

From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

By DJ Tech

FROM GETTING NOTICED TO GETTING BOOKED

Twisted Radio

From this month onwards, we're really trying to focus on twisted radio.

We are starting a show on Sunday evenings at 8pm and inviting all the DJs from the Music Recognition Awards to step up and do a live stream.

As I write this article on Sunday the 22nd of November, I shall be kicking things off with my own set from the Music Recognition Awards as a live stream on Twisted Radio.

All DJ sets will be going via Restream with multiple platforms for the widest reach we can get you.

If you're a DJ and haven't streamed before, we're here to help. So whatever you haven't done before, we can help you do it.

As well as doing a live stream set for Twisted Radio, you will also be gaining knowledge, hopefully, in doing your live streams with other people.

Twisted Official is all about giving the up-and-coming DJ a leg up. A bit of help and a bit of encouragement.

There are many different levels of live streaming. There's your basic, straight from your phone, straight onto the Restream, or straight from the computer, straight onto the Restream. Or you can add things like effects, scenes and video clips, photo montages. There's many, many things you can do, including having multiple cameras and having the cameras change automatically so you don't have to worry about them. We've still the possibility to override it if you would want to add a quick effect.

The main two external effects units I use are called Nest Drop and Photism.

Both of these units give you different styles of visual effects. Plus, I always have one channel with a video running. The only thing about using a video that I should tell you immediately is: do not ever use big clips. Always make sure you chop the clip down in a video editor because if you're using OBS, for instance, OBS gets a little bit confused and starts lagging if you use big video clips.

My advice is: get your video, and make two or three one-minute video clips. Just save them in a little folder and then you can direct OBS to that folder and get it to continually play all three or four little video clips. To everybody on the outside, it's just going to look like one continual thing. If you also pick "always playing," it won't keep going back to the same video clip, which will become repetitive and not what you want at all.

All DJs that play on Twisted Radio will automatically be sent an overlay for the radio station.

And in OBS, once you've added the overlay, all you have to do is go to add and then text, and then you can write your DJ name and put that anywhere you want on the stream or on the overlay.

As far as lighting goes, what you need to remember is the more light you have, the clearer the picture you're going to have on your video cams. It's as simple as that.

Yeah, you can do it in the dark with all your lights flashing and all that. That's a really good effect. But if you want to have a really clear picture of you DJing, you need to have good lighting. You can get LED streaming lights on little tripods for about 20 quid off Amazon or a shop like that. They're pretty cheap and that's what I use and what I recommend.

LIVE STREAMING WITH DJ TECH

TWISTED RADIO



STEP UP AND STREAM

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A LEG UP

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LIGHT YOUR SET

As far as lighting goes, what you need to remember is the more light you have, the clearer the picture you're going to have on your video cams. It's as simple as that.

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Playlist Styles

We all have our favourite styles of music and they're all different to everybody else's. Me personally, I love a range of styles. I think it's important not to just have one specific style, but also I have a couple of backup styles. Myself, I love acid techno and hard trance and everything around the outside and in between the middle.

But I also love old school music, old school house, old school hardcore. And I also like jungle techno, massively. They're the styles I was playing back in the 90s, and I still love playing them to this day.

So there's a lot of big scope going all the way from the left-hand side to your House, Hardcore, Hard trance, Techno, Acid techno, Psytrance, Drum n Bass. That whole range is a massive range, and it's so good that when I go out, I go out with more than one style set on my USB.

So it's basically like taking five record boxes with you of your favourite tunes to a party, all on one USB. I can go from one to another, or just do one type of set, or just do another type of set.

The thing is, I choose at the moment. After checking the crowd out, seeing how the crowd's feeling, seeing who's playing before you, and seeing what the vibe of the place is, I might just do a completely different style of set completely, which is why I go out with several sets on my USB.

This way really works for me, and I fully recommend that everyone else does the same sort of thing. In your own styles, so your main style is there, but you also love doing that, so have that style there. And you really like if you ever get a chance to do that as well, so you have that there.

So there's your three styles straight away. So when you go to an event, even though you've done a playlist and know exactly what you want to play in the order you want to play it, you might end up doing a completely different set. And I'll be honest with you, it's quite exciting working like that. It's putting the live and skill back into DJing, whereas technology sometimes takes it away.

