

Introduction to DJing Part 1

These days it's possible to DJ on many different formats. This has also made DJing more accessible to those who have less space for records and money to buy them.

Here are some of the formats people use for DJing.

Turntables

Turntables are the original format for DJing on. You can use them with vinyl records or digitally with time code using a programme such as Serato or Pioneer RekordBox. Technics Turntables have been industry standard since the 1980s. They are rock solid pieces of equipment and many people still use them today. Unfortunately replacement parts are becoming really expensive and hard to get hold of. But a pair in good working order is still worth owning. There are other makes that you can buy brand new such as Reloop which are relatively cheap and actually very good turntables.



CDJs

Originally CDJs were designed to take CDs many CDJs can play digital music files stored on USB flash drives or SD cards.

Pioneer CDJs are industry standard closely followed by Denon who are emerging as a competitor. You can buy second hand CDJs quite cheaply. I would recommend getting a pair that take USBs as the very old ones don't.



DJ Controller

Controllers generally incorporate a mixer and two jog wheels which act like they would on a CDJ.

There is a huge range of different controllers on the market. The majority work with a computer and programmes such as serato. Stand alone controllers which take usbs are available but fairly expensive.



Lap Top
You can
DJ using
a

programme such as Serato with a Laptop. Ideally you want to use an external sound card with your laptop as an interface between your laptop and your speakers/amplifier.

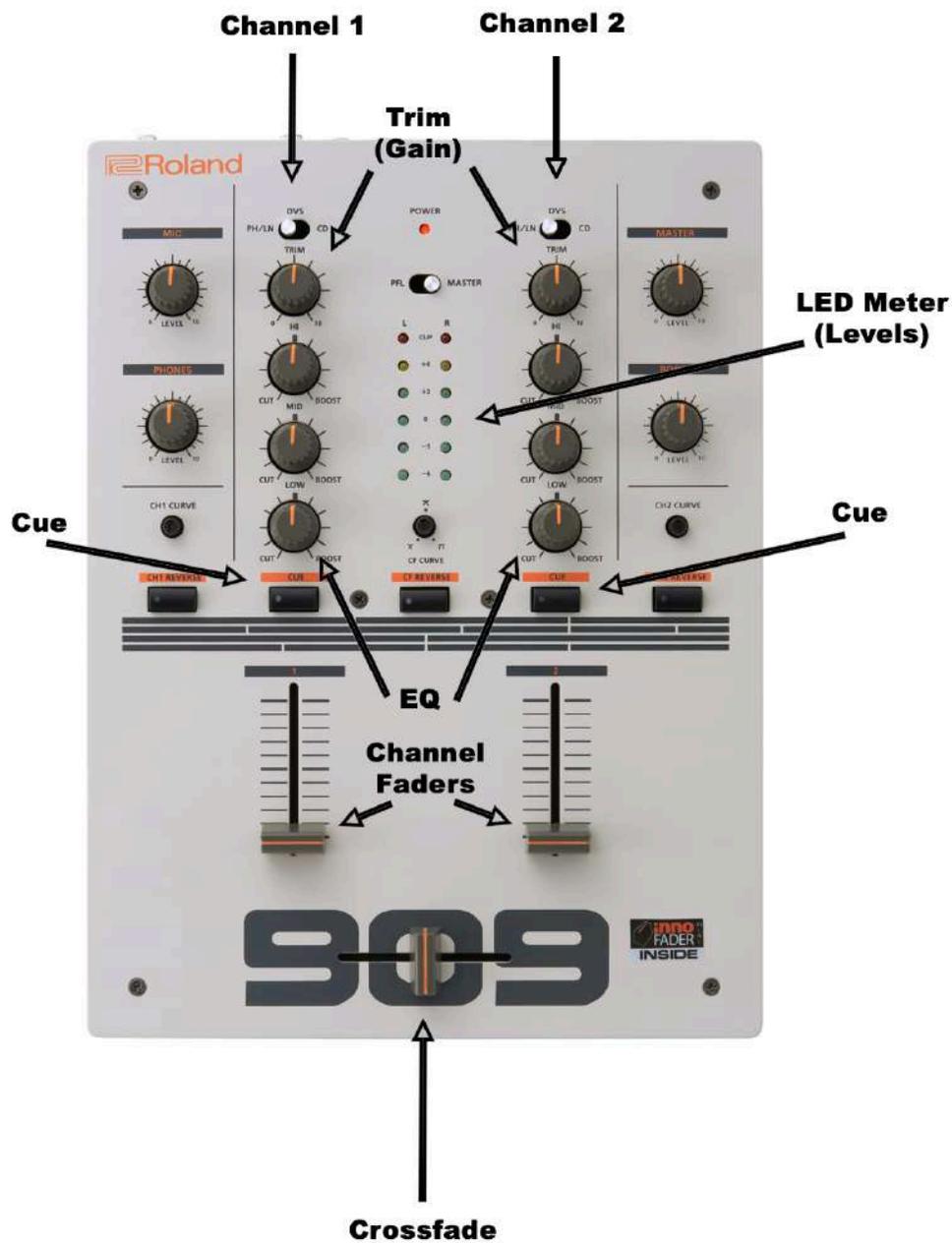
Set up

You will need monitors, if they are active monitors then you won't need an amplifier and you can plug them straight into your mixer or sound card. If you are using passive monitors you will need an amplifier as well.

Next I will introduce you to the mixer.

All DJ mixers work primarily in the same way whether you are using turntables, DJ Controller, CDJs or even a laptop.

The mixer below is fairly basic but is certainly good enough to DJ with and to give you an idea of the functionality of a mixer.



A DJ mixer has a minimum of two channels which receive audio from the turntables or CDJs. Mixers with extra channels could be used for a microphone or other pieces of equipment.

Channel 1 works with the left turntable or CDJ and **channel 2** works with the left turntable or CDJ

The **led meter lights** in between the channels tell you the audio level coming into the mixer. The sound needs to be loud enough but not too loud so levels to be around +3 or +6 db which would be from the fourth to the fifth light from the bottom is ideal. If the signal is hitting the red light at the top then the sound will be distorted and could damage the equipment.

The **gain or trim** is used to cut or boost the volume of the audio signal coming into the channel from the turntable, so you can use the gain to reduce the level if it's hitting the red.

The audio signal passes from the gain to the **EQ** pots, these pots cut or boost frequencies allowing you to blend in tunes or to create effects.

Below the **EQs** we have the channel fader. This can completely cut out the music when it's closed or allow the music to play when it's fully open.

The **crossfader** determines which channel/deck is heard when moved to either side and plays both channels when positioned in the middle.

A good way to start to DJ is to play one record or track at a time, going from one deck to another and to become familiar with your tunes and to have an understanding about levels, in many ways DJing is about great tune selection and not just about beat matching skills.

You can move the crossfader to one side and play a track with the **volume fader** up and if the track on the left deck is playing you will hear it through the speakers. While this track is playing you may wish to check the track on the other deck. To do this you press down the cue button and you will be able to hear the track through your headphones, but you won't hear it through the speakers, you can audition the tune this way and check the levels and adjust the gain at the same time.

As the first tune on the left deck comes to an end, move the crossfader over to the right deck and simultaneously start the record playing.

You use the same technique in reverse so as the record on the right ends you move the crossfader to the left and at the same time let the track start playing on the left.

Thanks for reading. Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best

Louise