

# Contents at a Glance

---

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: Stocking Up Your DJ Toolbox</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Chapter 1: Catching DJ Fever .....	9
Chapter 2: Starting Off with the Bare Bones .....	17
Chapter 3: Retro Chic or PC Geek? Buying Records, CDs, and MP3s .....	31
Chapter 4: Shopping for Equipment .....	47
<b><i>Part II: Navigating the Maze: Equipment Essentials</i></b> .....	<b>63</b>
Chapter 5: Getting Decked Out with Turntables .....	65
Chapter 6: Perfecting Your Decks: Slipmats and Needles .....	85
Chapter 7: Keeping Up with the Techno-Revolution .....	97
Chapter 8: Stirring It Up with Mixers .....	117
Chapter 9: Ear-Splitting Advice about Not Splitting Your Ears: Headphones .....	137
Chapter 10: Letting Your Neighbours Know That You're a DJ: Amplifiers .....	147
Chapter 11: Plugging In, Turning On: Set-up and Connections .....	157
<b><i>Part III: The Mix</i></b> .....	<b>177</b>
Chapter 12: Grasping the Basics of Mixing .....	179
Chapter 13: Picking Up on the Beat: Song Structure .....	199
Chapter 14: Mixing Like the Pros .....	211
Chapter 15: Mixing with CDs .....	227
Chapter 16: Scratching Lyrical .....	237
<b><i>Part IV: Getting Noticed and Playing Live</i></b> .....	<b>257</b>
Chapter 17: Building a Foolproof Set .....	259
Chapter 18: Making a Great Demo .....	275
Chapter 19: Getting Busy With It: Working as a DJ .....	301
Chapter 20: Facing the Music: Playing to a Live Crowd .....	313
<b><i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>331</b>
Chapter 21: Ten Resources for Expanding Your Skills and Fan Base .....	333
Chapter 22: Ten Answers to DJ Questions You're Too Afraid to Ask .....	341

Chapter 23: Ten DJing Mistakes to Avoid .....	349
Chapter 24: Ten Items to Take with You When DJing .....	355
Chapter 25: Ten Great Influences on Me .....	359
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>365</b>

# Table of Contents

.....

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book .....	2
Foolish Assumptions .....	2
How This Book Is Organised.....	2
Part I: Stocking Up Your DJ Toolbox .....	3
Part II: Navigating the Maze: Equipment Essentials.....	3
Part III: The Mix .....	3
Part IV: Getting Noticed and Playing Live .....	3
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	4
Where to Go from Here.....	4
<b><i>Part 1: Stocking Up Your DJ Toolbox</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Catching DJ Fever</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Discovering the Foundations of DJing.....	9
Equipping yourself .....	10
Making friends with your wallet .....	10
Knowing your music .....	11
Researching and discovering.....	11
Connecting your equipment .....	12
Beatmatching Takes Patience and Practice.....	13
Working as a DJ .....	14
<b>Chapter 2: Starting Off with the Bare Bones</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Making a List, Checking It Twice.....	17
Choosing Your Input Devices .....	18
Thinking about turntables (for vinyl DJs).....	18
Deciding on CD decks .....	20
Musing on MP3s and PCs .....	22
Mixing It Up with Mixers .....	23
Monitoring Your Music with Headphones .....	24
Powering Things Up with Amplifiers .....	25
Figuring Out the Furniture .....	26
Considering ergonomics and stability.....	26
Selecting store-bought stands .....	27
Building bricks and the new vibration killers.....	27
Locating Your DJ Setup .....	28

<b>Chapter 3: Retro Chic or PC Geek? Buying Records, CDs, and MP3s</b> .....	<b>31</b>
Knowing Your Genre's Format Availability .....	31
Reflecting on vinyl .....	32
Keeping up with CDs .....	32
Buying Records and CDs .....	33
Sizing up vinyl formats .....	33
Sussing out CD options .....	34
Researching your tunes .....	36
Listening to the music .....	37
Weighing up the pros and cons of classic anthems and new music .....	38
Byting into MP3s .....	39
Surfing into Online Record Stores .....	40
Knowing where to go .....	40
Previewing tracks .....	41
Ordering and delivery .....	41
Using auction sites .....	42
Protecting Your Records and CDs .....	42
Storing records .....	42
Cleaning records, CDs, and the needle .....	43
Repairing vinyl .....	44
Fixing warped records and CDs .....	45
Repairing CDs .....	45
<b>Chapter 4: Shopping for Equipment</b> .....	<b>47</b>
Taking Stock Before You Shop .....	47
Trying before you buy .....	48
Budgeting your money .....	48
Buying Brand New .....	50
Cruising the high street .....	50
Opting for online shopping .....	52
Buying Second-hand .....	53
Scanning newspapers .....	53
Dipping into pawn shops .....	54
Bidding on auction Web sites .....	54
Making Sure That Your Kit Works .....	55
Checking cables .....	56
Testing turntables .....	56
Vetting CD decks .....	58
Monitoring mixers .....	59
Assessing headphones .....	61
Sounding out amplifiers and speakers .....	61

