

Standardizing DJ Rigs

By Joe Bunn for Mobile Beat blog

One of the first things that I tell multi-op owners once they get past about three DJs, is that their folks need their own gear. The reality is that keeping a warehouse full of gear (and yes, I've even seen some companies that have 12 vans for their 12 DJs, yikes), just isn't cost effective. Try keeping all of that gear maintained and running and putting gas, oil changes, tires and insurance on all of those vans! You'll find yourself with \$40 and a bad back at the end of the fiscal year.

However, if you are just starting out and have yourself and a couple of reliable "soldiers" out there grinding on gigs, then it's ok to buy three sets of gear, but it's important to "standardize" the DJ rigs for them. By standardize, I pretty much mean make them all the same. Why is this important? Several reasons. If something goes wrong with one piece of a DJ rig, you can swap in another from another one. Also, it doesn't matter which rig the DJ grabs when he/she swings by your home or office to grab their rig for a show, they're all the same!

When putting together these rigs, it is important to buy really good stuff. Not the low end, and not the extreme high end, but right in the middle. Here is my list of recommended "Must Have" pieces for standardizing rigs:

- Pair of speaker stands (prefer Ultimate or Gator) with carrying bag
- Pair of 12" powered speakers (prefer EV EKX12 or QSC K12) with carrying bags
- DJ Controller (prefer Pioneer DDJ-SX2 or comparable)
- 4 25' XLR cables (prefer Whirlwind)
- 4 25' black extension cables
- Shure or Sennheiser mid-level wireless mic
- Shure SM58 corded mic (for backup)
- Rock N' Roller cart (for load in and load out)

Other things such as lighting and ceremony rigs can be passed from DJ to DJ based on that weekend's shows for now. In addition, you'll see I left off the laptop. I still would require at the very least for your DJs to have a laptop!

Lastly, if you have yourself and two other DJs (3 total), then go ahead and pick up a fourth rig for either the next person you hire, or more importantly, a backup rig for the one that gets fried by a drunk maid of honor and a half bottle of red wine.

Good luck assembling your rigs. If you have questions, email me! I have some great sources for great prices on gear and I am always up for helping a fellow DJ save money and prevent the mistakes I've made in the past!