



FUNK NAUGHTY

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR DIGITAL DJ'S AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC PRODUCERS

FunkNaughty's Insider Tips for Digital DJs and Music Producers





Hello and welcome to FunkNaughty's Insider Tips for Digital DJs and Music Producers.

We've put this guide together to help all our fellow digital djs and producers out there. If you are a bedroom DJ/Producer or even a pro these tips will help you to develop and continue building your skills and knowledge of digital DJing and producing.

The methods we are about to reveal to you aren't rocket science; in fact they are dead easy to follow, but trust us they **DO** work!

Drawing on our experiences we're giving you everything we have found really useful over the years so that you can achieve what we have, but also to be even better and to go further. Our aim to help all djs and producers to achieve their goals, (and to rule the dance floor!!)

If you take these methods and really put them to practice then it wont be long before you start seeing drastic improvement in your skills and start achieving the success you deserve.

If you regularly visit our site you will already know that everything we do online is about helping you to develop your digital dj and music production skills and knowledge so you can become great djs and producers.

We really hope you find this guide useful. It would be great to hear your feedback, you can contact us at info@funknaughty.com

So with out further hesitation lets get on with it!

FunkNaughty
A.K.A. Adam Laurie & Phil Robinson ☺



Insider Tips for Digital DJs

1. Practice Makes Perfect

You want to make it to the top, or just want to be the best DJ you can? Then you need to put the hours in and practice hard. Like everything you get good at, it all comes down to practicing, practicing and practicing. If you can practice every day, then do it! But make sure you are consistent. Practicing solidly for a week then not practicing for month is no good. Set yourself a routine similar to a fitness workout: 15 mins of scratching or controllerism techniques, 15 mins of practicing effects, 30 mins of mixing introducing what you have just practiced in the first 30 mins. Repeat 4 to 5 times a week. You don't have to stick to this, mix up the routine each week, introducing new ideas, routines and attempt new tricks.

Within a few weeks let alone a few months you'll notice a massive difference in your dj skills. Remember the difference between a good dj and a great dj is their ability to put on a great show for the people on the dance floor. So practice, practice and practice some more

2. Know Your Equipment

Learn your DJ equipment inside out. Many people looking to master the art of digital djing often buy new equipment and software before mastering the last piece of kit they had. If you do this and jump from one thing to another you will **NOT** get anywhere fast. The majority of all digital djing equipment available today (even though it may be packaged differently) does practically the same thing, or can be programmed to do the exactly same thing as any other piece of digital equipment. The best thing a digital dj can do is to decide how they want to dj, e.g. with a laptop and midi controller or with time coded vinyl etc and then set about learning that system inside out. With the speed that new equipment is coming onto the market it is easy to get sucked into the marketing and hype about the latest equipment hitting the markets. Don't be fooled. Pick a system and stick with it, learn it inside out. If you master your equipment, you'll master the dance floor!

3. Know Your Tunes

Learn your tunes inside out. Knowing when a particular tune breaks or when to bring in the next track are essential points for being a great dj. Rhythm when crafting a set is imperative. So knowing exactly what your tune is going



to do next is really important; dropping a tune at the wrong time can sound as bad as clashing out of time beats.

4. Learn From The Pros

Listen to mixes of your favourite djs and learn how they craft their sets. Notice the arrangement of tracks, the rhythm they use, and how they blend their tunes together, if they use effects, other sound clips, mixing tricks etc. Then go and practice what you have learnt.

5. Always Be Prepared

Like a cub scout, a good DJ always comes prepared! When playing out always have a number of different mixes ready. If the crowd aren't feeling your track selection you need to be able to change direction quickly and without fuss. Make things easy for yourself and keep your mix sets organised in separate, easily searchable folders on your laptop's desktop (or most relevant place). If '*mix set A*' isn't working you can quickly and easily move to '*mix set B*' and not worry about which tunes to play next.

6. Buy Pro Headphones

Make sure you have a decent set of headphones. You would be surprised by the difference a quality set of headphones will make to your mixing. We suggest going all out on your headphones. If you don't have the cash now, beg, borrow, save up, but buy yourself a professional pair of headphones. They will last, and you won't regret your purchase in the long run. FunkNaughty recommends Technics RP-DH1200, Pioneer HDJ 2000 or Sennheiser HD280 headphones.

7. Back Up Your Music

Always back up all of your music files on a complete separate hard drive from the main hard drive you normally use. You never know when a hard drive may fail; it could happen at any time. The cost incurred trying to have the faulty drive fixed can run into hundreds or even thousands of pounds. Save yourself time, hassle and money and buy a spare hard drive and start backing up your music files today.



We recommend the Lacie Rugged drive range.

<http://www.lacie.com/products/range.htm?id=10036> . They are portable and can take a knock or two unlike a lot of hard drives, and they're well priced and available with various sized hard disk space. Or set up an account and store all your music (and any other type of file) on dropbox.com.

http://bit.ly/AwesomeFileOrganiserTool_DropBox

8. Take Care Of Your Equipment

When djing make sure you carry your equipment in a well padded bag or carry case. While on the move your bag is likely to get knocked around so protect your equipment at all times. You don't want to make it to a gig only to find a vital piece of equipment is broken.

When you're not djing keep all off your equipment, especially your mixers, midi controllers, cdjs etc covered. Dust gets everywhere and seems to be especially attracted to technical equipment. If you don't look after your equipment you'll soon notice cross-faders and jog wheels etc becoming less responsive. A good way to keep your equipment clear of dust is to keep the equipment covered at all times and to use an air canister. Gently spray air into the equipment every so often. This will help to remove any dust that has started to build up.

