPTION

The **DDJ-FLX4** is the flagship beginner/entry-level DJ controller from **Pioneer DJ**. It comes with their proprietary music management and DJ software, rekordbox, and also works with Serato DJ.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by a USB connection to your laptop, it has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in headphones, microphones and speakers. In other words, it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-deck, 2-channel DJ controller
- Works with Pioneer's rekordbox DJ software and Serato DJ Lite out-of-the-box (subscription needed to activate Serato DJ Pro)
- Integration with streaming services: TIDAL, Beatport Streaming, Beatsource Streaming, and SoundCloud Go+.
- Layout designed to emulate Pioneer's CDJ media players and DJM mixer club set up
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs on each channel
- Beat FX and sound color FX
- 8 back-lit rubber performance pads on each channel for Hot Cues, Pad FX, Beat Jump and Sampler
- 'Smart Fader' – adjusts the volume, bass, and BPM as you transition (think of it like a 'do it for me' transition)
- 'Smart CFX' – executes a combination of FX with a single knob (beginner friendly)
- Connected via USB-C for a more secure connection compared to the standard USB-B
- USB audio output for recording mixes as well as microphone audio
- 1 x 4-inch microphone input
- 1 x 4-inch headphone jack
- Size: Width 482mm x Depth 272.8mm x Height 59.2mm
- Weight: 2.1kg

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

Released in November 2022, the DDJ-FLX4 effectively replaced the popular DDJ-400 as Pioneer's flagship controller for beginner DJs.

As well as being a more versatile unit than the DDJ-400 – in part because it also works with Serato DJ – Pioneer has introduced beginner friendly features on the FLX4, such as the "Smart Fader" (think of it like a 'do it for me' transition), and also "Smart CFX", which executes a combination of FX with a single knob.

Other than that, in terms of build-quality and layout – so Jog wheels, faders, knobs, buttons, and performance pads, etc. – the FLX4 is very similar to its older counterpart. And as with most beginner DJ controllers these days, it's also works with DJ-relevant streaming services including TIDAL, Beatport Streaming, Beatsource, and SoundCloud Go+.

In conclusion... there's no doubt the FLX4 has everything you could possibly ask for in an entry-level controller.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay aprox. \$300 US.

BEST SUITED TO:

Aspiring club DJs looking to get started with Pioneer/rekordbox, hobbyists who are looking for a versatile beginner unit with streaming and multiple software options – and just anyone looking for a budget controller for house parties, etc.



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2: TRAKTOR KONTROL S2 MK3



DESCRIPTION

Part of the broader *Native Instruments* brand, the **Kontrol S2 Mk3** is *Traktor's* flagship entry-level controller for beginner DJs.

Released in 2018, the S2 MK3 comes bundled with their proprietary **Traktor Pro** DJ software, and is part of their latest series of controllers which also includes the *Kontrol S3* (a level up from this one) and the *Kontrol S4 MK3* in the top-tier price bracket.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by USB-connection to computer, the S2 has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in headphones, microphones and speakers. It's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer.
- Compatible with Traktor Pro DJ software (software can be used offline once installed).
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs on each channel.
- Large silicone-damped, touch-sensitive jog wheels with rubber-coated outer rim (scratch friendly).
- Simplified FX selectors; includes mixer FX control with eight club-grade effects and three filters.
- 8 multi-function performance pads for each channel for auto-looping, cue points and sampling.
- Hyper-accurate pitch fader for better beat matching.
- IOS input/power supply to run the Traktor DJ app.
- 1 x 4-inch microphone input.
- 1 x 4-inch / 8-inch headphone jack.
- Size: Width 486mm x Depth 265mm x Height 59mm.
- Weight: 2.4kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The S2 MK3 has a nice build quality and user-friendly feel to it, and it's the obvious entry-point for an aspiring DJ/producer that's interested in using Traktor Pro.

Whilst it has to be mentioned that Traktor Pro isn't seen as the market leader it once was, Traktor controllers are still a popular choice amongst DJ/producers of electronic music (a lot of techno DJs use it) due to their performance/live-remixing capabilities when integrated with the software.

As with the Pioneer DDJ-400, this unit is excellent value for money, and you definitely won't need to upgrade the software later (there's only one 'Traktor Pro' license). As with all the controllers in this price bracket, its size & portability make it perfect for outdoor gatherings and house parties as well.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$320 USD / £250 / €280 / \$450 AUD

BEST SUITED TO:

Beginner DJs looking to get started with Traktor; and anyone looking for a budget DJ controller for house parties, etc.



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3: NUMARK MIXSTREAM PRO / PRO+ / PRO GO



DESCRIPTION

Aimed at beginner DJs, the **Mixstream Pro** is a **standalone DJ system from Numark**. It comes with Denon's proprietary operating system Engine DJ built into the unit itself and also works with Serato DJ and Virtual DJ using a connected laptop.

Note that Numark and Denon are owned by the same parent company 'inMusic'.

Originally released in October 2021, the Mixstream Pro is the only standalone system on this list, which means it doesn't require a laptop to operate it. It also has built-in speakers and WiFi connectivity; two more completely unique features in this category.

The latest 'Pro Go' version of the unit released in May 2023 has a rechargeable battery for DJing on the 'go'. More details lower down.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer.
- Engine DJ embedded operating system for laptop-free DJing.
- Built-in WiFi for access to streaming services: TIDAL, Beatport LINK, Beatsource LINK, and SoundCloud Go+ (subscriptions required. Note that the Pro + version of the unit also works with Amazon Music)
- Option to stream your music library straight from Dropbox.
- 7-inch multi-touch high-definition touchscreen (you can swipe, plus zoom in and out with your fingers).
- Built-in speakers with volume control for home use/practicing; could also be used as monitor speakers at house parties or a small venue.
- 3-band EQ as standard, with gain controls on each channel and a large filter knob on each deck.
- 6-inch capacitive-touch jog wheels with Smart Scratch feature for on-beat scratching.
- 2 x USB / 1 x SD Card input in the back for loading music files/MP3s.
- Engine Lighting embedded lighting control for Philips Hue smart home and DMX lighting.
- Dedicated FX section with 4 x effects and 2 x spring-loaded toggle switches (1 for each deck).
- 4 x dual-layer performance pads on each deck (Cue, Saved Loop, Auto Loop, Roll) (dual-layer means that 4 can become 8 if required).
- Pitch Bend buttons and dedicated Pitch Slider with 6 different selectable pitch ranges.
- Balanced XLR / RCA Main outputs; meaning you can connect to professional sound systems.
- Size: Width 566mm x Depth 284mm x Height 74mm.
- Weight: 3.68kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

Not only do you not need a laptop to operate the Mixstream Pro, it also has WiFi connectivity and built-in speakers. So technically, all you need to get going are a set of headphones and an applicable streaming subscription!

It's the fact that it has Engine DJ's operating system built-in, together with that large, high-definition touchscreen (with all the same functionality found on Denon's Prime gear), why it's significantly more expensive than most in the category.