## ***Part II: Navigating the Maze: Equipment Essentials.....63***

### **Chapter 5: Getting Decked Out with Turntables .....65**

Avoiding Cheap Turntables .....	65
Motoring in the right direction .....	66
Watching out for pitch control design .....	67
Identifying Key Turntable Features .....	68
Start/Stop .....	68
On/Off.....	69
33/45/78 RPM .....	69
Strobe light.....	69
Deckplatters .....	70
Target light .....	71
Pitch control .....	72
Counterweight/height adjust.....	74
Antiskate.....	74
Removable headshell/cartridge .....	75
45 RPM adaptor .....	75
Customising Your Sound with Advanced Turntable Features.....	76
Pitch range options .....	76
Pitch bend and joystick control .....	77
Tempo reset/Quartz lock.....	78
Master Tempo/Key Lock.....	79
Digital display of pitch.....	79
Adjustable brake for Start/Stop.....	80
Reverse play.....	80
Different shaped tonearms.....	80
Removable cabling.....	81
Digital outputs .....	82
Battle or club design .....	82
Built-in mixer .....	82
Servicing Your Turntables .....	83

### **Chapter 6: Perfecting Your Decks: Slipmats and Needles .....85**

Sliding with Slipmats .....	85
Choosing an appropriate slipmat.....	86
Winning the friction war .....	87
Getting Groovy with Needles and Cartridges .....	88
Choosing the Right Needle for Your DJ Style.....	93
Feeling the Force with Counterweight Settings .....	94
Nurturing Your Needles.....	95

**Chapter 7: Keeping Up with the Techno-Revolution . . . . .97**

Choosing Your Format: Analogue or Digital .....	97
My way is the best!.....	98
Looking at the pros and cons .....	99
Choosing a CD Deck That Fits Your Style .....	104
Looking Into the Future of Vinyl.....	107
Getting into MiniDisc, MP3s, and PCs .....	107
Remembering MiniDisc decks .....	107
Wising up to MP3s.....	108
Mixing with iPods .....	110
Mixing on PC .....	111
Futureproofing with Live and Traktor .....	113
Live.....	114
Traktor .....	115

**Chapter 8: Stirring It Up with Mixers . . . . .117**

Getting Familiar with Mixer Controls .....	117
Inputs .....	117
Outputs .....	118
Multiple channels .....	119
Cross-faders .....	119
Channel-faders .....	122
Headphone monitoring.....	123
EQs and kills.....	124
Input VU monitoring .....	125
Gain controls.....	125
Balance and pan controls.....	126
Hamster switch.....	126
Punch and transform controls.....	127
Effects Send and Return .....	127
Built-in effects .....	127
Built-in samplers.....	129
Built-in beat counters .....	129
Beat light indicators.....	130
Fader starts .....	130
Choosing the Right Mixer.....	131
The seamless mix DJ.....	131
The scratch DJ.....	132
The effects DJ.....	133
The party/wedding DJ .....	134
Servicing Your Mixer .....	135

**Chapter 9: Ear-Splitting Advice about Not Splitting Your Ears: Headphones . . . . .137**

- Choosing a Good Set of Headphones .....137
  - Single-sided, coiled cords.....140
  - Swivelling earpieces.....140
  - User-replaceable parts.....140
  - Stick it to your ears .....141
- Remembering that the Volume Doesn't Have to Go Up to 11.....142
- Using Earplugs.....142

**Chapter 10: Letting Your Neighbours Know That You're a DJ: Amplifiers . . . . .147**

- Choosing Suitable Amplification .....147
  - Settling on your home stereo.....148
  - Purchasing powered speakers.....149
  - Opting for an amplifier and separate speakers .....149
  - A power margin for error .....150
- Working with Monitors .....152
- Positioning Your Monitor .....153
- Noise Pollution: Keeping an Ear on Volume Levels .....154
  - Protecting your ears .....154
  - Keeping the noise down for the people around you.....155
  - Realising that you only need one speaker .....155

