

EDITION 8

AUGUST 2026



TALKING ABOUT EXODUS WITH DJ TECH

Also included in this edition:

**INTERVIEW WITH ASYNCHY
AKA ASHLEY SMITH**

**WELCOME RANSKI MC TO
THE TWISTED TEAM**

Top 10 Tunes for the past quarter

All the latest events on in your area

And lots more.....



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STREET NINE TWO CON

Editor's Words

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Remembrance

By Nicole Cousins – Founder of Twisted

Welcome to the August edition of Twisted Magazine.

What a month August has been! Across Twisted, it feels like everything has been moving at once, with new music, new artists, new projects and some exciting developments taking place behind the scenes.

One of our biggest focuses this month has been the Music Recognition Awards 2026. Applications have continued to arrive from DJs, MCs and producers across the scene, and with applications closing on 31st August and voting opening on 1st September, we're now heading towards the awards night at Basement 45, Bristol, on Saturday 14th November.

The purpose behind the awards remains exactly the same: recognising talent, creativity, passion and dedication regardless of age, experience or following. Music should never simply be a popularity contest, and we want to give people at every stage of their journey an opportunity to be recognised.

August has also been a huge month for Twisted Recordz. Since relaunching the label, we've been busy building our roster and catalogue, with releases already out and plenty more scheduled. Our growing family includes DJ Tech, Darkfada, skmakesbeats, MI6, Phil Dickson-Earle, BeatJugglers and Asynchy, bringing together music spanning Drum & Bass, Jungle, Trance, Techno, Hard Dance and beyond.

Twisted Radio continues to develop alongside the label, providing another platform to support artists and music 24 hours a day. Bringing the magazine, radio, record label, events and awards together has always been part of the bigger Twisted vision.

The magazine continues to grow too. With Ranski MC now part of our editorial team, we're developing even more interviews, features and industry content while continuing to support established names alongside emerging talent.

Inside this month's edition you'll find interviews, music, events, charts, releases and features from across the UK electronic music community. Whether you're a DJ, MC, producer, promoter, venue, business or simply someone who loves the scene, Twisted remains a platform for you.

Looking at everything happening across Twisted Magazine, Twisted Recordz, Twisted Radio, the Music Recognition Awards, our events and Twisted Steel, it's incredible to see how far an idea that began in 2018 has grown.

But however much we grow, the reason behind Twisted remains the same: supporting people, recognising talent and creating opportunities.

As always, thank you to every reader, artist, contributor, photographer, writer, promoter, advertiser and supporter who continues to be part of what we're building.

September is already shaping up to be another huge month, and we're nowhere near finished yet.

Until next month...

Stay loud.... Stay authentic.... Stay Twisted....



Nicole Cousins
Founder – Twisted



For better
mental health



***In Britain, banter is the default setting. It gets us through miserable shifts, awful weather, and everything going wrong at once. Taking the pee out of your mates is basically how we say we care without actually having to say it out loud....
The problem is when the laugh becomes a shield.***

Most lads have mastered the art of dodging reality. If money's tight, you make a dry joke about living on beans on toast. If your head's spinning or things are falling apart at home, you drop a self-deprecating meme in the group chat, wait for the laughing reactions, and change the subject. It's safe. It keeps the mood light. But it also means that when you're genuinely drowning, you've got no words left to say, "Lads, I'm actually not alright." It's not that men don't want to talk. It's that nobody talks like an NHS leaflet. Nobody wants to sit under a buzzing kitchen light, look someone dead in the eye, and deliver a therapy monologue. It feels awkward, unnatural, and forced.

Real honesty between mates doesn't happen face-to-face. It happens shoulder-to-shoulder.

It happens sitting in a parked car on a rainy Tuesday night, engine running, both of you staring straight through the windscreen into the dark. It happens while leaning on a wall waiting for a kettle to boil on site, or walking the dog on a Sunday morning. When you don't have to look each other in the eye, the guard drops. The stupid jokes run out of steam, and the real stuff finally comes out.

We need to stop treating mental health like an emergency ward and start treating it like an MOT. If your motor starts rattling every time you hit the motorway, you don't pretend you can't hear it until the engine drops out on the road. You get it sorted so you can keep moving. Looking after your head is just basic maintenance—it's what keeps you upright for your family, your kids, and your mates.

Nobody's saying kill the banter. It's what keeps us sane. But learn to ask the question twice. When someone replies with the usual, "Yeah, good mate, just tired," don't just move on to the next meme or Instagram reel. Pause for two seconds and ask it properly: "No, serious now — how are you actually doing?"

