

# Novation Twitch | £399

The future of turntablism is here, claims **Roy Spencer**. Could this be the final nail in the coffin?

**WHAT IS IT?**  
The Novation Twitch is a hardware controller for use with Serato's Itch DJ software

**CONTACT**  
Who: Novation  
Tel: +44 (0)1494 462246  
Web: [www.novationmusic.com](http://www.novationmusic.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
1 Performance over beat-mixing  
2 Slicer feature sets the bar for on the fly re-edits  
3 Portability – add laptop and cans to mix on the move

**F**uture generations of party starters may look back on the turntable with a mixture of patronising fondness and pity, as they deftly whip up a dancefloor by effortlessly dissecting musical waveforms with the flick of a wrist on boxes like the Twitch.

Dexterity previously reserved for DMC mixing comp entries, painfully learned over countless years nailing multiple combo beat juggles, is now issued out the box as standard for controller DJs. Actually, lose the 'DJ' bit, as I said – Controllerist.

### In Novation

While certainly not the first to leap into the ring with a chair and a whip to take on the turntable, Novation has had the advantage of piggybacking the first wave of controller manufactures. Like Serato

got to see what Final Scratch was about then push past it at the school dance, Novation got to see the ugly sides of the competition before flaunting its wares. Unlike the NI Kontrol X1 and Maschine,

your boy, Twitch, comes with a nifty onboard audio interface, so you can rock it sans decks and mixer.

A laptop and a pair of cans is all you need to work out a set, or dick about in your crates. Wire it up to speakers and you got an instant party. It's the ultimate bit of kit for those plane journeys to gigs, or kick starting an impromptu house party.

It's quick to start shit – the M.O. is loud and clear the moment you get it home from your local DJ supplies store. Out the box it is no harder to fathom than an Easter egg. Remove the

### Slice It Up

Each new advancement in digital DJing needs a few bells and whistles to rise above the competition. Novation are hoping its new Slicer feature will get the right amount of cooing on the forums and message boards. Select the function and the desired portion of the playing track, and the software will focus in and

break it down into evenly spaced cue points. Using the Triggerpads you can re-edit the sequence of events. Load up a drum break, loop it, Slicer it, and the file is immediately broken down into its component parts. Now bash out a new passage over a running track, playing individual hi-hat, kick and snare hits in any

fresh order you like over the top. With some practice you can re-flip a chorus, glitch up an acapella or just fool with the time signature of a well-known synth line. You don't have to have perfect timing either, it remains on beat, and when you're done it drops back into the running track, like the loop roll does so well.