**Chapter 11: Plugging In, Turning On: Set-up and Connections . . . .157**

- Getting Familiar with Connectors .....157
  - RCA/Phono connections.....158
  - XLRs .....158
  - Quarter-inch jack .....159
- Setting Up and Connecting the Turntable.....160
  - Deckplatter .....160
  - Tonearm.....161
  - Peripherals .....164
- Plugging In the Mixer .....164
  - Connecting turntables to a mixer.....164
  - Connecting CD decks to a mixer .....166
  - Connecting iPods and MP3s to a mixer .....167
  - Connecting a computer as an input device .....167
  - Plugging in your headphones .....168
  - Connecting effects units to a mixer .....169
  - Connecting mixer outputs .....170
  - Connecting a mixer to your home hi-fi .....171
  - Connecting a mixer to powered speakers.....171

Connecting a mixer to your PC/Mac .....	172
Connecting your computer to an amplifier .....	173
Troubleshooting Set-up and Connections .....	173

## ***Part III: The Mix*..... 177**

### **Chapter 12: Grasping the Basics of Mixing .....179**

Knowing What Beatmatching's All About .....	179
Understanding BPMs .....	180
Calculating BPMs .....	181
Discovering How to Beatmatch .....	182
Setting up your equipment .....	182
Locating the first bass beat .....	183
Starting your records in time .....	184
Adjusting for errors .....	187
Knowing which record to adjust .....	188
Using the Pitch Control .....	188
Matching the pitch setting .....	189
Playing too slow or too fast .....	190
Taking your eyes off the pitch control .....	191
Introducing Your Headphones .....	193
Switching over to headphone control .....	193
Cueing in your headphones .....	193
Centre your head with stereo image .....	195
Practising with your headphones .....	197

### **Chapter 13: Picking Up on the Beat: Song Structure .....199**

Why DJs Need Structure .....	200
Multiplying beats, bars, and phrases .....	200
Hearing the cymbal as a symbol .....	202
Everything changes .....	203
Counting on where you are .....	203
Studying Song Structure .....	205
Accepting that Every Tune's Different .....	207
Developing Your Basic Instincts .....	208
Listening to a Sample Structure .....	208

### **Chapter 14: Mixing Like the Pros .....211**

Perfecting Placement .....	211
Intros over outros .....	212
Melodic outro .....	213
Melodic intro .....	214
Mixing Breakdowns .....	215

Controlling the Sound of the Mix .....	217
Bringing the cross-fader into play .....	217
Discovering the secret of channel-faders .....	218
Letting you in on a big, curvy secret .....	219
Balancing it out with EQs .....	220
Using Mixing Tricks and Gimmicks .....	221
Spinbacks and dead-stops .....	221
Power off .....	222
A cappella .....	223
Cutting in .....	223
Mixing Different Styles of Music .....	224
The wedding/party/rock/pop mix .....	224
The R & B mix .....	225
Drum and bass, and breakbeat .....	226

## **Chapter 15: Mixing with CDs .....227**

Navigating the CD .....	227
Buttons .....	228
Jog dials .....	229
Platters .....	230
Working with the Cue .....	231
Locating the cue .....	232
Storing the cue .....	232
Check the cue .....	233
Starting the tune .....	233
Adjusting the Pitch .....	233
Taking Advantage of Special Features .....	235

## **Chapter 16: Scratching Lyrical .....237**

Setting Up the Equipment the Right Way .....	238
Weighing up needles .....	239
Giving slipmats the slip .....	241
Touching up mixers .....	241
Making the mixer a hamster .....	241
Setting the right height .....	242
Preparing for the Big Push .....	242
Wearing out your records .....	242
Marking samples .....	243
Fixing the hole in the middle .....	245
Scratching on CD, MP3, and Computer .....	246
Scratching on PC .....	247
Marking CDs and MP3s .....	247
Mastering the Technique .....	248
Getting hands on .....	248

Starting from Scratch and Back Again.....	249
Scratching without the cross-fader.....	250
Introducing cross-fader fever.....	251
Combining scratches.....	254
Juggling the Beats.....	255
Offsetting.....	256
Practice, dedication, and patience.....	256

## ***Part IV: Getting Noticed and Playing Live .....257***

### **Chapter 17: Building a Foolproof Set .....259**

Choosing Tunes to Mix Together.....	259
Beatmatching – the next generation.....	260
Mixing with care.....	261
Getting in tune with harmonic mixing.....	262
Keying tunes.....	266
Knowing how much to pitch.....	267
Developing a Style.....	268
Easing up on the energy.....	269
Changing the key.....	269
Increasing the tempo.....	270
Avoiding stagnation.....	272
Respecting the crowd.....	272
Getting your style on tape.....	273