It costs nothing, but it drops the armor. It lets a mate know that if the jokes need to stop for five minutes, he's not going to be judged for it.

At the end of the day, none of us are built out of stone. We put on the brave face because we feel like we have to carry the weight for everyone else—our families, our kids, our mates. We convince ourselves that being the strong one means staying silent, taking the hits, and just getting on with it.

Truth is, real strength isn't about running yourself into the ground until the wheels come off. It's having the backbone to put your hands up before you hit empty.

You don't need a life coach, and you don't need a script. You just need to stop carrying the heavy stuff on your own. Keep the jokes, keep the laughs, but look out for each other properly. Send that message, make that call, and sit in that car for ten extra minutes if you have to.

A five-minute conversation without the mask won't make you look weak—it might just be the exact thing that keeps you, or your mate, in the game.

Look out for one another, we're all in this together X



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

RANSKI MC

ARTIST & FEATURES COORDINATOR

Twisted Magazine is growing, and we're proud to officially welcome Ranski MC to the team as our new Artist & Features Coordinator.

Already a familiar name within the underground music scene, Ranski brings experience, connections and a genuine passion for the people behind the music.

His role will see him helping Twisted to discover and connect with DJs, MCs, producers, promoters and other influential figures for interviews and features across future editions of the magazine.

FINDING THE STORIES BEHIND THE MUSIC

Twisted has never been interested in simply putting a name and a photograph on a page. We want to know the story.

Where did an artist begin? What happened before people knew their name? What challenges did they face? What drives them now, and where are they heading next?

As Artist & Features Coordinator, Ranski will be helping us find those stories.

He'll be identifying potential interviewees, making connections and opening conversations with people from across the scene, from established names with decades of history to emerging artists who deserve to be heard.

His involvement gives Twisted another direct connection to the people actually living and breathing the culture we cover.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR TWISTED

Since launching in 2018, Twisted has been about supporting music, recognising talent and giving people a platform.

As the magazine continues to develop, bringing the right people into the team matters just as much as bringing the right people onto our pages.

Ranski's knowledge of the scene and ability to connect with artists will help us expand the interviews and features we bring to our readers while staying true to what Twisted has always represented.

So, when a familiar face, underground legend or completely unexpected name turns up in a future edition, there's a good chance Ranski helped make it happen.

Welcome to the team, Ranski MC.

There's plenty more to come.

RANSKI MC | ARTIST & FEATURES COORDINATOR
TWISTED MAGAZINE

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ASYNCHY

ORIGIN & IDENTITY

~ For anyone discovering you for the first time, who is Ashley Smith, aka ASYNCHY?

I'm a UK-based Drum & Bass producer and DJ operating under the alias ASYNCHY. My sound spans the heavy, energy-driven bounce of Jump Up to deep, melodic Liquid DnB, focusing on crisp sound design, punchy basslines and immersive atmosphere.

~ Where did the name ASYNCHY come from, and is there a meaning behind it?

Well, bit of a strange one and one that actually took me weeks to figure out! Of course, my first name is Ashley, and when I got thinking in the car listening to my own tracks, it just clicked.

So I scanned the internet to make sure nobody out there had the same name, and of course they didn't. From a Google point of view, when you type in your name you always want to come up top, so it was quite fitting really.

~ What are your earliest memories of music becoming important to you?

I remember tape decks back in the day and I used to record the Top 40, I think it may have been Radio 1. I would wet toilet roll and stick it in the top of the tape so the tape deck recording system recognised that it was a recordable tape, as back in the day recordable tapes were more than a few Freddo bars!

I then started to play with the volume knobs on my tape player, raising and dropping the volume when the beats or lyrics were dropping.

Then I discovered, and this may shock a few, Happy Hardcore.



ASYNCTY

I started listening to the packs they used to release from Dreamscape and Helter Skelter. My cousin Lee Milton used to take me to his local village record store and I remember purchasing my first Dreamscape pack. Don't quote me, but I think it was Dreamscape 18, with the likes of DJ Sy, Dougal, Hixxy and so on.

Music was always present early on, but the pivotal shift happened when I first started paying attention to how tracks were constructed, listening to the interplay between sub-bass, rhythms and structural tension rather than just hearing music casually in the background.

~ What first pulled you towards Drum & Bass and the underground scene?

Oddly enough, working in Bristol about three years ago. Of course, the scene for DnB in Bristol is HUGE.

I met a work colleague, oddly enough also called Ashley, Ashley Clifford, who I went to my first Drum & Bass party with... IN A PIZZA SHOP!

