

Mixman dm²

What is the Mixman?

The Mixman is a digital music maker. It turns a computer into a mixing studio. You simply choose a style of music, load a song and remix it. When you are happy with your mix, you can save and burn it onto CD in true DJ style! There is a very good introductory video when you switch on that demonstrates the highlights of the software.



Is it easy to use?

It is really very easy to use and suitable for all ages from Foundation Stage upwards. There is a manual under the Help section that explains every detail of the Mixman should you want to know more. A user manual is provided with the club equipment.

The Mixman is extremely child/teacher friendly and built strongly to cope with being used in a classroom. You do not have to be musical or technically minded to use this equipment.

What does mixing mean?

There are many effects on the Mixman that you can use to change the music. You can distort the sound, change the pitch, tempo and volume. You can choose when each of the 16 tracks plays and stops, adding your own voice, musical instruments or sound effects!

- Add your own voice and WAV files to the mix (using the microphones provided)
- W.A.R.P. (Wideband Audio Real – time Processing) joystick
- Dual independent Scratching rings for that real DJ sound!
- Transformer controls – to punch up the volume on selected tracks
- Cross fader – ease it, jam it, whip it back and forth between the decks
- Solo button – break down the mix and solo any track.
- 16 Track buttons – access digital audio tracks, vocals, beats, effects etc.

How can the school benefit from using the Mixman?

The pupils in the club could be used to guide others by demonstrating their skills and music. They could be used as peer tutors. They will have been trained in assembling and packing up and will have experienced any 'problems' and will be able to advise and assist. The Mixmans will be in your school for a whole term. You are welcome to use them anytime during the week. Staff are welcome to use the Mixmans during the week, but will need to have experienced at least one session with the tutor. All staff are welcome to pop in or stay at the Mixman clubs any time.

What equipment comes with the Mixman?

Headphones, splitters, microphones and speakers come with the 10 mixmans. The blank CDs are for use by the club members only. Please ensure all equipment is looked after and not split up or 'borrowed'. (Lap tops are also available for two of the clubs)

How do I get Mixman installed?

You can install Mixman on laptops or the computer suite. Primary schools will need to contact the ICT service provider, e.g. South Glos/Computer World to install the programme. When you have a date for installation, the discs will be delivered to school with the equipment. The installer needs to calibrate the Mixman with each computer to enable the equipment to work. This procedure takes about one minute. The installer will need the disc and one Mixman to do this on the 10 computers to be used.

Can anyone join the club?

Any pupil in your school can join the club. However, a wide age range is not advised, as the progress and social interaction of the group could be hindered. Many schools offer the club to pupils within two year groups. E.g. 5 & 6. If you want to have peer tutors, then the older children would be ideal. There are no auditions and no musical requirements other than enthusiasm.

How many pupils can join the club?

There are 10 Mixmans available. Some pupils prefer to work on their own, others in pairs. The maximum number is therefore 20.

What about pupils who have been identified as Gifted and Talented in music?

ICT is another outlet to extend creativity, and any pupil who plays an instrument may be interested in this form of music making. HOWEVER, ICT can play a major part in unlocking musical talent, especially for pupils who have not had an opportunity to have specialist instrumental tuition. These pupils may also be gifted and talented in music, but do not play an instrument. ICT provides a different means of expression that can short-circuit musical imagination to musical product without a pupil being limited by technical mastery of an instrument.

How much is a Mixman?

The Mixman dm² cost £40 – 43.

<http://www.taglearning.com>



How can we use the Mixman in school?

- Create original music for presentations
- Drama and Dance accompaniments
- Support a literacy lesson e.g. focussing on traditional tales.
- School disco! (CDS or live performance?) class services
- Accompaniments to raps, other poetry and artwork.
- Devote a whole terms music lessons to working on the Mixman, creating a CD of a variety of styles.
- Pupils could design their own CD covers/labels using Publisher or another software programme.

What styles of music are there?

The first six styles that appear are , hip hop, house, drum & bass, trance, grab bag and techno. Other styles are found in the standard sets include, country, reggae, disco, latin, new age, Indian, funky.....

When does the Club run?

- There are 3 clubs available in South Gloucestershire that may be booked for one term on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays. It usually runs from 3.30 – 5.00pm. Should you wish to make alternative timings, please negotiate with the tutor

The club works best when:

- The school fully supports the club.
- Members of staff get involved and use the equipment
- Each pupil has an individual folder to save their work. (usually in their class folder)
- The computers have XP Windows and a CD burner is available. (lap tops are ideal) The work can then be saved and copied with ease.
- The Mixman also works on Windows 98, & 2000. In these cases, all work must be saved in the pupils folders and access to these folders will need to be given to the tutor in order to retrieve and burn onto CD.
- Someone from the school monitors the club – particularly the beginning and end of the sessions – taking responsibility for pupils going home/being collected. Staff could take turns each week – and are welcome to join in.
- There is a register of pupil's attending/emergency numbers available for easy access if necessary.
- The equipment is stored carefully and securely after use.
- All pupils help each other with the setting up and dismantling of equipment.
- Pens/pencils for designing CD covers are available.
- Pupils have access to a drink and possible snack.



For more advice on using the Mixman contact:

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