As the only standalone DJ system on this list, the Mixstream Pro is, in many ways, in a league of its own. As a present for a brand-new DJ with no laptop or digital music collection, it's certainly the best out-of-the-box option. And whilst you may wish to use digital music files (MP3s, etc) and get some better speakers, if you're only using this unit in your bedroom you don't necessarily need to.

To understand the different editions & pricing etc., it's best to [visit this post on our website](#).



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Between \$640 and \$840 US depending on which edition you get.

BEST SUITED TO:

Beginner DJs that want to use streaming services and like the idea of DJing without a laptop. It would also make a good gift for someone without an MP3 collection and/or speakers.



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4: NUMARK MIXTRACK PLATINUM FX



DESCRIPTION

The **Mixtrack Platinum FX** is **Numark**'s flagship entry-level DJ controller for beginner DJs (note: it's not a standalone DJ system like Numark's Mixstream Pro).

It comes bundled with **Serato DJ Lite**, which is standard for Serato controllers in this price bracket. It was released in May 2020.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by USB-connection to computer, the Mixtrack Platinum FX has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in headphones, microphones and speakers. In other words it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer, with 4-deck mixing capability.
- Comes with Serato DJ Lite (Serato DJ Pro upgrade available/optional)
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs for each channel.
- Large 6-inch jog touch-capacitive jog wheels.
- Hi-res color LCD multi-function displays on each jog wheel; details essential track data such as BPM, Pitch, and time remaining.
- 6 x onboard Serato FX in the center of the controller with convenient on/off toggle (as found on some scratch/battle mixers)
- 8 multi-function backlit performance pads on each deck for auto-looping, cue points and sampling.
- Dedicated loop controls; positioned at the bottom-right of each deck
- Long, sensitive 100mm pitch faders for accurate beat matching.
- 1 x 4-inch microphone input.
- 1 x 4-inch / 8-inch headphone jack.
- Size: Width 536mm x Depth 246mm x Height 51mm.
- Weight: 2.3kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

It has to be said, the build quality of the Mixtrack Platinum FX is excellent – the buttons, performance pads, and jog wheels all feel great.

Also, it's the only DJ controller in this category that offers high-res, 'on jog' displays – minimizing the time you'd usually spend staring at your laptop.

Like the other controllers on this beginner list, it has all the necessary functionality (and more) required for a beginner DJ that's just getting started. And whilst there's no doubt it's fantastic value for money, just don't forget to factor in the software upgrade to Serato DJ Pro later on.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay between \$250-\$350 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

A beginner DJ looking to get started with Serato in the most cost-effective way; one that's not necessarily decided on a particular direction yet.



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5: HERCULES DJCONTROL INPULSE T7



DESCRIPTION

Released in June 2023, the **DJControl Inpulse T7** is a **Serato-compatible** DJ controller from **Hercules**.

Whilst the price is top-end in this bracket, it's easily the cheapest controller on the market to offer motorized 'vinyl-like' platters.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by USB-connection to computer, the Inpulse T7 has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in headphones, microphones and speakers. It's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2 channel controller; comes with Serato DJ Lite and DJUCED (upgrade required for Serato DJ Pro).
- 3 band EQ, gain + filter knobs on each channel
- Effects rack: 2 x 3 FX Select buttons
- 2 x paddle FX controls, Beat -/+ buttons
- 33½ RPM motorized metal platters (can switch to 45 RPM in Serato DJ Pro)
- Felt slipmats and vinyl records are held in place by the central axis
- Platter with touch detection, 3.9-inch / 10-cm tempo fader, Play/Pause, Cue, Shift, Sync
- 8 x performance pads on each channel (8 modes; includes Hot Cue, Loop, Stems +)
- Browser knob, Assistant, Range, Loop, Loop In/Out, Instrumental/Vocal, Pitch Bend << / >>
- Stems controls: The Inpulse T7 is fully compatible with Serato DJ, including native one-button Stems control to easily create personalized mixes on the fly.
- Features the same popular retractable feet as the Inpulse 500.
- 2 x Master outputs (speakers): 2 x XLR + 2 x RCA
- 2 x headphones outputs: ¼" / 6.35 mm stereo jack + 1/8" / 3.5 mm stereo mini-jack
- Microphone input: ¼" / 6.35 mm jack (balanced)
- Audio resolution: 44.1 kHz / 24-bit
- Weight: 11 lb / 5 kg, has handles on both sides

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

Once again, the DJControl Inpulse T7 is easily the cheapest DJ controller on the market to offer motorized platters. And whilst they're not as premium as on the Pioneer DDJ-REV7 or Rane One in the top-tier price bracket, it's still nice to see something like this accessible to beginners!

The unit comes with Serato DJ Lite in the box (paid upgrade required for Serato DJ Pro), and also Hercules's 'DJUCED' software, giving beginners a choice.

The Inpulse T7 is extremely light-weight, featuring 3-band EQ, filter knobs on each channel, 2 x 'battle-style' FX paddles in the middle, on-board Stems controls (for use with Serato), 8 x performance pads per deck, and retractable feet as seen on their Inpulse 500. For best places to buy, click the orange button below.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Upon release: \$699 US | €699 | £599

BEST SUITED TO:

1} DJs on a budget who want the authentic feel of mixing vinyl, 2} Beginners looking for 'something a bit different', and 3} Aspiring scratch/battle DJs.



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6?? HERCULES DJCONTROL IMPULSE 500



Not quite making the top 5 in the beginner range - although it definitely deserves a mention - is the **Hercules DJControl Inpulse 500!** It's the most advanced controller Hercules have released to-date -- a follow on from the *DJControl Inpulse 200* and the *DJControl Inpulse 300*.

Priced at around 300 USD, it has an excellent build quality and is very feature-rich for the price. It comes with **Serato DJ Lite** and also includes the full version of their own software, '**DEJUCED**'. You can find out more on their [website](#).

SECTION 2: MID-TIER RANGE

2023



WHO ARE THESE CONTROLLERS FOR?

The 4 DJ controllers in this section will be most appropriate if you roughly fall into one of these 3 categories:

1. You're a passionate bedroom or party DJ looking for some professional-looking kit.
2. You're a working/gigging DJ that's looking for a 'budget back-up' controller to add to their existing home or studio setup.
3. You're a mobile DJ looking for a portable (yet professional) controller for their gigs that won't break the bank.

1: PIONEER DJ DDJ-REV5



DESCRIPTION

Released in August 2023, the **DDJ-REV5** is a middle-market (or mid-tier) 'scratch-style' DJ controller from **Pioneer DJ**. It has two channels and works 'plug-and-play' with Serato DJ Pro and rekordbox.

BEST SUITED TO

Aspiring scratch DJs, and open-format DJs looking for a versatile unit that won't break the bank.



KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel, 4-deck DJ controller; works plug-and-play with Serato DJ Pro and rekordbox
- Scratch-style design includes horizontal tempo faders above the decks, with performance pads and lever FX by the mixer
- 3-band EQ, stem level adjustment, multimode filter, 3 FX slots, and Paddle FX control
- Large CDJ-like jog wheels with adjustable resistance
- Adjustable Magvel crossfader designed to withstand intense scratching
- Onboard stem separation with dedicated volume and mute functions (stems can also be assigned to be controlled by the main EQs knobs)
- 'Auto-BPM Transition' to seamlessly mix different genres, in conjunction with Stems, Auto Loop, and Key Lock
- 'Piano Play' mode: use performance pads as piano keys
- Deck Move makes for quick, one-button toggling between decks
- Professional connectivity: XLR and RCA master outputs, balanced 1/4-inch booth output, RCA auxiliary input, 2 x dedicated mic inputs, 2 x USB-C outs (for easy laptop changeovers)
- Size: Width 736mm x Depth 377.2mm x Height 73.4mm
- Weight: 6.2kg



KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The DDJ-REV5 is the newest addition to their 'REV' series of controllers, filling the gap between the DDJ-REV1 for beginners and the DDJ-REV7 in the upper price bracket.

With large jog wheels and a 'scratch-style' layout, standout features include the 8 x multi-colour rubber performance pads (located on the mixer, battle-style), a Magvel crossfader for accurate scratching, onboard Stems controls with dedicated volume and mute function, and long tempo sliders positioned horizontally above each deck.

The controller also introduces new innovative features like 'auto-BPM transition' to seamlessly mix different genres and 'Piano Play' mode for using performance pads as piano keys.

For more resources, click the orange button below.

APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$1,100 USD | £1,000 GBP | €1,200 Euro | \$2,500 AUD

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2: ROLAND DJ-505



DESCRIPTION

Released in 2017, the **DJ-505** is the mid-tier offering from Roland. It's targeted at DJ/producers and comes bundled with **Serato DJ Pro**.

Other controllers in this series include their entry-level *DJ-202* and the flagship *DJ-808* in the higher price bracket.

POWER SUPPLY

External power supply, AC adapter, comes with all necessary connectors and cables - ready to go out of the box for PC or Mac.



KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer, 4-deck capability with Serato DJ Pro.
- Comes with a Serato Tool Kit license (includes Serato Flip, Pitch 'N Time plugin plus Serato DJ FX packs).
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs on each channel.
- Large low-latency jog wheels optimized for scratching.
- 8 multi-function performance pads for each channel with Hot Cue, Roll, Slicer, TR, Pattern and Sampler modes.
- Comes with built-in drum machine, includes samples from Roland's classic TR-606, TR707, TR-808 and TR-909 drum machines models as popularized in the 80s with acid house.
- TR kits contain eight sounds—Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Closed Hat, Open Hat, Tom, Rim, Clap, and Ride—that can be played on the performance pads and triggered from the sequencer.
- Classic 16-step sequencer that can trigger either TR drum sounds or the Serato Sampler; new features include nudge (TR-S), step-roll, and instrument/sample mute.
- External output to connect turntables or CDJs - plus all professional inputs & outputs that you wouldn't get from a lower price bracket.
- Serato DVS, upgrade-ready.
- Size: Width 530mm x Depth 402mm x Height 73mm.
- Weight: 3.5kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

At under \$700, the DJ-505 is a fantastic option for any aspiring electronic music DJ/producer with a preference for using Serato. It's the perfect step-up from the DJ-202 in the beginner price bracket if you want something more substantial and professional-looking.

Also, it's nearly half the price of Roland's flagship DJ-808 in the upper price bracket, yet still has a lot of the same functionality. With help from its built-in drum machine and 16-step sequencer, it's arguably the best in this price bracket with regards to performance/"on the fly" remixing capabilities.

As with all three of the Roland controllers in the series, the inclusion of the classic drum machine samples from the acid house-era is a great selling point. It's on this list for good reason!



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay between \$500-\$700 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

Aspiring electronic music DJ/producers and musicians that currently use (or want to use) Serato.



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3: PIONEER DJ DDJ-SR2



DESCRIPTION

Released in 2017, the **DDJ-SR2** is a mid-tier controller from **Pioneer DJ** that works with **Serato DJ Pro** (the upgrade from the DDJ-SR that came out back in 2013). It comes bundled with Serato DJ Pro software as standard.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by an AC Adapter/mains and connected via USB connection to your laptop, it has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in headphones, microphones, and speakers. It's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer, 4-deck capability within Serato DJ Pro.
- Comes with a Serato Tool Kit licence (includes Serato Flip, Pitch 'N Time plugin plus Serato DJ FX packs).
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs on each channel.
- Large aluminium low-latency jog wheels with adjustable torque (optimized for scratching).
- 8 multi-colour performance pads for each channel for Hot Cues, Roll, Slicer and sampling.
- Touch strip needle search above each jog wheel to quickly search through a track.
- Dedicated key sync button makes harmonic mixing easier than ever.
- External output to connect turntables or CDJs - plus all professional inputs & outputs that you wouldn't get from a lower price bracket.
- Serato DVS, upgrade-ready.
- Size: Width 553mm x Depth 334mm x Height 65mm.
- Weight: 3.7kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The SR2 has a nice solid build quality, plus lovely aluminium jog wheels w/adjustable torque. It's is definitely the mid-tier pick for Serato users if you're an advocate of Pioneer's hardware, and a perfect portable option for mobile/wedding DJs ...or just as a backup in the home/studio. It's an extremely popular controller this one – and you can see why!



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay between \$700-\$800 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

Mobile & event DJs on a budget with no need for four channels (...that also use Serato).



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4: NUMARK NS4FX



DESCRIPTION

Released in April 2022, the **NS4FX** is a mid-range 4-channel Serato DJ controller from **Numark**. Challenging nicely in this price bracket, it comes with **Serato DJ Lite** (with the option to upgrade to Serato DJ Pro) and also works with Virtual DJ and djay by Algoriddim.

POWER SUPPLY

Powered by an AC mains Adapter and connected via a USB connection to your laptop, it has a built-in 24-bit soundcard so you can directly plug in your headphones, microphones, and speakers. In other words, it's also ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac!

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel mixer.
- Layer buttons on each hardware deck to control up to 4 software decks.
- Comes with Serato DJ Lite and also works with Virtual DJ and djay by Algoriddim.
- 3-band EQ as standard, with filter and gain knobs on each channel.
- 6-inch touch-capacitive jog wheels with multicolour display; details essential track data such as BPM, Pitch, and time remaining.
- Dedicated Sync, Cue/Stop, and Play/Pause buttons.
- FX section with 6 selection buttons, parameter controls and 2 toggle switches.
- 8 x performance pads on each deck with pad mode selection buttons (Serato DJ Pro required for full functionality).
- Dedicated loop control area next to performance pads.
- Long pitch faders with pitch bend buttons.
- Balanced XLR Main output / RCA Booth output (connects to professional sound systems).
- ¼-inch microphone input with volume and tone controls on the front (also has one at the back of the unit).
- ¼-inch and 1/8-inch headphone output jacks on the front.
- High-quality 24-bit audio.
- Serato DJ Pro upgrade ready.
- Size: Width 23.5" x Depth 10.8" x Height 2.4".
- Weight: 3kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The Numark NS4FX is similar in many ways to the 2-channel Numark Platinum FX in the beginner range – basically a more-capable 4-channel version of it.

As well as the 4-channels, you're also getting professional connectivity specs, plus a dedicated Mic area on the front — so it makes a suitable 'budget backup' controller for a mobile DJ/professional use.

