

WHAT IS IT?

USB DJ controller with built-in audio interface

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** Great Value
- 2** Bundled with Traktor LE
- 3** Simple to install and use



Behringer
B-Control DeeJay
BCD3000 | £172

The BCD climbs 1,000 numbers, but will a paint job and some new software remove the bitter taste of the BCD2000? **Chris Barker** straps on the headphones

SPECS

Inputs

Inputs
XLR microphone input,
two switchable line /phono
RCA inputs

Outputs

Outputs
Master RCA outputs, TRS
quarter-inch headphone
output

Requires

Windows XP and Mac OS X

Other

Supports MP3, AAC, WMA, OGG, WAV and AIFF audio formats
Built-in USB, 4-channel 24-bit audio interface with ultra-low latency operation

Weight

2kg

Size

330 x 300 x 100mm

When Behringer announced the BCD2000 back at Messe 05, the excitement was almost palpable. The

BCD would be one of the first 'all-in-one' DJ solutions containing an audio interface and controller, and would certainly be the typical value-for-money unit that Behringer always offer.

However, it's fair to say that this excitement was short lived. Turned out that the BCD2000 only worked with Behringer's rather make-do DJ software and – worst of all – the whole package strictly PC only.

Thankfully the BCD3000 is here to fix all that. At first glance all you'll notice is a black and silver paint job with a 'Traktor LE-enabled' sticker. It seems that, this is the same unit as the

BCD2000, with the same connections, same feel and build quality. That said the silver styling on all the knobs, buttons and faders is a welcome change, as the unit is now more legible in low lighting. Full back-lighting, above and beyond the odd LED would have been nicer though. And the hardware jog wheels still stick in places unless a decent amount of pressure is applied.

Round the back there's the optional phono inputs for adding turntables or two line level devices. These separate inputs can then be set to use either side A or B of the audio mixer by a simple push of a button.

But now the really good news. Like the sticker says, they've bundled in Traktor LE with the hardware which gives the 3000 an instant quality out-

of-the-box solution. Installing everything on the Mac is a breeze this time too: simply install the Traktor LE software then plug the unit in via USB. Once Traktor is opened, all assignments work instantly and are all sensibly configured with the unit showing up as a MIDI controller in the preferences page.

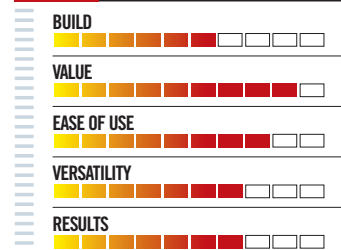
The standard audio latency is a pretty high 40.5, but I reduced this to around 10ms and everything continued to work fine. Although this ease of use is expected, in reality this is a massive bonus (I've grappled with other controllers in the past and configuring them can be a chore). Brilliantly, Traktor also makes the unit actually sound better this time around because of the superior EQ and overall audio decoding.

Controlling the FX section using the four rotaries at the top centre of the unit works well and allows fast control of FX flourishes and fills.

Party pooper

It's a shame the first BCD2000 had to show up first and spoil the party as the BCD3000 is a nice little package. I find it difficult to understand why anyone would purchase the BCD2000 when this unit is available for around £30 more. The flexibility and reliability of Native Instrument's software front end is worth the extra alone. Plus, there's a 50% off voucher for a full upgrade to the flagship Traktor 3.

Unfortunately my overall feeling is a mixed one – it feels like Behringer are patching up the mistakes of the BCD2000 with this new unit a ‘flagship’ model, but let’s be honest: they don’t need two BCDs in their range, just this one – the one that works best. Traktor LE is perfectly good for a decent DJ set and the BCD3000 is a decent solution for your first foray into DJing. This is the all-in-one controller Behringer should have released originally. It’s may not have the build for hard-gigging but it works and works well. **FM**

FutureMusic **VERDICT**

The best-value DJ solution on the market at the moment, and a great way to start digital DJing.