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TOP 10 DO'S AND DON'T'S WHEN LEARNING TO DJ

Advice for aspiring DJ's to get it right
the first time

BPMDJCOURSES.CO.UK

ABOUT US



Neil Attridge - DJ

Learning to DJ at 15, playing through the 90s in various Clubs, bars, house parties and private events in London, Neil has a solid and detailed knowledge of how to DJ.

Passing on that knowledge to anyone willing to learn the art is paramount and is our main aim as a company

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INFO THAT'S HARD TO FIND

The internet is great for learning but
can be overwhelming.

The information enclosed in this PDF
are questions that are rarely
answered before you start your
journey, but are important for you to
make the right decision.

We hope you enjoy it!

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TOP 10 DO' & DON'TS

LESSON

1

DON'T BUY A CRAZY EXPENSIVE CONTROLLER, AND THEN NEVER TAKE LESSONS.

LESSON

2

DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU CAN LEARN EVERYTHING ONLINE.

LESSON

3

MAKE SURE YOU ARE PLYING FROM A GREAT MUSIC LIBRARY (OR ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD ONE).

LESSON

4

DON'T GET BAMBOOZLED WITH RANDOM YOUTUBE VIDEOS – LEARN YOUR SOLID FOUNDATION FIRST.

LESSON

5

DON'T FALL FOUL OF HOT CUES.

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ALWAYS QUESTION YOURSELF AND YOUR MIXES.

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USE YOUR EARS, NOT YOUR EYES.

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RECORD YOUR MIXES NO MATTER
WHAT STAGE YOU ARE AT.

LESSON

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DON'T SELL ON YOUR GEAR
THROUGH FRUSTRATION.
YOU CAN DO THIS!

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LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE

Hindsight is a beautiful thing. It breathes realisation into the once impossible questions. It allows you to work out where you went wrong and will sometimes be decorated with regret and missed opportunities.

My mission is to pass on all of the knowledge I have learnt using the benefit of hindsight to help **you** become a great DJ in the future.

The only thing I would like in return is your time (to practice). BUT I understand you are not going to practice anything you don't like doing.

This means a fire of enthusiasm has to be lit inside you, which breeds the excitement of learning a new skill which changes your mindset into a positive one.

Talking from a personal perspective DJing has positively changed every day of my life. I learnt the right way and I stuck at it. It's now part of my DNA, and through working through what works in a club, bar or party (and what doesn't), I can pass this knowledge on to shape the way others think when standing behind the hallowed decks.

www.bpmdjcourses.co.uk



**“Luck is what
happens when
preparation
meets
opportunity.”**

-
Philosopher Seneca

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LESSON

01

DON'T BUY A CRAZY EXPENSIVE CONTROLLER, AND THEN NEVER TAKE LESSONS.

Time after time, we see the same old situation. Customer; *'I have purchased a new £1500 controller, but I don't know how to use it, but I don't have any budget left for lessons'.*

Admittedly, lessons are not shiny like a new controller but are *invaluable* to building solid foundations.

This point is always proven by the sheer amount of controllers you can see on the second-hand market. There is an endless stream of controllers being sold on as learning purely on YouTube can be demoralizing and unproductive. Jumping from random lesson to random lesson is not structured. Nobody can learn like this and is very easy to avoid!

LESSON

02

DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU
CAN LEARN EVERYTHING ONLINE.

Finding a mentor can help you progress.

This is something online learning cannot provide.

Taking a course is a bold move, mentally and financially but is
without doubt the best & quickest way to learn.

Whenever I meet like-minded students who are passionate about
learning, I check in to seek regular updates from them long after
their course has finished.

Being further forward in their learning journey, they come back
with various questions which I am more than happy to answer.

You won't get this learning through online videos.

I want you to be the best DJ you can be, so helping you with the
structured correct information at the right time is essential.

LESSON

03

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GREAT MUSIC LIBRARY (OR ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD ONE.

You are only as good as the tracks you play and once you get your lessons moving, the immediate question that will arise next will be,
'how many tracks do you have in your library'?

If you are starting from ground zero this is fine as you can implement the techniques taught from day one.. If you have a modest library already there will be some leg work required to get your library organised.

I promise you will thank me later down the line!

Building a library can be expensive, but there are methods at your disposal which can help.
Having an organised, well structured library helps so much when collating playlists.

LESSON

04

DON'T GET BAMBOOZLED WITH RANDOM YOUTUBE VIDEOS.

