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# On The Record: The Scratch DJ Academy Guide



## Synopsis

In the three decades since Kool Herc first put the same record on two side-by-side turntables, DJs have moved out of city parks, house and block parties, and the darkened booths of nightclubs, and onto center stage, performing before admiring crowds of thousands. They have not only given rise to hip-hop and house •DJs have influenced fashion, film, TV, and more. With *On the Record*, Scratch DJ Academy, the premiere institution for DJ education, brings together years of training and expertise to create an authoritative guide to the dynamic art of DJing. More than just a "how-to," this is a sonic adventure, guiding you through forty years of music, creativity, and culture. From beat matching to body tricks, Grandmaster Flash to Fatboy Slim, the Bronx to Ibiza, *On the Record* is an all-in-one guide. So whether you're learning the ropes, considering going pro, or just want insight into a broader range of music, this book is for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is perfect for anyone who is just starting to DJ or anyone who is simply interested in the culture and the art-form. If you are a novice to the art-form this is the best place to start from historical context, tips from real live working DJs from all ends of the spectrum, all the way suggestions as to what makes a good DJ. Even if you are interested in learning to DJ with a controller or digital software, it is important to know where the art form came from and the basic analog principles that were the foundations of building the software. I particularly enjoyed the appendix detailing out the "Top Tens" from DJs. Grand Wizzard Theodore (hello the inventor of the

scratch & needle drop) had some great picks for his all time records. The battle records and routines list from A-Track and Craze really make you think about how much goes into that short 2 minute competition, and the samples and where to find music lists were extremely helpful. Cosmo Baker of the Rub (one of the best on-going parties in NYC) made some excellent points about building a set, combine that with the other DJs top club songs and you are on your way to party rocking. The best part about this book is that you are reading about the art form and the DJs who have founded and innovated it, but its also told by them. It makes you feel like you are a part of the art form, a part of the DJ community. You aren't just by stander reading a timeline you are almost having a conversation with the legends. The DJs presented in this book are truly impressive, even if you haven't "heard their name" on a top chart these DJs are beasts. Google anyone of them and see for yourself.

'On the Record' takes you far beyond the basics of the DJ culture--from its pioneering birth along its evolutionary road to today's hip hop scene. It's obvious the authors did their homework, weaving together not only the history of the DJ phenomenon and its unquestionable impact on popular music but also the unexpected influence of these turn-table princes on fashion, entertainment and so many facets of popular culture. If you're looking to hone your own DJ skills and expand your knowledge of musical style, start here. But even if you're simply a lover of popular music with a respect for the groundbreaking mixers that made house parties cool and club scenes a world of their own, 'On the Record' is an intriguing read.

Since I was going to become a Scratch Academy student, I thought it would be advantageous to read this material. I have to say, it may not spend a whole lot of time teaching you how to dj, but to be a dj or any musician you need to know your history. Whether totally accurate or not, it gave me a great sense of the origin of certain genres of music and helped me understand the early technologies behind dj'ing. Fun read!

This is an amazing book. As a DJ I related to it a lot. I have visited Scrath Academy and the atmosphere is indescribable. It has history, but not in the usual boring textbook format. The tips are great and straight to the point. I enjoyed Tales from the crate and the various playlists other great DJs have given. Perfect for a beginner or more advanced DJ. Also great for any music Junkie. Highly recommend this :)

On the Record: The Scratch DJ Academy Guide was given to me as a gift. I've always been intrigued and fascinated by the allure of DJs and the art form itself. Come for the celebrity reviews, quotes and forward - stay for the entertaining and educational outlook on the history of DJing as well as a behind the scenes look into the lifestyle and craft. After reading this book I also checked out Scratch Academy here in NYC and began taking DJ lessons myself!

Attention all music snobs, aficionados, historians, collectors of facts, stats, and all bits of knowledge music wise, here is a book that you must add to your collection. On the Record: The Scratch DJ Academy Guide goes beyond the how-to of DJing, and delves into the early days of DJ music. You may know who in the U.S. set the scene, but how about the early originators around the rest of the globe? Who set the trends? How did they do it? Where are they now? For those of you who are interested in getting started in the DJ scene, this book discusses gear, how to use it and set beats, networking with the right people, what to expect getting started, how to use today's technology, and much more. I love the in-depth interviews with rap, house, rave, and electronica artists. I will keep this book at arms reach at all times. It is a must-have book for a music snob like me!

Basic. Very general. I did pick up some pointers about how beats are structured that have helped my mixes sound cleaner. I guess if you find anything that helps you create better its worth the price. Also 2009 doesn't seem that long ago, but with the way dj technology has exploded it does seem a bit dated at times.

Terrific book...well written...brought back a lot of memories growing up listening to early hip hop pioneers. Very cool to learn about the impact DJs and hip hop have had on the music industry. Covers modern day artists too...timeline of DJ history alone is worth it.

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