

New Years Resolution - Find the Perfect DJ

Reported by [Michelle Figg](#) / Submitted 05-02-03 22:02.59

The Christmas season is barely behind us. And there was no doubt a few pertinent items on the wish list of every "child of the beat." Search the world over and you would probably have run across any of the following items under the Christmas tree: Decks, Records, Speakers, Mixers, Amplifiers, Equaliser, and Headphones. On Christmas morning, eyes will light up with joy as visions of becoming the God that stands above the masses, the chosen one who plays for those who praise their "lord" by reaching for the lasers, the master of the music which brings joy and excitement to the crowd, the superstar of the millennium...THE DJ!!

For the last decade, we've seen a change from what used to be the typical dream job aspiration to a new one. In the past, when questioning about dream jobs, you'd no doubt get answers like; Professional Footballer, Michael Jordan, Movie Star, Rock Star, or even being the latest "One Hit Wonder" to emerge from shows like Pop Idol or Fame Academy. Lead by the "Original Ibiza crew" (as I fondly refer to Oakenfold and Company) who have spent the past decade showing the world ways of enjoying music and the "total experience" of clubbing, we've now seen a whole new occupation that receives respect, fame, and let's not forget...the big money!

There must be a sense of power and excitement when you are up in the DJ booth looking down at a crowd of totally mad for it punters who have gone totally mental over a tune you've selected or the particular way you've mixed. As an avid clubber and dance music lover myself, I can say that the DJ is an essential component (duh) but one not always chosen correctly. I follow certain DJs because of their musical taste and they way they mix and play their music. When I pay my money and go to a club just to hear the style of a favourite DJ, I want consistence.



I'm sure everyone out there can relate to the following scenario. We, "Lords of the dance," spend the week trolling the internet and the latest issues of Time Out, DJ, or Ministry searching for the perfect night out. You run across a big name DJ who

usually plays the music you like and mixes like a genius. You get dressed up, queue for a hour to get in, spend money on door fee and drinks ... and the night is total crap.

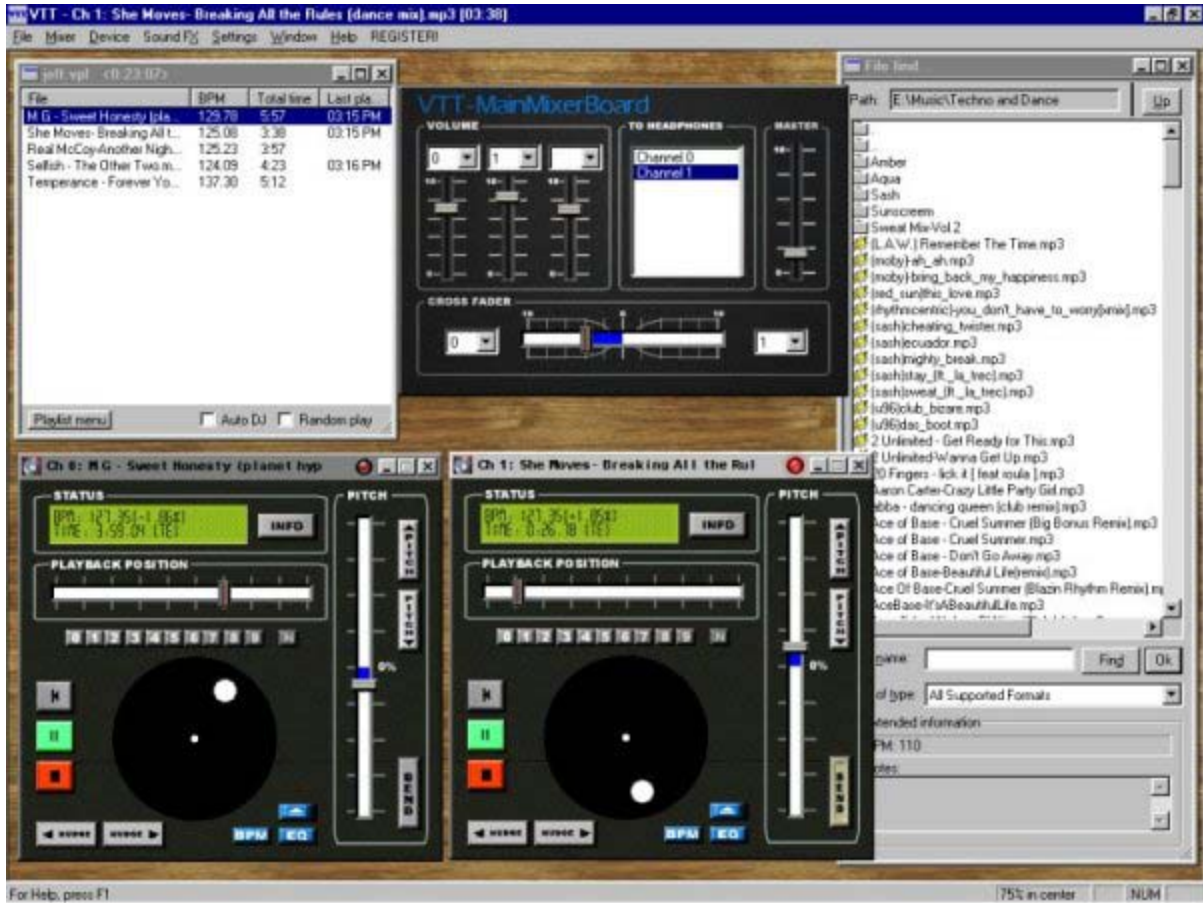
The same situation occurs with purchasing CD's and albums. Judge Jules has a compilation that comes out annually and I never know if it's going to be funky or more of what you'd hear at Serious or the main room of Judgement Sunday. Other DJs keep pumping out compilation after compilation on what seems like a monthly basis and continually use the same tunes yet pass it off as "THE NEW ALBUM MIXED BY...." Yeah yeah, I'm bored and tired of wasting my money.