Lens was playing, along with Diagnostix, who have blown up massively of late.

So Ashley Clifford, you're the cause of all these hours I dedicate to my productions! You owe me a beer.

The raw energy, fast tempo and uncompromising bass pressure pulled me in. Drum & Bass has a unique community and underground culture where technical production detail meets pure, unfiltered dancefloor impact.

~ Which came first for you, DJing or producing, and how did one eventually lead into the other?

DJing came first. Learning how to mix, double-drop and read crowd energy gave me an intuitive sense of track arrangement and structure.

Wanting to play unique weapons in my sets naturally pushed me into Ableton to start crafting my own tunes.

🔥 THE JOURNEY

~ Take us back to the beginning. How did you first get into DJing?

It started with a passion for collecting tracks and experimenting on decks, Numark TT100 direct-drive turntables to be exact.

I spent hours getting transitions seamless, practising phrase matching and building sets that told a cohesive story from start to finish.

~ Do you remember your first proper set in front of a crowd, and what was going through your head?

I do indeed. It was above a restaurant in Cardiff called Contis and, if I recall correctly, there were over 150 people in there, which is quite lucky when you're starting out!



The energy was amazing. I didn't want to come off the decks after the hour. I wanted the show to be all mine for the night!

The adrenaline was intense, but once that first mix landed cleanly, the nerves shifted into pure momentum.

~ When did you first start producing your own music?

I got heavily into Ableton Live, focusing on synthesis, sound design, drums and learning how to get my productions sounding right.

At the time, though, my genre was Progressive House, and some of those productions from maybe 12–15 years ago are still on my SoundCloud today.

They sound awful now listening back! But the learning curve, using the DAW with my MIDI keyboard, gave me the knowledge around Ableton that I still use today.

~ Who were the DJs and producers that influenced you most when you were learning?

John Digweed, Paul Van Dyk, Guy J, Armin van Buuren and Nicky Blackmarket.

I was very eclectic with music back then. All these guys were smashing the scene, and still are.

~ Was there a particular moment when you realised music was becoming more than just a hobby?

The moment I purchased Ableton all those years ago.

I didn't know what an oscillator was, never mind an Auto Filter! So I loaded an original track into an audio clip and started adding FX to it just to see which ones affected the track.

Then there was the big, scary Operator within Ableton. I looked at it and thought, what does decay mean? Sustain? Waveforms?

So I started twisting knobs and adding FX. Eventually I found sounds I liked, and then I started figuring out which oscillators worked best for basses, synths, leads and so on.

It all went from there. I was using it daily for over five years.

~ What have been some of the biggest challenges you've faced while trying to establish yourself?

Being scared to put out the tracks I was producing at the time.

In my ears I was already Hans Zimmer, but other people listened to them and weren't quite as fussed! 😊

I actually had a hiatus from music production for 13 years after having a child, but going to DnB shows eventually gave me the itch to blow the dust off my old equipment and start creating again.

ASYNCTY

ASYNCHY

~ Looking back at where you started, what do you think has changed most about you as an artist?

The knowledge I taught myself around Ableton.

Going to these big Drum & Bass shows, I'd hear something and think, I like that sound. I could create that.

After maybe six or seven events, I knew I had to blow the dust off everything and start producing again.

My sound design is getting better and better and, with the new VSTs around lately, my tracks feel warmer, almost like analogue, but digital.

Any analogue users, take that with a pinch of salt!

BEHIND THE DECKS

~ How would you describe an ASYNCHY DJ set to somebody who's never heard you play?

High energy, quick transitions and dropping tracks where people don't see them coming.

Now I'm playing with four decks, you're almost remixing on the fly, and I'm adding dubplates into my blends as well.

~ Are you somebody who plans a set beforehand, or do you prefer reading the crowd and changing direction as you go?

I put a playlist together, of course, with the tracks I like, but I tune into the crowd and feel the energy.

I try to get into their minds and think about what they want to hear next, whether that's a big warping bassline, a bit of breakbeat Jungle, vocals or something else.

~ What makes a really good DJ set for you: technical ability, tune selection, crowd reaction, or a combination of everything?

Trying to keep the same key and getting pure blends on transitions.

I try to stay away from effects unless I'm looping maybe a vocal or a breakdown while bringing in another banger... or two.

~ What's been your proudest or most memorable moment behind the decks so far?

Being on the same line-up as Carl Cox, getting to actually meet him and playing in front of 500 – 600 people before the legend took control of the wheels of steel.

~ Is there a particular club, rave or festival you'd love to see ASYNCHY on the line-up for?