### **Chapter 18: Making a Great Demo .....275**

Preparing to Record the Demo.....	275
Programming your set.....	276
Picking and arranging the tunes.....	276
Bridging the gaps.....	278
Practising your set.....	278
Setting up to record.....	279
Correcting recording levels.....	281
Looking After Sound Processing.....	284
Keeping an even volume.....	284
Setting your EQs.....	286
Performing the Demo.....	289
Stay focused.....	289
Become a perfectionist.....	291
Listen with an open mind.....	291
Making a Demo CD on Computer.....	292
Editing your mix.....	292
Burning a CD.....	295
Sending Off the Mix.....	298

**Chapter 19: Getting Busy With It: Working as a DJ . . . . .301**

- Marketing Yourself .....301
  - Flood the world with your demo.....302
  - Play for free.....304
  - Offer owners what they want to hear .....305
- Joining an Agency .....305
  - Research an agency.....307
  - Meet the criteria to join.....307
  - Cut your losses .....308
- Networking Your Way to Success.....309
  - Sell yourself.....309
  - Make friends.....309
  - Go ‘undercover’ .....310
- Marketing Yourself on the Internet.....310

**Chapter 20: Facing the Music: Playing to a Live Crowd . . . . .313**

- Investigating the Venue .....314
  - Scoping the club.....314
  - Getting ready to party.....317
- Preparing to Perform.....318
  - Selecting the set .....318
  - Organising your box.....319
- Knowing What to Expect at the Club.....320
  - Dealing with nerves.....320
  - Getting used to your tools.....320
  - Working in a loud environment .....322
- Playing Your Music .....322
  - Reading a crowd .....323
  - Handling requests .....324
  - Taking over from someone else.....326
  - Finishing the night.....328

***Part V: The Part of Tens* .....331**

**Chapter 21: Ten Resources for Expanding Your Skills and Fan Base . . . . .333**

- Staying Current with Media .....333
- Visiting DJ Advice Web Sites.....334
- Getting Answers through DJ Forums.....334
- Reading Other Books.....335
- Getting Hands-On Advice .....336
- Listening to Other People’s Mixes .....337
- Participating in Competitions.....337

Hosting Your Own Night.....	338
Uploading Podcasts or Hosted Mixes.....	338
Immerse Yourself in What You Love.....	339

## **Chapter 22: Ten Answers to DJ Questions**

### **You're Too Afraid to Ask .....341**

Do I Need to Talk? .....	341
What Should I Wear?.....	342
How Do I Go to the Toilet? .....	342
Can I Invite My Friends into the DJ Booth?.....	343
How Do I Remove the Beat, or Vocals?.....	344
How Do I Choose My DJ Name?.....	345
Do I Get Free Drinks? (And How Do I Get Drinks from the Bar?) .....	346
Who Does the Lighting for the Night? .....	346
Should I Re-set the Pitch to Zero After Beatmatching? .....	347
What Do I Do if the Record or CD Skips or Jumps? .....	348

### **Chapter 23: Ten DJing Mistakes to Avoid .....349**

Forgetting Slipmats/Headphones.....	349
Taking the Needle off the Wrong Record.....	349
Banishing Mixer Setting Problems .....	350
Getting Drunk when Playing .....	350
Leaving Records Propped Up .....	351
Leaning Over the Decks .....	351
Avoiding Wardrobe Malfunction .....	352
Spending Too Long Talking to Someone .....	352
Leaving Your Last Tune Behind.....	352
Not Getting Paid Before You Leave.....	352

### **Chapter 24: Ten Items to Take with You When DJing .....355**

All the Right Records or CDs .....	355
Make it Personal with Headphones and Slipmats.....	356
You're a Star! MiniDisc Recorder (or a Blank Tape) .....	356
Pack Your Tools and Save the Day.....	356
Always Be Prepared: Pen and Paper.....	357
Keep Fuelled with Food and Drink.....	357
Spread the Music with Demo Tapes and CDs.....	357
Keep Moving with Car Keys .....	358
Have Wallet, Will Travel .....	358
Just Chill: Chill Tape for the Ride Home.....	358

### **Chapter 25: Ten Great Influences on Me .....359**

Renaissance – Disc 1.....	359
Tonsillitis.....	360
La Luna: 'To the Beat of the Drum' .....	360

---

Ibiza 1996 Radio 1 Weekend.....	360
The Tunnel Club, Glasgow .....	361
Jamiroquai – ‘Space Cowboy’ .....	362
Jeremy Healy.....	362
Alice DeeJay – ‘Better Off Alone’ .....	362
Delirium ‘Silence’.....	363
Sasha and Digweed Miami 2002.....	364
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b><i>365</i></b>

