

Denon DJ Prime Go

£930

The ever-growing Prime range gets a truly portable, go-anywhere setup. **Si Truss** gets in the mix...

CONTACT WHO: Denon DJ **WEB:** denondj.com **KEY FEATURES** 2-track standalone DJ player/mixer with rechargeable battery, wifi, 2x mics inputs, USB, ethernet, separate master and booth outs and more **DIMENSIONS:** 411mm x 274mm x 53mm **WEIGHT:** 3.68 kg



The past few years have seen Denon put a considerable amount of development into their Prime DJ ecosystem. Prime is focussed around a unified piece of software, but it's not an app in the vein of Traktor or Serato. Rather, the Prime range is comprised of multiple players and mixers, all making use of the Engine Prime software that handles track analysis, organisation and the onboard OS for each device.

The Prime Go is the most compact system in the range. It's an entirely self-contained two-deck DJ setup that boasts true portability thanks to an onboard CPU and rechargeable battery that provides around four hours of wireless use.

The hardware itself is roughly equivalent to a Traktor S2 in terms of height and width, although it's considerably chunkier depth-wise due to that onboard battery. Despite the extra heft it remains fairly lightweight, and wouldn't cause you any longterm spine problems if you were to throw it in a rucksack. The feel and build is reminiscent of the Go's equally-portable InMusic-sibling, Akai's MPC Live. While the Go feels a bit more 'plastic', the controls feel equally rugged and, like the MPC Live, the Prime Go sports a bright and clear central touchscreen, used here primarily for track browsing.

While the Prime Go is the smallest setup in the range, we wouldn't call it 'entry-level'; partially due to its price, but also thanks to inclusion of a number of higher level features, including dual headphone ports, separate booth and master outputs and inputs for two mics and one aux source. On the digital front, there are USB connections for both computer and thumb drive, an SD card slot and ethernet port for use with Denon's StageLinQ system. Prime Go is wifi-equipped too, allowing users to stream directly from Tidal and, thanks to the latest update, Dropbox and Beatsource.

The mixing experience itself is stripped-back but gets the job done. Each deck has a fader, gain control, three-band EQ and four pads for looping/hot cues. There's a single shared effects module, so you can only use one effect at once across the two tracks, but each deck does have a sweep effect rotary, and I like that



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these can be used for a dub-like delay as well as the standard bi-directional filter sweeps.

The weakest aspects of the Prime Go are its jogwheels, which are very small and pretty basic. That being said, they do have a 'vinyl' mode for nudging and scratching and I was pleasantly surprised with how well they handled when beat-matching two unsynced tracks.

For something so portable, the Prime Go is undeniably very effective and a lot of fun to play around with. Its appeal ultimately comes down to how much you want to buy into the Prime ecosystem. For DJs already using a larger Prime setup, it's a killer device for preparing sets, playing smaller parties and as a backup if something goes wrong. As a first DJ setup, it's certainly

easy-to-use and well-made, although the price probably puts it beyond entry-level and, unless you're dead set on entering the Prime sphere or really want the wireless power, there are better value options out there. **FM**

FM VERDICT

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The Prime Go is well-designed and brilliantly portable, but probably best used as a secondary device to an existing Prime setup

THE PROS & CONS



Touchscreen is bright, clear and easy to navigate

Lightweight and truly portable, but with some pro-level I/O

Mixing tools are simple and effective



Too expensive for the entry-level market

Small jogwheels