Boomtown is the obvious choice in the UK, along with Dreambeach in Spain and Creamfields.

It would be an honour to play any of those magical festivals.

~ Who would be your dream B2B and why?

It's got to be A.M.C. He's an absolute wizard.

And FMS III! He uses six decks and I'd love to see how he actually does it. It's not human!

A.M.C's energy is on a different planet as well. He's a machine.



THE PRODUCER

~ How would you describe the ASYNCHY production sound?

Heavy subs, nice melodies and plenty of switches in my tracks.

But I can go the other way and build a story within a track using vocals. It's really about what I'm feeling at the time and the first sound I design.

If it's a synth bassline, I normally kind of know where I'm going with it.

~ When you sit down to make a tune, what normally comes first: drums, bass, melody, atmosphere or simply an idea?

Usually I start with drums, but lately I've been starting with synths and building around that.

A good start is harmonic basslines. Once you get that right, you're up and running pretty quickly!

~ Does being a DJ influence the way you produce music?

Absolutely!

Going back to using four decks, finding what sounds good with what and being creative while mixing inspires you when you get back in front of the keyboards.

~ Do you test your own tracks in your DJ sets before deciding they're completely finished?

The ultimate car test! If it sounds good in the car, you know you're onto something.

And if it sounds shit, you know you've got to revisit the project and look at the mixdown and mastering again.

~ What's the feeling like when you drop one of your own productions and see people reacting to something you've created from scratch?

Looking at their faces and seeing them smiling and dancing makes me feel very proud of what I've created.

~ What's the story behind "Latency", and what does that track represent for you?

You know what, Latency is my least favourite production, but for some reason people love it!

ASYNCHY

ASYNCHY

I'm like, are you hearing the same track I'm hearing?

But that's exactly why everyone is different. We don't all have the same taste in music.

~ Where do you think your production sound is heading next?

Signing for Twisted Recordz has given me massive inspiration to create some absolute monsters in the future. I have around 50–60 unfinished tracks. I love going back to some of them a few months later and thinking, shit, that sounds class. Let's finish this one off.



MUSIC & MENTAL HEALTH

~ Twisted has always believed in speaking openly about mental health. What has your own relationship with mental health been like throughout your journey?

Mental health issues are sadly on the rise and, personally, I've experienced anxiety and panic attacks in the most awkward of places: interviews, work and just out in public.

But I'm so glad people are talking now, and I think that is key. A problem shared is a problem halved, they say, and it's so true.

If anyone is experiencing mental health issues, please speak with someone and don't hide it away.

~ Has music ever become an escape or somewhere you could turn during difficult periods in your life?

Absolutely. Focus is massive for mental health, and music makes you focus on a variety of different things. It can help keep your mind away from the negativity lingering in the background.

~ Does DJing and producing help you mentally in different ways?

Again, it's that sole focus. Of course I get a little anxious before a set, but when I'm DJing I'm in the groove. My sole focus becomes pleasing the crowd and enjoying what I'm doing.

~ Have there been times when your mental health has affected your confidence, motivation or ability to create music?

It has, yes. When I'm trying to put a sound together that I can hear in my head, then I'm trying to design it and it just isn't fitting with the track, I'll be honest, sometimes I shut the lid of my laptop and start thinking, I can't do this anymore.

But tomorrow is always another day.

~ The music scene can bring rejection, competition, social-media pressure and the feeling that everyone else is progressing faster than you. How have you learned to deal with that?

Rejection is massive across the music industry and, at times, you want to pack it all in.

But as an avid music lover, and because of the space music takes me to when I'm creating and cross-referencing my tracks against the big guns smashing it worldwide, you've just got to keep plugging away.

You're only one hit away from a track going viral.

~ Do you think men still find it particularly difficult to admit when they're struggling, especially in a scene where everyone is expected to be having a good time?

100%. There are still those "strong male" phrases people use, like "man up", and ultimately there can be a fear of judgement.

Men are speaking up more lately and it's refreshing, but if you're a man suffering, please talk.

~ If somebody reading this is going through a dark period and music is one of the things keeping them going, what would you want to say to them?

Keep plugging away. I've had 15 years of on-and-off producing. You, as a person, only know the taste you like in music, but there could be thousands, even millions, of people who will love your sound too.

🎵 TWISTED RECORDZ & THE FUTURE

~ How did becoming part of Twisted Recordz come about, and what made it feel like the right home for ASYNCHY?

Speaking with Nickie on Instagram and then having a phone conversation with Jax.