This summer, I heard something different. My neighbour always seemed to have the best music seeping through the walls of his room and entering through mine (sometimes not at the most opportune times of the day...evening...or wee hours of morning). One day I asked what music he was playing and he told me it was a mate of his who works as an insurance adjuster and mixes on his PC in his spare time. I have to be honest and say I was totally impressed with the music but mixing on his PC? Something just doesn't seem right. How can you do that? Probably with a computer programme that does it for you. So, he may have good taste in music and a nicely selected playlist but, he must surely lack the talent to mix like a REAL DJ.....

.....All I can say is, I was wrong!

One Sunday when we were all lying around listening to music, (you all know that routine) and when, on several occasions, I asked who the CD was mixed by I was given the same answer. Different CD, same DJ. Totally different music selection than the last one I heard, yet still fantastic. Um, could this be the consistence that I was searching for?

But, mixing on his PC? Apparently, I wasn't armed with all of the facts. There are many DJ software packages that can be purchased and will do the mixing for you. Fun for everyone who's a bit uncoordinated but still wants be a cool DJ (like me?). However, there is also a programme that duplicates the typical DJ environment and does in fact require the individual to know how to mix properly. It's a product called Virtual Turntables, which allows for MP3 tunes to be mixed professionally with a PC. It demands talent and a musical ear because essentially the user is mixing as if on a typical set of decks. It models its primary interface after a typical Mixer board and Panasonic CD Mixer with jog wheel for, smoothing up or down in speed. Other usual elements such band kills and sampler are included and enhanced live, with effects to bring a track to the max, live.



A free shareware link is included at the end of this page.

I was still sceptical and decided to meet the man behind the fantastic music I kept hearing. Digital Liquid (Steve) showed me the program and how it works and I'm now a believer in his raw talent. Mixing with Virtual Turntables allows him to take the art of being a DJ to a higher level. The music library becomes infinite since it utilises the latest in MP3 technology. With this technology, he's able to gather music from virtually any source be it the internet, MP3s files, or purchased music compact discs (ripped into an mp3 file format) and take his record bag with him, not in crates of records, but in a single jewel case. All he needs is a computer when he performs. And what other DJ but this type could financially afford to have such an extensive music library at his fingertips or be able to play continuously for potentially over 48 hours? He's a one-man rave!! With the advent of broadband availability, the opportunity to download mp3 files, whilst live mixing, is achievable. Provided the internet could provide the required track for download, the DJ of tomorrow will be able to meet any request or wish of clubs/promoters by having access to millions of files, world wide, live and in the mix.

I don't buy CDs from high street stores anymore and to be honest, if Digital Liquid was a resident at a club, I'd make it my home. This DJ rocks my world and has, through recognition by his listeners, managed to gather a group of faithful followers. His music selection is enormous and outstanding. He finds music and sound bytes subsequently creating mixes that couldn't possibly be duplicated by any other DJ.

Over the last six months I have heard over 12 compilations mixed by Digital Liquid and seen him mix live on various occasions. One word sums his performance up and that's consistence! His specialty is hard and euphoric trance and I've heard him sneak in a bit of the progressive side of trance as well as banging hard house when the crowd suits ! No matter what, or where, his music selection is awesome and his mixing is astounding! Why in the world is DJ Digital Liquid not one of the chosen ones who stands above the ravers with their arms reaching up for the lasers and out to praise him? Because he's never been introduced to them properly.

My new years resolution is to return back to the original joy of clubbing! I believe that it's newer DJs that will bring back this feeling. Remember that first "proper" clubbing experience? Remember the club nights that stick in your memory forever because the sheer height of euphoria nearly blew the roof off and left your feet still twitching in the car ride home? This is what's on my Christmas wish list and my New Years resolution.

Come on the ravers and you serious clubbers; Let's demand a change from what is all too quickly becoming the norm. If God is a DJ do you have one to proudly stand behind and support? Does he let you down? Remember, a God shouldn't let his people down! Find yours and praise him!

I'VE FOUND CONSISTENCE AND PERFECTION AND IT'S DIGITAL LIQUID!!!

Download a sample of Digital Liquid's compilation here. (*n.b. for copyright reasons, tracks here are 2000/2001 – more recent tunes will be hosted elsewhere soon and are available through the mailing list*)

Or hear some of his own creations [here](#)

If you like what you hear e.mail me at michelle@michellefigg.com and you'll be automatically added to the exclusive mailing list.

Email your comments and ideas of where you believe he should display this talent to michelle@michellefigg.com. Additionally, you can leave your own comments on his writing and production directly on his web page for future readers. www.digital-liquid.org

Download a copy of the mixing software [here](#)