



BEST VIDEO PRODUCT

EJ MIDI TURNTABLE, EJ ENTERPRISES

Wunderkinds Justin Kent and Nathan Janos are the brains behind EJ Enterprises, and its years-ahead EJ MIDI. The optical turntable system allows you to morph any run-of-the-mill deck into a fully adjustable video player, via a simple retrofit using a patent-pending cartridge. With that plus the included EJ Vinyl, you can scratch, pitch-adjust, loop, and play your videos with total artistic freedom. This marks a revolution – and at \$749, a comparatively affordable one – for VJs and other visualists, who have been waiting with baited breath for easily manipulated, responsive video. (EJ promises a timing accuracy as precise as .01 milliseconds.) And with the bundled Scratch TV LE software, compatible with Mac OS X and Windows, users can also use QuickTime media, and employ common turntablist tricks, like beat-matching, scratching, needle-dropping (to jump between different points in a digital file), and beat-juggling (seamless looping). –KLM



KAOSS PAD ENTRANCER, KORG

Korg brings audio and visual control together with the Kaoss Pad Entrancer. This hybrid controller allows real-time fingertip control over digital effects processing for both audio and video sources, either together or separately. It is the first product to combine sound and video in such an intuitive fashion. As Jerry Kovarsky, Korg's product manager explained it, as a DJ plays off the reaction of his crowd with his music, a visual display can be just as of-the-moment: Entrancer allows for both. The box is packed with all kinds of audio effects, the same as the original Kaoss Pad, and a library of 100 video effects programs. Its Pad Motion function, for example, allows users to record the movements of their fingers on the X/Y Pad, letting them create tons of original image and/or sound effects just by using their fingers. This also makes it more approachable for someone who might be intimidated by a more complicated system: How hard is it to move your finger? –LG



U-CONTROL UC-33 CONTROLLER, EVOLUTION

"Trying to use a mouse to tweak all your different effects is just nuts," says Colin Meager, Marketing Manager at Evolution. "You just can't do it." Evolution's solution is their UC-33, an affordable hardware controller designed for home studio use, but finding favor amongst performing VJs with cost concerns and simple control needs. The UC-33 provides hands-on control for any computer music or MIDI setup, making controlling software plug-ins and virtual instruments on a PC or Mac a breeze. It comes with 33 presets allowing instant recall of setups for a whole range of industry-standard software, including Ableton's Live and Propellerhead's Reason. Specially designed overlay templates are also included, transforming the UC-33 into a B4, Pro 53 or channel strip mixer. It boasts 24 assignable rotaries, nine assignable sliders, and 14 assignable buttons; and all of the UC-33's 47 controllers can transmit on separate MIDI channels, making it possible to control multiple plug-ins and mixer channels. –LG



V-4 VIDEO MIXER, EDIROL

Sold out across Asia on its first day of release, the V-4 is the full-tilt mixer that VJs have been dreaming of for years. The four-channel piece packs a punch with effects including Chroma-Key, Luminance-Key, Colorize, Strobe, Picture-In-Picture, Mirror, Multi-Screen and many more. It also has over 200 different transition effects, from simple dissolves and fades to funky wipe patterns, and a BPM sync feature for rhythmic effects. It's also switch-able between NTSC and PAL in the same unit, and has a presentation mode for switching video sources on the same bus. The V-4 can rotate the T-bar vertically or horizontally to accommodate a range of users, from video professionals to DJ/VJ style mixers; and sports MIDI in/out through, for real-time or sequenced control of video sources with effects and transitions. But what makes it truly future-forward is V-LINK, a new feature from Edirol and Roland that allows for real-time performance control over digital video. V-LINK lets users trigger clips and perform video effects and transitions in real-time when connected with the Edirol DV-7PR (sold separately). –KLM