Whilst there's no doubt its excellent value for money, just don't forget to factor in the upgrade to Serato DJ Pro, which is another \$200 USD if you buy it outright or \$10 per month on a subscription. So you're really looking at \$700 USD!

Weighing only 3 kilograms, the NS4FX is also the lightest mid-range DJ controller on the market, and would make a great portable option for a party DJ looking for something more substantial than a beginner controller.

Whilst the build is all plastic, the jog wheels, knobs and performance pads are all good quality. With its brushed dark grey finish, it also looks the part as well. The only real downside is that the crossfader feels a bit flimsy, although it's certainly not a deal-breaker!



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Upon release: \$500 USD | €500 Euro | £415 GBP | \$700 AUD.

BEST SUITED TO:

Mobile & event DJs looking for a capable backup controller for their gigs. Also for party DJs that don't want to go "too cheap".



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SECTION 3: TOP-TIER

2024



WHO ARE THESE CONTROLLERS FOR?

The 6 DJ controllers in this section will be most appropriate if you roughly fall into one of these 3 categories:

1. You're an experienced DJ that's looking for a high-end DJ controller for their home or studio setup.
2. You're a mobile DJ that's looking for a high-end controller for their gigs.
3. Perhaps you're a passionate bedroom or hobbyist DJ that means business.

1: PIONEER DJ DDJ-FLX10



OVERVIEW

Released in March 2023, the **DDJ-FLX10** is a high-end (or top-tier) DJ controller from Pioneer DJ – their current flagship ‘laptop required’ DJ controller that replaced the older DDJ-1000 and DDJ-1000SRT.

It's designed to be used with their proprietary music management and DJ software, rekordbox, although it also works out-of-the-box with Serato DJ Pro.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel, 4-deck DJ controller compatible with rekordbox and Serato DJ Pro (comes with Serato Pitch'n Time).
- On-board Stems controls for track Separation (isolate and add FX to the vocals, drums and 'other instruments').
- Full-sized mechanical jog wheels, Multi-color Jog Ring, 4 x Display Modes.
- 'Jog adjust' knob to customize the jog wheel resistance, for preference and optimized scratching.
- High-definition LCD screens built into centre of jog wheels (on-jog displays).
- 4-sensor Magvel Crossfader.
- DMX light control output round the back for rekordbox lighting mode.
- 8 multi-colour rubber performance pads for each channel.
- Beat FX: Low Cut Echo, Multi Tap Delay, Reverb, Flanger, Phaser, Slip Roll, Mobius Saw/Triangle.
- 6 x Sound Color FX / filter knobs on each channel.
- Mix Point Link auto-mix feature.
- External output to connect turntables or CDJs with standalone mode for use as a standalone mixer.
- Two USB ports for seamless laptop changeovers, plus 2 Mic inputs.
- rekordbox DVS, upgrade-ready.
- High-quality sound with all professional inputs & outputs (view tech specs via the product page).
- Size: Width 716mm x Depth 400.3mm x Height 73.4mm.
- Weight: 6.7kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

With dedicated Stems controls built-in to the hardware, it's worth noting that the DDJ-FLX10 directly competes with the Rane Four which is next on this list. Whilst both units are priced around \$1,700 USD, the primary software operation on the Rane is Serato.

In addition to the Stems controls, other new and improved features (based on the DDJ-1000 and DDJ-1000SRT) include: 'Mix Point Link' (basically an auto-mix feature), the DMX output round the back for rekordbox lighting mode (to easily connect DMX-compatible lighting equipment with no additional box required), and an improved MAGVEL crossfader.

Click the orange button below to read the FULL conclusion + get a proper explanation of "Stems".



APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$1,700 US | £1,650 GBP | €1,900 Euro | \$3,400 AU.

BEST SUITED TO:

Performance/laptop DJs looking to explore Stems, and mobile DJs that use rekordbox.



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2: RANE FOUR



OVERVIEW

The Rane Four is a 4-channel performance DJ controller that integrates tightly with Serato DJ Pro, designed to incorporate the latest 3.0 'STEMS' update within the software. Released in March 2023, it's a high-end (top-tier) unit with everything a working DJ would need to play mobile gigs.

POWER SUPPLY

The Rane Four is powered by an AC Adapter (mains) and connected via a USB connection to your laptop. With a built-in 24-bit soundcard, it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.



KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel mixer, 4-deck DJ controller compatible with Serato DJ Pro (Serato's Pitch 'n Time included).
- Full-size capacitive jog wheels (8.5-inch).
- High-quality performance-friendly aluminium FX toggles on the mixer.
- On-jog colour displays showing essential data such as BPM, Waveforms and time elapsed, etc.
- 8 multi-colour back-lit performance pads for each channel to trigger Serato pad modes - Hot Cues, Roll, Sampler, Saved Loops STEMS, Slicer, Scratch Bank and Pitch Play.
- STEMS performance pad mode
- Dedicated instrumental/acapella buttons
- 'Stem-split' function splits the Acapella and Instrumental of a track
- 22 dedicated on-board FX including Reverb, Echo, Scale Down, Recycler, Riser, and more.
- Channel FX section includes classic Filter, Filter, Roll, Noise, and Flanger.
- Dedicated slip mode and vinyl mode buttons on each deck.
- Two USB ports for seamless laptop changeovers; plus 2 x Mic input with dedicated volume and EQ controls.
- High-quality sound with all professional inputs & outputs (view tech specs here).
- Size: Width 782.32mm x Depth 403.8mm x Height 106.6mm.
- Weight: 8.27kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The release of the Rane Four was perfectly timed for the Serato 3.0 stems update back in December 2022. In short, the unit offers an excellent range of FX both on-board and in-software that would be best appreciated by performance DJs.

As with other Rane controllers, the build-quality is excellent with a mostly metal construction. On the unit itself, a couple of notable features include the market-leading MAG-FOUR crossfader (this has plenty of adjustable settings) and also the high-quality aluminium FX toggles in the "scratch style" mixer section.

In conclusion: in addition to performance DJs that use Serato, the Rane Four is no doubt a high-end gigging-ready unit suitable to mobile & event DJs as well - although it would really depend on how likely you are to use Stems and all those other FX?! Click the orange button below for best places to buy + other handy links!



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Approximately \$1,700 US

BEST SUITED TO:

Performance DJs that want to explore STEMS, and also mobile/event DJs that use Serato.



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3: RANE ONE



OVERVIEW

Released in January 2021, the **Rane One** is a two-channel motorized DJ Controller from **Rane** that's primarily designed to work with Serato. Whilst it comes bundled with **Serato DJ Pro**, the unit also offers 'plug-and-play' compatibility with Virtual DJ and djay PRO.

With its motorized platters, it simulates an authentic turntable experience in a DJ controller – similar to the Rane Performer and Pioneer's DDJ-REV7.

