

## BEST DJ PRODUCT



### CDJ-1000MKII DIGITAL VINYL TURNTABLE, PIONEER

Pioneer's industry-standard CD player, the CDJ-1000, is aging well. The CDJ-1000MKII is the second generation of that already classic model, which was last year's winner in this category. It has the same design and layout as its predecessor, but boasts "improved feel and response," and several

new features like delay-free scratching, a cue marker that is set automatically within the center display to visually represent the cue point relative to the jog dial's location, a +/- 100 percent control range, a full feature digital-out function that ensures all of its digital features are carried over to any

connected environment, and an extra bright display. All that's nice, but "Karaoke" Karl Detken, Pioneer's Director of Marketing, attributes the MKII's popularity to the simple quality of its sound output. "It's so realistic that even purists can't tell the difference between vinyl and CD," he says. —LG



### DN-S5000 CD PLAYER, DENON PRO AUDIO

Denon's DN-S5000 is the company's first tabletop single-disc CD player, with the popular added twist of an active analog turntable platter, for "real-time user interaction," on top. You can cue it up just like vinyl, release it into a mix like vinyl, and apply all the latest turntablist scratching tricks — all with a unit smaller and lighter than the industry standard turntable. Plus, the DN-S5000 is packed with creative and exclusive DJ features, such as the capability to mix two tracks from the same CD and a "Hot Disc" memory feature that allows users to eject the disc during playback and have play continue for up to 35 seconds. And Denon didn't stop there. In addition, there are free user loadable software updates and an adaptor that allows DJs to fit their own original vinyl records to the unit. —LG



### PMC-500 PROFESSIONAL MIXING CONTROLLER, VESTAX

Since 1977, Vestax has earned an enviable reputation by building innovative, sophisticated, and often-imitated DJ mixers. With the introduction of the PMC-500, the firm has once again advanced both the art and science of mixer design. This rack-mountable, club-specific unit is loaded with features that allow users to take full advantage of evolving technology and trends. The PMC-500 offers DJs five separate phono/line input channels, each of which is equipped with a three-band isolator and seven-segment LED level indicator for maximum sonic control. DJs also love the adjustable-curve PCV crossfader, 60mm Tight Torque rail slide channel faders, and dedicated booth EQ. Audio technicians appreciate the mixer's limitable outputs, field-replaceable crossfader, and too-numerous-to-mention cable connection options, while club owners will particularly like the unique fire alarm function that mutes everything except the microphone in case of an emergency. And everyone, especially the patrons, will enjoy that justifiably famous Vestax sound. —JL

### FINAL SCRATCH, STANTON MAGNETICS

If you haven't heard about FinalScratch yet, you should climb out from under that rock. FinalScratch is a software package that with any standard turntable/mixer setup allows a DJ to manipulate digital music by hand via vinyl. The standard vinyl record included in the FinalScratch package contains digital information used to mix digital audio files, so you might be playing MP3s but you're still working with a record at your fingers. All mixing is done directly from the turntables, and the FinalScratch record can be used in combination with traditional analog records when mixing a set. It also allows the user to save the audio files in different playlists, as well to search and assign the audio files to either turntable. And users can save and load any production, remix, or new edit and play it that very moment, or take it to gig the same night. This may explain why many well-respected DJs, like Richie Hawtin and Josh Wink, are fans. And according to Henri Cohen, Director of Sales for Stanton, FinalScratch isn't just for "tech-heads," but for DJs who spin any genre of music (which explains its new-found mainstream acceptance). What DJ wouldn't appreciate being able to leave his crates at home, and still be able to play with turntables at his gig? —LG