I'll also make some playlists up before I go out, but I don't necessarily play the playlists in the order that I've worked them out. After working my playlists out, what I tend to find is there's always two tunes that absolutely sing together. They're perfect, like hand in glove.

So what it is, I've got a bunch of pairs and I've just laid the bunch of pairs down so they flow from one all the way through to the end on a little journey, but that still doesn't mean I'm gonna play it like that when I go out live. Because I might get halfway through a set and a tune doesn't work and I think the next tune might not work, so I'll completely change to the end of the set or somewhere else or change styles completely in the set.

So, I mean, I call that freestyle. Even though you've got a playlist, it is still playing the playlist in a freestyle way.

And for me, being a DJ, that puts a little bit of excitement back in there, whereas the digitalness has taken some away.

I used to do exactly the same with vinyl. I'd just put a couple of tunes together at the front, put a couple of tunes together at the back, and put everything else in the middle. I could go anywhere, start with anything, but I know roughly I've got a direction if I want to dip into it.

PREPARE YOUR MUSIC. PLAY THE MOMENT.

PLAYLIST STYLES



ONE USB

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FREESTYLE

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KEEP THE EXCITEMENT

And for me, being a DJ, that puts a little bit of excitement back in there, whereas the digitalness has taken some away.

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Vibers

Every party you ever go to, there are people that I identify as Vibers.

They're the people that totally identify with the sound that's coming out the speakers, whoever's playing. It's irrelevant. If they're getting into it, getting in the groove with it, that's what I call a Viber.

Now, every time I enter a party, I'm always on the lookout for Vibers. Always. You can tell straight away. You do it as well; you just don't realise you do it. But basically, you identify all the people that are on it and are really thoroughly enjoying what's happening at the party on the set that's playing.

Now, the Vibers come in all shapes and sizes. It doesn't matter who they are, what they look like. It doesn't matter how they dance. It's irrelevant. It's the mental level that they're on at the party at that exact moment in time.

Now when I get up behind the decks and I plug my USB in, pull up my playlist, the one I'm going to be doing at the time, hit the first tune, get the first tune lined up, check the speed, make sure the speed's alright, check all the effects are off, because the DJ before me might have left something on. Which happens so often. It really does.

So I'm ready to go. The very next thing I do is look at the crowd and check for the Vibers. Identify which of the Vibers that are clocked coming in and see how they react to what you're just about to do with the first tune.

Now some will love it, and some won't. So it all depends, at the time, on the percentage of Vibers that do like it and do think you're doing a good thing, rather than the ones that fall away and don't.

So now I've clocked all the Vibers that I'm interested in, and what I'm going to be doing is I'm going to be clocking them either every mix or every other mix, just to see how they're doing, seeing if I'm doing them personally a good job.

Now the rest of the crowd matter as well; of course they do. I'm not saying anything other than that. All the crowd, everybody there is important.

But I am critically looking at my personal Vibers now. They're my personal Vibers. They haven't got a clue any of this is going on.

And I've been doing this since I started in 1993 on vinyl. It's exactly the same process, exactly the same thing. And those Vibers from back then are now my best friends because I've got to know them all, because I needed to meet every single one of them. And I did.

And all of them have now become my following and friends.

, if you get what I mean. And if I ever see any of them at a party, I'm clocking them all the time. They'll tell you

if asked ,"Yeah, Tech's always clocking me. I don't know why." Lol well after reading this they will finally know.. And a massive big-up’s and thank you from me..

But I do. Because what it is, they are my personal thermometers of the vibe. Nothing else, just the vibe. If they're glowing red, I know I'm doing a good job. If they're sort of like amber, I need to pump it up a bit. Do you know what I mean? That's how I read the crowd.

So when people say DJs need to read the crowd, that is how I read my crowd. Now, every DJ might have got a different way of doing what I've just explained. But that's how I do it.

And at the same time, of course, I take a thermometer reading of the entire crowd as well. So I'm not just looking at those people; I am weighing up the whole situation, but with those people leading the way for me in the crowd.

READING THE CROWD WITH DJ TECH

READ THE VIBERS



FIND THE VIBERS

Every party you ever go to, there are people that I identify as Vibers.

KEEP CHECKING

So now I've clocked all the Vibers that I'm interested in, and what I'm going to be doing is I'm going to be clocking them either every mix or every other mix, just to see how they're doing, seeing if I'm doing them personally a good job.

THE WHOLE CROWD

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