

Pioneer DJM-900 Nexus | £1,600

Pioneer's new mixer aims to sync the booth into a fury of effects. **Chris Barker** networks the Nexus

WHAT IS IT?

Four channel DJ mixer with Pioneer Pro DJ Link technology, MIDI, and USB audio interface

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Pro DJ link LAN port
- 2 brand new colour effects
- 3 X-Pad touch control for beat effects



When Pioneer launched their flagship DJM-2000 mixer, it seemed to be the perfect compliment to their top-of-the-line CDJs, offering masses of connectivity, effects and control. But, it also seemed to be a mixer that split the DJ community and was too much of a leap forward from what had become the club standard, the DJM-800. Here at FM we loved the DJM-2000 and its

overflowing amount of features, but it didn't find its way in to the hearts of as many DJs and clubs as Pioneer probably hoped. Here then is where their new DJM-900 Nexus steps in. Built in a similar shell to the DJM-800, the Nexus packs in some of the same behind-the-scenes brains as the DJM-2000 with Pro link Ethernet support and a full audio interface and USB connection. Although the 900 only sports a single Ethernet port, using

a LAN hub multiple CDJ-2000s can be connected and will make sure any tempo grid information from Pioneer's Rekordbox software is also read perfectly by the mixer, keeping all the effects in sync with the CDJ's tempo.

For example, adjust the pitch of the CDJ and providing the quantise button on the Nexus is enabled, the tempo information on the mixer's screen will change with it, all perfectly in time.

Effect tricks

The whole mixer is packed with these small, but important improvements and additions. While remaining very familiar in layout and feel, inside it's worlds away from the beloved DJM-800. There's new colour effects too, bringing the new total from four to six including a noise oscillator, reverb, dub echo and a gate/comp effect.

First up is the noise oscillator, whose brilliance comes from the ability to assign this to a separate channel (even if it's not playing back audio) and have the option for sweeps and build effects at your leisure. While the space



The right of the mixer also sports beat effects with Reverb, Spiral, Slip Roll, Melodic and MIDI LFO all new additions. Spiral is probably the most interesting of these, being a type of pitched delay while melodic lets you snatch a beat of audio and then transpose that samples' pitch like you would if you were playing it over a keyboard – fantastically creative when playing with acapellas or sparse musical moments. Possibly the most exciting feature of all these effects is the new ability to control them using the touch sensitive X-Pad – see the *X-Pad* box for more on this.

Another development of the DJM-900 Nexus is the Traktor certification, enabling access to all four decks using the built in 24-bit/96kHz interface in Traktor, all via a single USB cable. There's also timecode compatibility.

At the time of going to press, Pioneer also updated the Firmware of the DJM-900, which is something that is going to get some getting used to. It adds extended tweaks to the effects section, but more importantly the update proved that the life of this mixer should be substantial with Pioneer responding to updates, tweaks and suggestions in the same way they have with the CDJ-2000 and it is a mixer