POWER SUPPLY

The Rane One is powered by an AC Adapter (mains) and connected via a USB connection to your laptop. With a built-in 24-bit soundcard, it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer, works with Serato DJ Pro
- Rugged metal construction/excellent build quality.
- 7-inch motorized platters provide an authentic turntable experience; the direct-drive motors have plenty of torque for scratching/beat juggling (includes low/high mode).
- Battle-style mixer with 'paddle' FX switches in the centre - includes 3-band total-kill EQ & gain control + low/high pass filter controls
- Removable/replaceable vinyl on the top of platters with a slip matt underneath.
- Start/stop button for each deck just like you'd get on a turntable. Also has a 'cue' button if you'd prefer.
- Dedicated reverse switches and slip mode on each deck.
- Flagship MAG FOUR tension adjustable crossfader w/contour controls.
- 'Pitch bend' buttons on each deck (an alternative to nudging the platters to sync the incoming track).
- 8 x RGB performance pads on each deck with modes including hot cue, pitch play, saved loop, loop roll, sampler and slicer - with dedicated loop controls next to the performance pads.
- Track search bar at the top of each deck with LED markers.
- All pro connections you'd expect in this price bracket: 2 x Mic inputs with dedicated low/high EQs, 3 stereo outputs, and 2 x USB ports for seamless DJ changeovers.
- External output to connect turntables or CDJs; unit also operates as a basic standalone mixer without a connected laptop.
- Feet on the bottom to raise the unit - similar to a classic turntable.
- Supports DVS within Serato DJ Pro.
- Size: Width 674mm x Depth 345mm x Height 124.3mm.
- Weight: 10.68kg.



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

As well as any budding scratch/battle DJ out there, the Rane One is also a great option for anyone who loves the authentic feel of mixing vinyl (it isn't just for scratch DJs)!

Priced at approximately \$1,500 US, it's about \$500 less than its nearest competition: the Rane Performer and Pioneer's DDJ-REV7. The build quality is excellent, and the layout will be familiar for any Serato DJ planning on switching or upgrading from another Serato controller.

If you're not necessarily a scratch DJ, just bear in mind it only has two channels.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$1,500 USD when it came out.

BEST SUITED TO:

Scratch/battle DJs that use Serato and want a cheaper alternative to the Rane Performer. And just any DJ who loves the authentic feel of mixing vinyl.



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4: TRAKTOR KONTROL S4 MK3



OVERVIEW

The **Traktor Kontrol S4 Mk3** is the flagship 4-channel DJ controller from *Native Instruments*. Released in late 2018, it's designed for intermediate-level and pro DJ/producers, integrating tightly with their **Traktor Pro** DJ software that it comes with.

POWER SUPPLY

The S4 is powered through an AC Adaptor and connected by a USB connection to your laptop. Like the others on this list, with its built-in 24-bit soundcard, it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel mixer, 4-deck controller within Traktor Pro.
- Compatible with Traktor Pro; software can be used offline once installed.
- High-res silicone-damped, motorized Haptic Drive jog wheels with rubber-coated outer rim.
- RGB light rings around each jog wheel deliver quick, responsive tempo and nudging visualization on each deck.
- Three jog wheel modes including Vinyl Mode, Jog Mode and Beatgrid Mode.
- Two high-resolution colour displays showing track, key, tempo, looping, hotcue, and waveform information.
- Simplified FX selectors; includes intuitive Deck FX and Mixer FX, with eight club-grade effects, three filters and more.
- 8 multi-function performance pads on each channel for Hot Cues, Loops, Samples, Sequencing and Stems.
- Key Lock ('master' button) is conveniently placed above the tempo fader to automatically lock the key, making mixing harmonically easier than ever.
- External output to easily connect turntables, CDJs, drum machines, synths and other instruments.
- Size: Width 542mm x Depth 339mm x Height 60.5mm.
- Weight: 4.3kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

Traktor controllers are still a widely popular choice amongst DJ/producers of electronic music due to their live-remixing and performance capabilities when integrated with the software (popular for its 'remix decks' and 'stems' functionality).

Same way as the S2 in the beginner range, the S4 MK3 has a nice solid build quality about it, and it's also a very user-friendly unit for Traktor. Also, the motorized jog wheels have 'haptic feedback' technology, which gives the user a reactive 'jolt' when they pass a loop or a cue point.

Regardless of the fact that Traktor has seen a gradual decline in market share in recent years, this unit is still the pick for the more serious DJ/producer that either currently uses or is considering using Traktor Pro. And it's also a good bit cheaper than Pioneer's leading contenders in this category!



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay anywhere between \$900-\$1,100 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

Traktor Pro users looking for their flagship unit (typically electronic music DJ/producers).



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5: PIONEER DJ DDJ-REV7



OVERVIEW

Released in January 2022, the **DDJ-REV7** is a 2-channel motorized DJ Controller from **Pioneer DJ**. It works with **Serato DJ Pro** using a connected laptop via USB connection.

With its motorized direct-drive platters, it's Pioneer's first-ever DJ controller designed to simulate an authentic turntable experience.

POWER SUPPLY

The DDJ-REV7 has its own AC adaptor for an external power supply. The built-in 24-bit soundcard then allows you to directly plug in headphones, microphones, and speakers. In other words, it's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel mixer; works with Serato DJ Pro which it comes with.
- 7-inch direct drive motorized platters, perfect for scratching/beat juggling (has two resistance settings).
- 3.5-inch colour screens on each jog wheel with 4 different modes.
- Each deck mirrors a turntable turned 90 degrees with tempo adjust and other controls at the top.
- Full-sized battle mixer in the middle similar to Pioneer's DJM-S11 pro mixer (with paddle FX controls, etc.).
- EQ & gain control + low/high pass filter controls.
- 8 x hot cue buttons for each deck (on the mixer section); modes include Hot Cue, Roll, Saved Loop, Sampler, Pitch Play, Slicer Loop, Saved Flip and Scratch Bank.
- 22 x 'Beat FX' and 5 x 'Colour FX' (built in to the unit).
- 4 x 'instant scratch' modes on the unit.
- Start/stop button on each deck as you'd get on a turntable (cue button in software only).
- Dedicated reverse switches and slip mode on each deck (also has sync buttons).
- Magvel crossfader as found on the DJM-S11 – with 'feeling adjust' knob to control resistance, and curve adjust.
- Pitch bend buttons on each deck (an alternative to nudging the platters).
- All pro connections that you'd expect in this price bracket; has 2 x Mic inputs with dedicated low/high EQs and 2 x USB ports for DJ changeovers.
- Unit operates as a basic standalone mixer and supports DVS within Serato DJ Pro.
- Size: Width 732mm x Depth 382mm x Height 82mm.
- Weight: 10.7kg.

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

Clearly in direct competition with the Rane Performer that we're about to cover — with its fantastic motorized platters — the DDJ-REV7 also brings that authentic vinyl feel in a DJ controller.

The key differences? Well, aside from having two channels as opposed to four, the REV7 has a full-sized battle mixer in the middle, similar to Pioneer's DJM-S11 pro mixer. You'll also notice that all the deck controls (pitch fader, etc.) are located at the top as if you'd turned an actual turntable on its side – a feature that would further appeal to scratch/battle DJs.

In summary, the DDJ-REV7 would make a great investment for any scratch, battle, or open-format DJ that either currently uses, or wants to use Serato — or just any DJ that wants a more authentic vinyl experience in a DJ controller!