9. Research & Stay Ahead Of The Game

Stay up to date with all forms of music. A good dj has a sound understanding of all forms of music and not just the style they play. Stay up to date with what people are listening to and feeling on the dance floor. Listen out for the next BIG tunes. The buzz you will receive when watching a crowd react to a big new track they haven't heard before can't be beaten. The best and easiest way to hear new music for free is by visiting online digital radio stations and mix sites. A few sites like:

<http://www.soundcloud.com/>

<http://www.mixcloud.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/>,

<http://www.unknownfm.net/>,

<http://www.last.fm/>,

<http://www.dj-mixes.com/>,

<http://www.djpassion.co.uk/>,

<http://www.djmix.net/>,

http://www.podomatic.com,

<http://www.tribalmixes.com>



10. Persevere & Believe

Making it to the top or just becoming the best DJ you can, will require a lot of time and effort. But **YOU CAN DO IT!** Stay focused and keep practicing and learning from other DJs. You must be prepared to take knocks and set-backs. Not everything will go perfectly right all the time. Remember there is **no such thing as failure, only feedback!** If something doesn't work, try and try again until it does work.

Believe in yourself and your music and **consistently imagine yourself playing** to a packed crowd in your favourite club and in time **YOU WILL MAKE IT!** Good luck.



Insider Tips For Music Producers

1. Try Before You Buy – Software

There are numerous DAW's on the market, all look and feel very different. Visit the main software providers' websites and download their free trial versions. Don't be swayed by DJ/Producer endorsements, go for the set-up that suits you best. FunkNaughty.com use Ableton & Reason and free demo versions can be downloaded from the links below.

<http://www.ableton.com/downloads>

<http://www.propellerheads.se/download/>

2. Try Before You Buy – Hardware

There are numerous midi controllers and keyboards on the market, get yourself to your local dj/music shop and try out the controllers you're interested in, just make sure you do some research on the controllers first.

Hard to Find Records <http://www.htfr.com/> based in Birmingham host regular demonstrations as do West End DJ <http://www.westenddj.co.uk/> based in London.

3. Software Updates

All the major software providers update their software regularly, to improve performance or add additional features. Make sure you join their mailing list to find out when the latest updates are being released.

4. Music Theory

Making music with a computer is quick and easy and whilst you don't need to be able to read music, understanding the basics of music theory and knowing which key sounds work well together, will massively help your productions.

FunkNaughty.com found the following three books very useful.

1) <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Music-Theory-Dummies-Michael->

[Pilhofer/dp/0764578383/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1292346495&sr=8-3](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Music-Theory-Dummies-Michael-Pilhofer/dp/0764578383/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1292346495&sr=8-3)

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- 2) http://www.amazon.co.uk/Theory-Computer-Musicians-Michael-Hewitt/dp/1598635034/ref=sr_1_14?ie=UTF8&qid=1292346577&sr=8-14
- 3) http://www.amazon.co.uk/Composition-Computer-Musicians-Michael-Hewitt/dp/1598638610/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1292346621&sr=1-1

5. Effects

To use effects properly you need to understand what they do. The best way to do this is to simply add a drum and pad loop to your DAW and start applying different effects, layering these can give you some great unique sounds.

6. Terminology

Stuck wondering what a DAW is or what an oscillator or sequencer do? Then get on the net and start researching. The music glossary on FunkNaughty.com is a great place to start.

<http://www.funknaughty.com/2010/10/funknaughty's-music-theory-glossary/>

7. Courses

Courses, whether you attend a college or prefer to study on-line, they're a great way to develop your knowledge and to meet potential collaborators.

FunkNaughty.com attended some great courses at Citylit [http://www.citylit.ac.uk/search/?dept=Music§ion=Music technology](http://www.citylit.ac.uk/search/?dept=Music§ion=Music%20technology) college in London. If you're not in London, then check out Sonic Academy for online tutorship, <http://www.sonicacademy.com/>

8. Forums

Once you've got your software sorted, get on to their forum pages and start



reading! They're packed full of great tips and tricks and most offer the opportunity to get involved in Beta testing for forthcoming versions.

9. Magazines

Get yourself a subscription to Computer Music, Future Music or Music Tech magazine. They're all packed full of how to guides, reviews and tips & tricks.

<http://www.musicradar.com/computermusic>

<http://www.musicradar.com/futuremusic>

<http://www.musictechmag.co.uk/>

10. Favorite Artist

Everyone has their favourite artist or two; now is the time to start really listening to their music, deconstruct it in everyway possible and start trying to replicate their sound. By doing this you'll start to learn the tricks of a professional producer.

11. Feedback

Join a website such as dj-mixes.com, you can check out FunkNaughty mixes at the following link http://www.dj-mixes.com/FUNK_NAUGHTY. SoundCloud <http://soundcloud.com/> or MixCloud <http://www.mixcloud.com/> are good alternatives. Get out there and start sharing your music; you'll be amazed at the feedback you get, which will help your future productions & Mixes.

12. Digital Recorder

Get out and about and record some unique sounds, you'll be amazed what you can do with everyday sounds, once you've got them in your DAW.

13. Free Plug-Ins & Samples

Keep an eye out for free plug-ins and samples. Just because they're free doesn't mean they aren't any good or not used by the big name producers.