YouTube is great – it has a wealth of videos on any subject you can imagine. The issue is there is no structure. When you are learning an art of any kind, the foundational structure has to be taught in a strictly organised way, and this enables you to keep track of your progression and helps you plan where you need to go in the next stage of learning.

When you dip in and out of various (endless) videos online, you can miss critical learning steps. This will only cloud your learning path and makes you think you are not progressing, which, ultimately leads to confusion, doubt, and the thought process that 'maybe DJing is not for me'.

The structure provided by actual lessons is invaluable and can keep you in a groove and on a strict learning path, moving you forward and building a strong foundation to let loose your creativity.

LESSON

05

DON'T FALL FOUL OF HOT CUES

Talking of videos online, this is where people go to straight away. It's free and you can drown in all the information you can take. This fools people into thinking that they are DJing and progressing.

Some of my past students turn up to lessons and have 15 hot cues marked out all over a single tracks WAV form image, so much so that they can hardly see the vital data that lies beneath.

When asked why they are applying so many cues, the answer is usually, 'so I know when to bring the next track in', well, the information already lies in the WAV form itself. Learn how to read this you won't need hot cues for this purpose.

Hot cues can be useful in lots of situations but in the initial stages of learning to DJ the chances are you have lots learn before hot cues.

LESSON

06

QUESTION YOURSELF AND YOUR MIXING

Was it a good or bad mix? If it was bad what are we going to do about it? Forget it and move on right?

Wrong.

So many people mix two tracks together, then mix another, then mix another, and so the cycle continues. At no point in this process do they stop a track and ask,

'How did that mix sound?'

'Why did it sound so bad?'

'Can I make it better?'

You know automatically soon as a mix is finished if it is good or bad. If it was the latter, pull it back and work out why.

This is an essential process to be a good DJ.

LESSON

07

EFFECTS ARE NOT FOUNDATIONS... LEARN THEM LAST

Speaking from personal experience, we very rarely had the opportunity to use an effects unit. That said, using some great effects can be very beneficial in building the atmosphere in various situations but leave them alone while you are learning the basics. Knuckle down and learn the solid skills, then when you do get to the point in your learning journey, your mixes will become tailored and finished off perfectly with delicate effect use.

Use your ears, not your eyes.

LESSON

08

USE YOUR EARS, NOT YOUR EYES

We currently live in a visual world. YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, DJ programs such as Traktor, Serato or Rekordbox with DJ controllers with large screens giving us a wealth of helpful information, BUT we listen to music with our ears!

I grew up learning on vinyl where all you had was your ears to give you the information you required to mix well.

I start all of my lesson on Vinyl. I physically get to see the eyes glaze over and the ears open.

It's a simple yet great lesson.

Be aware that this is really all you need and covering screen increases your awareness, control and skill level.

This is something that can put you above the competition further down the line.

LESSON

09

RECORD YOUR MIXES NO MATTER WHAT STAGE YOU ARE AT

You are your own worse critique, and sometimes this can play against you (when you are over critical). Personal quality control is important when it comes to judging your mix quality, as nobody wants to hear anyone practising.

Recording your mixes for review, to play out on a run or in the car travelling to and from work, is really helpful. After each mix you can judge the feeling it left with you, this transfers into why was it great, or why didnt It quite work? Understand where you are going wrong, means you can revisit that mix and make it better, or if was already great you can save it and make it part of your final mix.

LESSON 10

THIS SHOULD BE NUMBER 1 REALLY..

Don't sell on your brand-new DJ controller because you have failed to take any lessons!

It makes no sense.

Work out how much lessons are going to cost. Subtract this off your controller budget, buy a less expensive controller, which will no doubt have all the same functions as the expensive one and use the difference to take lessons and learn your art properly.

All of the above information and so much more is taught to our students until its second nature, and they are happy to step out and play great sets to great crowds.

LESSON 11!

A FINAL NOTE

BEING A DJ IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE. YOU ARE
ESSENTIALLY PLAYING OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSIC TO AN
ADORING CROWD WHO WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT, IF YOU
DO IT WELL.

You are missing a fantastic opportunity to learn a skill
that can bring you so much joy, admiration, fun and
satisfaction in life.

Social wellness, great mental health, assurance and a
huge feeling of belonging.

Be you. Love it. learn it. It's within your grasp!

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



ALYX HOLCOMBE - BBC RADIO 1

Neil was so friendly and welcoming. I was DJing rock songs, and Neil took the time to figure out what would work best. I can't believe how much I had learnt from Neil in 2 hours, and the gig went so well! Thank you, Neil, you legend!!!