Coming in at \$1,900 US, it's the second most expensive in this price bracket, priced very similar to the Rane Performer



APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$1,899 USD when it came out (Jan 2022).

BEST SUITED TO:

Any Serato user who loves the authentic feel of mixing vinyl and only needs two channels. Also scratch/battle DJs.



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6: RANE PERFORMER



OVERVIEW

Released in June 2024, the Rane Performer is a 4-channel DJ controller from Rane. With its high-torque motorized platters, it's designed to simulate an authentic turntable experience. It works with Serato DJ Pro using a connected laptop via a USB connection.

By closest comparison to their range, the Performer is very similar to the Rane Four, but with motorized platters. Both units have 4 channels and offer tight integration with Serato DJ Pro and stems, with the Performer coming in at 500 bucks more at \$1,999 USD.

POWER SUPPLY

The Performer is powered by an IEC cable (not a power brick) and connected via a USB connection to your laptop. It's ready to go out-of-the-box for PC or Mac.



KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel mixer; works with Serato DJ Pro which it comes with
- 7-inch high-torque aluminum motorized platters
- 3.5-inch colour screens on each jog wheel with multiple waveform and library views plus Day Mode
- MAG FOUR crossfader and four super-smooth 'precision feel' volume faders with adjustable tension and customizable fader curves and reversals
- Advance STEMS controls – includes Stem-Split, Stem Level, Stem Pad Mode, and instant Acapella/Instrumental buttons
- EQ & gain control + low/high pass filter controls
- 8 x hot cue buttons for each deck with dedicated OLED Pad Mode displays for visual feedback. Powerful production possibilities: one-shots, samples, looping, and more.
- Enhanced the FX suite incorporating 29 Main FX controllable via intuitive paddle triggers, and 4 knob-controlled Channel FX
- Diverse connectivity suite accommodates multitudes of solo, multimode, and back-to-back setups via dual USB-B ports, flexible booth/zone blends, and two combi-jack mic inputs
- Selectable Split and Cue modes for headphone outputs
- Unit operates as a basic standalone mixer and supports DVS within Serato DJ Pro
- Size: Width 30.84" x Depth 15.84" x Height 4.32"
- Weight: 12.8kg

KEY TAKEAWAYS/ CONCLUSION

The main highlight of the Performer is the high-torque, aluminium motorized platters. These are equipped with high-definition 3.5" LCD screens that show essential track information, library views, waveform dynamics, and album artwork. Additionally, the Performer's Day Mode guarantees screen visibility in all lighting conditions, from dark clubs to bright stages.

The Performer also features a MAG FOUR crossfader and four super-smooth 'precision feel' volume faders with adjustable tension and customizable fader curves and reversals.

Integration with Serato DJ Pro ensures seamless application of all effects, whether using the built-in hardware FX or Serato's extensive software FX library. Same as the Rane Four, it's worth mentioning that the vast amount of effects on the Performer would be considered non-essential for most DJs. Click the big orange button below for more details and relevant buy links.



APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay about \$1,900 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

The Rane Performer is best suited to performance/open-format DJs who want deep integration with Serato (including on-board stems), motorized platters for that authentic vinyl feel, use of 4-channels, and all the bells & whistles to go with it.



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SECTION 4 - ALL-IN-ONE RANGE



WHO ARE THESE CONTROLLERS FOR?

The 5 DJ systems in this section will be most appropriate if you roughly fall into one of these 3 categories:

1. You're an experienced DJ that's looking for a high-end DJ system for their home or studio setup.
2. You're a mobile DJ that's looking for a 'no laptop required' professional unit for their gigs.
3. You're a passionate bedroom or 'hobbyist' DJ that likes the idea of DJing without a laptop.

1: PIONEER DJ OPUS-QUAD



DESCRIPTION

Released in March 2023, the OPUS-QUAD from Pioneer DJ sits in a very similar bucket to Denon's Prime 4+ which is next on this list. Whilst the two units have a number of differences which we'll talk about, in short, they both represent the most technologically advanced all-in-one DJ systems on the market.

As you'd expect, the Opus-Quad integrates tightly with Pioneer's rekordbox, and it also supports Serato DJ Pro. It's Pioneer's first all-in-one system to offer 4-channel playback in standalone mode.

POWER SUPPLY

It's ready to go out-of-the-box, either as a standalone unit or as a DJ controller powered through your laptop/USB port.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel all-in-one DJ system; comes with Pioneer's rekordbox and also supports Serato DJ Pro
- Sophisticated contemporary style design with earth-coloured front panel trimming
- Standalone four-deck playback (use of all 4 channels in standalone mode)
- Large 10.1-inch glass touchscreen
- Rapid track search with dedicated 'Smart Rotary Selector'
- Built-in WiFi for access to streaming services and personal cloud library in rekordbox
- Full-size mechanical jog wheels with customizable controls
- Individual screens above each deck showing essential track data (similar to CDJs)
- Hands-on control of effects via XY-pad
- On-board track analysis, on-board beat FX
- 16 hot cue pads – 8 above each jog wheel
- Zone output allows you to play different music in different rooms
- Supports USB thumb drives, USB connectivity for SSDs/hard drives and Bluetooth
- Market-leading sound quality thanks to the 32-bit converter
- External outputs to connect turntables or CDJs; all pro inputs & outputs as standard
- Size: Width 925.7mm x Depth 499.7mm x Height 142mm
- Weight: 13.2kg



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

Aesthetically and design wise, the OPUS-QUAD is a big change in direction when compared to Pioneer's other 4-channel standalone 'club-style' offering, the XDJ-XZ, which is No.3 on this list – noting that it isn't a replacement.

Some key features include the 10.1-inch glass touchscreen, built-in WiFi (for streaming and cloud library access in rekordbox), the individual screens above each deck, market-leading sound quality (thanks to the 32-bit converter – the same found in Pioneer's new industry-standard mixer), on-board track analysis, 16 hot cue pads, and full-size mechanical jog wheels.

It also supports Bluetooth, has USB connectivity for SSDs/hard drives, and has a 'zone output' that allows you to control multiple rooms.

Based on its sophisticated look and hefty price tag, the OPUS-QUAD is mostly aimed at up-market mobile & event DJs – offering all-new tech and modernized connections to compete with the Prime 4+ (next on this list).

As well as being curved at the front, it's important to note that the OPUS-QUAD slopes 5% upwards from the front to the rear. It's also significantly larger and heavier than the Prime 4+, with the hot cue buttons located above the jog wheels, all-in-all offering a more spacious workflow than the Prime 4+ does.

Additionally, it has larger mechanical jog wheels similar to those found on Pioneer's pro gear, whereas the Prime 4+ has smaller 'touch capacitive' jogs (from a functional perspective these are the same found on most DJ controllers). Whilst neither option is "better", it's worth pointing out.

The OPUS-QUAD also has large individual screens above each deck showing essential track data, etc., again bringing it closer to a 'CDJ-like' experience – which many may prefer. Priced at \$3,200 US, it's easily the most expensive all-in-one DJ system on the market – and a mammoth \$1,000 more than the Prime 4+!

Click the orange button below for best places to buy + access to other handy links!

APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$3,200 USD.



BEST SUITED TO:

Mostly mobile & event DJs (some wedding DJs will surely find it appealing). Also bedroom DJs with deep pockets.



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2: DENON DJ PRIME 4+



DESCRIPTION

Released in June 2023, the Prime 4+ from Denon DJ is one of the most advanced all-in-one DJ systems on the market today – the upgrade from its predecessor, the Prime 4, originally released in 2019.

The Prime 4+ comes with Denon's proprietary Engine DJ music management & DJ software as standard (operating system built-in), and will also work as a DJ controller with Serato DJ Pro and Virtual DJ. It's currently the only controller in existence that offers real-time stems (track separation) without the need to connect a laptop.

BEST SUITED TO

Any tech-loving bedroom DJ or music lover wanting the ultimate music control centre with streaming, cloud services, and 'laptop-free' stems on board. Also Mobile DJs that are looking for a super-versatile and well-built standalone DJ system at a considerably cheaper price than Pioneer's Opus-Quad (\$1,000 cheaper) ...and that also offers stems.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-Deck standalone DJ controller
- 10.1-inch HD multi-touch display
- Wi-Fi music streaming for Amazon Music Unlimited, TIDAL, Beatsource, Beatport, Soundcloud GO+, Dropbox
- Sampler with 16 pad-triggered sample slots, volume control, and output routing
- First-ever standalone Stems functionality for real-time vocal and instrument isolation (beta starts summer 2023)
- Touch FX for interactive touchscreen audio manipulation
- 26 Main FX with OLED displays and parameter controls
- 4 dynamic, knob-controlled Sweep FX (combinable with Main FX)
- Embedded lighting control for automatic and customized DMX, Philips Hue, and Nanoleaf light shows
- (4) USB and (1) SD media inputs for music playback
- Engine Remote Desktop for wireless access to computer-based music library
- On-board song analysis for streaming tracks and saved media
- 16 performance pads with Hot Cue, Saved Loop, Auto Loop, Roll, Sampler, Slicer, and Slicer Loop modes
- Rugged metal chassis and steel knob stems
- Dedicated XLR Zone output with EQ and volume control for sending playlists and tracks to a separate room
- Built-in 2.5-inch SATA drive bay to store music on-board
- 6-inch metal jog wheel with expanded touch surface, assignable colour, and center HD displays for album art
- (4) assignable input channels for Line/Phono external media sources
- (2) dedicated 1/4" XLR combination inputs for microphones with level, EQ, Talkover, and Echo controls
- Internal audio recorder for capturing live performances
- Fully customizable crossfader with curve control knob, channel assignment switches, and Fader Start
- StagelinQ connection for Event/Pro DJ lighting and video control
- Plays uncompressed audio formats (FLAC, ALAC, WAV)
- Works as a controller for Serato DJ Pro (hardware unlocks) and Virtual DJ (license required)



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

There's no shortage of things to talk about with the Prime 4+ ...with its large 10-inch touchscreen, onboard stems controls (no laptop required), built-in hard drive and SD card inserts, and support for higher-quality uncompressed music files such as FLAC and WAV. Its versatility and connectivity specs make it an excellent all-in-one option for any mobile or bedroom DJ.

The unit also has wired & WIFI connectivity allowing for the use of streaming services such as TIDAL, Beatport Streaming, Beatsource, SoundCloud Go+, Amazon Music, and of course access to your personal cloud storage via Dropbox.

In addition to laptop-free stems, its built-in hard drive space and SD inserts are unique in the market, giving DJs the option to easily carry around their entire music collection 'on board'. You can also control multiple room outputs, as you can with the Opus-Quad.

Lastly, it's important to note: you can import your music library from the leading DJ software providers, allowing DJs that are currently using Serato, rekordbox or Traktor to easily synchronize it and move it over. Same goes for iTunes.

Click the orange button below for best places to buy + access to other handy links!

APPROXIMATE PRICE

Upon release: US \$2199 | £2299 | €2599





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PLACES TO BUY!



3: PIONEER DJ XDJ-XZ



DESCRIPTION

Released at the end of 2019, the XDJ-XZ is a 4-channel all-in-one DJ system from Pioneer DJ that's designed to closely replicate a CDJ-like club setup (since the OPUS-QUAD came out we can't really call it their 'flagship' anymore).

It comes with their proprietary music management and DJ software, rekordbox, and also works as a DJ controller (w/connected laptop) with Serato DJ Pro and Virtual DJ.

POWER SUPPLY

It's ready to go out-of-the-box, either as a standalone unit without the use of a laptop or as a DJ controller powered through your laptop/USB port.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel all-in-one DJ system (note, you can only use 2 channels in standalone mode).
- Also works as a DJ controller with Serato DJ Pro and Virtual DJ.
- With 'Link' export mode you can plug in CDJs to use the other 2 channels.
- Prepare your music in Rekordbox and transfer onto USB sticks; pre-set cue points, loops, add beat countdowns, analyse keys and much more.
- 7-inch LCD touch screen + colour on-jog displays.
- Full-sized 8-inch mechanical jog wheels, identical to that found on Pioneer's CDJ-2000NSX2 media players.
- 3 x USB ports; useful for back-to-back DJ changeovers without laptops, and for recording your set on a spare USB.
- 2 x laptop connections for DJ changeovers or back-to-backs with laptops.
- 6 Built-in 'Sound Colour' FX and 14 'Beat FX' taken from Pioneers' DJM pro club mixers.
- 8 multi-colour rubber performance pads for each channel to trigger various in-software features.
- 2 x Mic input with dedicated 3 band EQs, talkover adjuster and feedback reducer.
- Dedicated onboard room/master EQ controls.
- External outputs to connect turntables or CDJs; all pro inputs/outputs as standard.
- Size: Width 878mm x Depth 466.1mm x Height 118.4mm.
- Weight: 13kg.



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

Only slightly behind the OPUS-QUAD, the XDJ-XZ is the largest and heaviest DJ system on this list. It has tons of pro functionality that would typically appeal to mobile DJs – with its 3 x USB ports, dual laptop plugins, dedicated dual-Mic area, and onboard master EQ control area.

At around \$2,500 (US), it's also the second most expensive unit on this list, with the Denon Prime 4+ coming in about \$200 cheaper. Regardless of price, the XDJ-XZ is unique in its own right, as it's literally the only standalone unit on the market that almost identically replicates a CDJ club experience. For any aspiring (or indeed working) club DJs, there's no doubt that's a massive selling point!

Whilst the XDJ-XZ may not compete with the OPUS-QUAD and Prime 4+ in the 'latest tech & innovation' department, it really depends on what's most important to you (ie, that massive selling point I've just mentioned!). Just bear in mind, it only works with two channels in standalone mode, which could be an issue for some.

Click the orange button below for best places to buy + access to other handy links!

APPROXIMATE PRICE

Expect to pay anywhere between \$2,200-2,600 USD.

BEST SUITED TO:

Mobile DJs that use rekordbox, and just ANY DJ that's happy paying 2.5k to closely replicate a CDJ-like club experience in their bedroom or studio.

