

# SOUND + VISION

**Sander Kleinenberg fuses the aural with the visual to take on the future of studio and stage**

By Deana Morgan

Photos by Lisa Wyatt

Since the arrival of MTV, musicians have fully embraced the fusion of beats and images. Modern artists don't even conceive of the single without a video already attached. At first, the club scene followed suit—15 years ago, promoters splashed trippy acid graphics onto hanging screens and laser-light shows were as mind-bending as the music itself. But somewhere between the move from warehouses to clubs, the art of projection stagnated. And, today, it's quite normal for DJs to have no clue what images are projected over their music.

This year, however, all of that may change. Pioneer introduced a brand-new deck called the DVJ-X1, which is capable of spinning DVDs with the same ease that the CDJ-1000 spins CDs. The DVJ-X1 marries video and audio elements to a single track—that is, visual content is matched to the audio, beat for beat. When the audio track gets cued, looped or scratched, so does the video.

Dutch DJ, producer and remixer Sander Kleinenberg was one of just five people in the world to beta-test the DVJ-X1. He first revealed it at WMC 2004 in Miami and, since then, has road-tested it while touring in support of his newest mix CD, *This Is Everybody Too* (Thrive, 2004), which features two original artist tracks: "The Right Time" and "The Fruit." After returning from Tokyo to meet with the DVJ-X1's designers and offer feedback on the new deck, Kleinenberg has much to say about how the new unit fits in with today's evolving DJs.

## MOVING PICTURES

Kleinenberg's fascination with visuals goes back to when he was a child in Holland. He loved TV, even though he only had access to two or three channels. "On a clear day, maybe I could pick up a German station," he says. "But, now, we have an entire generation that grew up on 50, 60 channels, and they're completely in tune with the visual world as well as the audio world." And with the rise of affordable desktop technology, anyone can produce a homemade video and upload it to a Website, further extending the power of personally chosen images.

And that's why Kleinenberg loves his new DVJ-X1. For him, it takes the club scene out of "the Stone Age" and puts it on par with the rest of the world. Kleinenberg is constantly creating new content that he tries out on his fans. At his most recent Los Angeles show at Spundae, three projection screens broadcast a range of visuals, including animated words that correlated to vocals on a track, cartoon imagery, grainy film effects, punctuated outdoor time-lapse sequences and abstract montages. And every time Kleinenberg looped or cued the audio, the visuals themselves looped and cued perfectly in sync with the track.

The DVJ-X1 is fairly simple to use, as well. "If you've worked with the CDJ-1000, you know how to use the DVJ-X1," he says. "It's no different to me than spinning a CD. Essentially, it's a CDJ-1000 with a video out. It has pitch control