TIFF QIUNN - DJ QUINN

Neil at BPM is the most passionate, kind and enthusiastic teacher I could have asked for. He was patient but stern and always pushed me to be the best I could be without forgetting the reason I started. When I got ahead of myself, he kept me grounded, and when I lacked motivation, he picked me up.



ED JACKSON

Came into DJing very late on and was looking for guidance and found Neil at BPM DJ courses. Signed up for a 6-week course, which I am now halfway through. His level of expertise and patience has been second to none and brought me on in leaps and bounds in a very short amount of time. I have contacted him out of hours on several occasions for advice, and he always gets back to me with information and help, which has been a blessing. I can't rate this guy highly enough. Thank you, Neil 5 star quality.

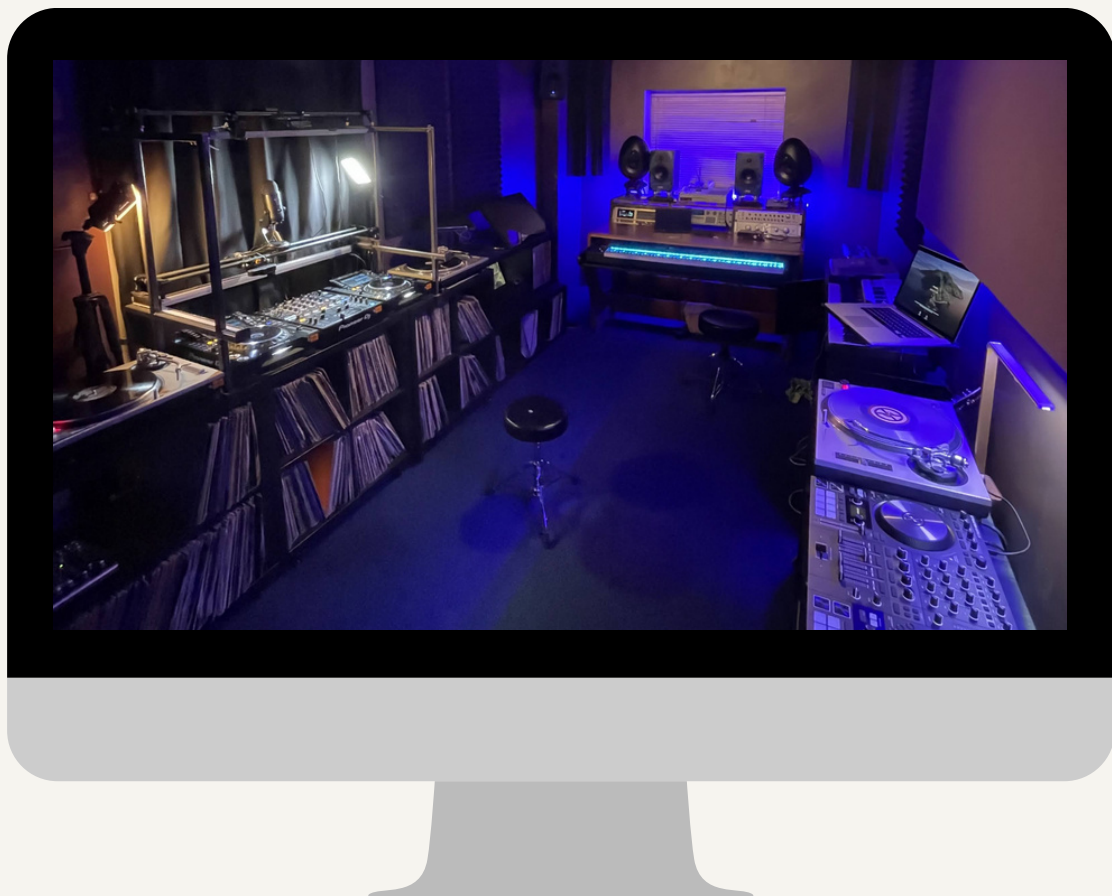
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30 MINUTES ON ME

I love passing on the knowledge if it helps increase your confidence to move forward in the DJ world.

To prove this fact to thank you for taking the time to read this information I am happy to jump on a Zoom call with you to answer any questions you may have. Drop me an email entitled 'PDF FREE ZOOM' and let's chat soon.

INFO@BPMDJCOURSES.CO.UK



THANK YOU!

Thank you for downloading this PDF.
We hope it has helped you to move forward and given you a
more informed mindset for you to progress your DJ career.

If you need any help, advice or inspiration on your journey,
please get in contact!

I wish you nothing but positive energy and heightened
progress moving forward.

Neil Attridge
info@bpmddjcourses.co.uk

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