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4: DENON DJ SC LIVE 4



DESCRIPTION

Released in November 2022, the **SC Live 4** from **Denon DJ** comes with their proprietary **Engine DJ** music management & DJ software as standard (operating system built-in), and will also work as a DJ controller with Serato DJ Pro (license included) and Virtual DJ.

POWER SUPPLY

The SC Live 4 has an AC adapter for an external power supply (power brick). It's ready to go out of the box, either as a standalone unit or as a DJ controller powered through your laptop/USB port.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 4-channel all-in-one DJ system; comes with Denon's Engine DJ music management & DJ software and works with Serato DJ Pro (licence included) and Virtual DJ
- Compact, lightweight and portable design
- Club-style mixer layout
- 7-inch HD multi-gesture touchscreen with access to FX tools
- Built-in speakers – so no need for monitor speakers in your bedroom
- 6-inch jog wheels with 'on-jog' displays conveniently showing BPM and time elapsed
- 8 performance pads for each channel
- Built-in Wi-Fi for music streaming, cloud access and Engine DJ OS updates – supports TIDAL, Beatport Streaming, Beatsource, SoundCloud Go+, Amazon Music, and Dropbox
- Sweep FX and 13 BPM FX
- Engine allows users to import libraries from other DJ software
- 2 x USB-A ports, 1 x USB-B port, and an SD card slot
- Automatically sync & control DMX, Philips Hue, and Nanoleaf light fixtures for a light show
- Dedicated XLR, RCA, and 1/4-inch booth outputs (compatible with most sound systems)
- 2 x microphone inputs
- Size: Width 718mm x Depth 403mm x Height 99mm
- Weight: 5.8kg



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

Whilst sharing a lot of commonalities with Denon's flagship Prime 4+, crucially, the SC Live 4 is mostly aimed at bedroom DJs and live streamers rather than professional DJs.

As with the Prime 4+, you still have 4 channels and WiFi/streaming services as standard (with the addition of Amazon Music), and everything can be done on-board with the powerful, built-in Engine software. Additionally, the SC Live 4 unlocks Serato DJ Pro and works with Virtual DJ Pro, thus offering maximum out-of-the-box versatility.

With its club-style mixer and layout (not the case with the Prime 4), other notable features include the 7-inch touchscreen, the on-jog displays, and of course, the built-in speakers – ideal for smaller gatherings and casual house parties.

Click the orange button below to read the extended version of this conclusion on our website + get links to other resources and places to buy it.

APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$1,300 US | £1,150 | \$1,150 Euro
| \$2,600 AU

BEST SUITED TO:

Hobbyists, bedroom DJs and live streamers that want a COMPLETE out-of-the-box solution and perhaps have no music collection and/or speakers.

VISIT THIS POST ON OUR SITE FOR WHERE TO BUY!



5: PIONEER DJ XDJ-RX3



DESCRIPTION

The **XDJ-RX3** is a 2-channel all-in-one DJ system from **Pioneer DJ** (the latest in the 'RX' series). It comes with their music management/DJ software, Rekordbox, and is also compatible with Serato DJ Pro.

It was launched to market in November 2021, making it the most recent DJ system on this list to be released.

POWER SUPPLY

It's ready to go out-of-the-box, either as a standalone unit without the use of a laptop or as a DJ controller powered through your laptop/USB port.

KEY FEATURES/ SPECS

- 2-channel, 4-deck all-in-one DJ system, comes with Rekordbox and compatible with Serato DJ Pro.
- Prepare your music in Rekordbox and transfer onto USB sticks; pre-set cue points, loops, add beat countdowns, analyze keys and much more.
- Large, high-res 10.1-inch touch screen – now with rapid browsing, playlist bank, touch preview and countdown timer.
- Improved audio design of the circuit board for better sound (compared to previous model).
- 6-inch touch-capacitive jog wheels with tension adjustment and colour 'on jog' displays.
- Dual-USB ports onboard for standalone mode. Load your tracks on one and record your mixes on the other; also useful for back-to-back DJ changeovers without laptops.
- Supports high-quality uncompressed audio files including AIFF, WAV and FLAC.
- Built-in 'Sound Color' and 'Beat FX' taken from Pioneer's DJM pro club mixers; now includes an extra 6 Beat FX and 2 additional Sound Color FX as found on the XDJ-XZ.
- 8 fully-illuminated performance pads on each channel with secondary pad layer modes (with gated Hot Cues). Pads trigger hot cues, Beat loop, Slip Loop and Beat Jump.
- External outputs to connect turntables or CDJs plus 2 Mic inputs; all pro inputs/outputs as standard.
- Size: Width 728.1mm x Depth 469.5mm x Height 118.4mm.
- Weight: 9.3kg



KEY TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

Coming in at around \$2,000 USD, The XDJ-RX3 is the upgrade from Pioneer's previous 2-channel standalone contender, the XDJ-RX2.

With a more refined design than the previous model, the RX3 also inherits the layout and workflow of a professional Pioneer club setup, creating a seamless transition from the bedroom. It has a new high-res, 10.1-inch screen, with a more powerful processor than the RX2, allowing tracks to load quicker – all in all, offering a much better browsing experience than before!

Pioneer has also added 'on jog' displays on the jog wheels this time around. The small screens show if you have things like vinyl mode, beat sync or slip mode engaged, and you can also display track artwork or a custom logo.

Simply put, if your heart is set on an all-in-one DJ system from Pioneer—and, if you think you're never going to use 4 channels—then this is likely the one for you! It's approximately \$500 USD cheaper than the 4-channel XDJ-XZ, and it's got just about everything your average bedroom DJ (or indeed mobile professional) would likely ever need.

It's also worth mentioning that you ARE able to connect CDJs and turntables with the RX3.

APPROXIMATE PRICE

\$2,000 USD when it came out (Nov 2021).

BEST SUITED TO:

Mobile DJs that use rekordbox and have no need for 4 channels. Also any bedroom DJ looking to closely replicate a CDJ-like club experience on a 2k US budget – again, with no need for 4 channels.

VISIT THIS POST ON OUR SITE FOR WHERE TO BUY!



6?? DENON DJ PRIME GO



The Prime Go from Denon DJ is a battery-powered, standalone DJ system that's designed for professional use. No phone or laptop required ...just stick in your SD card and you're good to go!

Priced at about a grand, everything is high-quality on this unit, plus you get all the latest tech that we've come to expect from Denon. Considering the size of this unit (seriously, it's tiny!), it could be used for those gigs where there isn't much room, or maybe as a backup or travel controller perhaps ...if that solves a problem for you.

Because of its lack of mainstream appeal, unfortunately it didn't make our top 4. If it sounds interesting feel free to check out the [website](#).

HERE'S TO YOUR SUCCESS!

If you've got any questions, feel free to email us at
contact@TheDJRevolution.com.

Also, keep an eye on your inbox for more awesome content just like this ... or just go directly to
www.TheDJRevolution.com.

Wishing you all the best with your DJ'ing journey!

Although we're very confident we've selected the market-leading products based on their budget ranges, we're still only human. Our suggestions & opinions may not necessarily reflect the best thing for your situation, so please feel free to do your own research if there's anything you're unsure about!

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