I could see the passion for what Twisted are doing with the radio shows, magazine and signing artists. It already feels family-orientated and I'm so happy to be part of something that's going to be special.

~ What do you want to achieve as part of the Twisted Recordz roster, both as a DJ and a producer?

I want to repay the faith Twisted Recordz have shown in me by upping my game in the studio and playing my tracks signed by Twisted Recordz out in clubs.

~ Releases, collaborations, bookings and everything else ahead: what's next for ASYNCHY, and where do you want this journey to ultimately take you?

I have gigs in Colchester, London, Bristol, Prague and Cardiff, with Belgium just about to be announced.

Release-wise, I'm in the studio every day, so there's plenty to come.

⚡ QUICK FIRE – NO OVERTHINKING

1. Jungle or DnB?

DnB, just about! Jungle is evolving fast.

ASYNCHY

~ Rollers or Jump Up?

Jump Up.

~ Old school or new school?

New school, but I also produced a remix of an old-school Jungle track, Ed Rush – Guncheck (ASYNCHY Remix), which is on my SoundCloud.

~ Vinyl or digital?

I love the feel of vinyl, but digital because you can be so much more creative.

~ Planned set or read the crowd?

Read the crowd.

~ Warm-up or peak time?

Peak time.

~ Small underground rave or massive festival?

Uhhh... BOTH!

~ Double drops: yes or no?

OH YES!!!

~ Reloads: love 'em or leave 'em?

Maybe once, if the crowd are bouncing for a track that's getting played.

~ Dark & dirty or melodic & emotional?

Both.

~ Studio at 2pm or studio at 2am?

Both, haha! Sorry, but it's true. When something enters your head at any time, you've got to lay it out.

~ One tune you wish you'd made?

Roni Size – Brown Paper Bag.

~ Dream B2B?

A.M.C.

~ One producer you'd love to work with?

Kanine.

~ One DJ you could watch all night?

Crossy. And I have done. Goosebumps.

~ Biggest lesson music has taught you?

Dedication.

ASYNCHY

~ One word that describes Ashley?

Committed.

~ One word that describes ASYNCHY?

Music.

~ A tune or artist that's helped you through a difficult time?

Coldplay – Fix You.

~ One thing the DnB scene needs more of?

ASYNCHY, haha! Joke.

I'll be honest, DnB for me is taking over. The energy is unmatched.

~ One thing you'd tell your younger self?

Start making music earlier.

~ Biggest goal you've still got to achieve?

Headlining a massive gig.

~ Crowd going mad or a technically perfect set?

Both again, sorry!!!

~ Studio session or live set?

Got me again... BOTH!

~ Finish this sentence: "Music matters to me because..."

The energy and how it makes you feel. When do you ever see anyone not smile when they're playing music loud?



ASYNCHY

TWISTED PRESENTS

NOV

MUSIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

2026

THE FUTURE IS OURS

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2026

BASEMENT

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ROOM 1 - HARD DANCE

ROOM 2 - DRUM & BASS

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DJ TECH

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BLACKMARKET
RAY KEITH**

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From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

Part 1. By DJ Tech

Hi there, everybody. My name's DJ Tech, and I'm here to take you on a journey from your bedroom to the stage.

Like anything you do in life, you have to have solid foundations for whatever you're doing to succeed. If you don't have solid foundations, you're going to have problems down the road.

So, I'm going to lay out some basics that I think you're going to need.

We're going to be talking totally digital. We're not going to be talking about vinyl.

The first thing you need is a controller. Now, there are loads of different controllers out there. Some are fully onboard, some aren't, and some you need a laptop to work with.

I personally recommend an all-in-one controller. Two of the best out there are Pioneer's XDJ-RX3 and Denon's Prime 4.

Pioneer is what I use and it's what I recommend. The reason for that is exactly the same reason I use Technics 1210s when I DJ using vinyl.

Almost every club in the world will be using these as a standard: Technics for vinyl, Pioneer for digital.

In other words, if you get used to the Pioneer layout now, when you're starting out, you'll be able to walk into a club and recognise where everything is. You'll instantly feel a lot more comfortable.

Having said that, one of the advantages of the Denon Prime 4 is that you can have four decks instead of two, which is really quite handy. And I'll be honest with you, the Prime 4 has one of the best brains for controlling out there.

But the Prime 4 is a little bit more expensive.

If you're looking at playing out, I recommend the Pioneer. If you're just looking at staying at home in your bedroom, I recommend the Prime 4.

Right, so we'll carry on and imagine that you've got your controller. The next thing you need is a decent set of speakers.

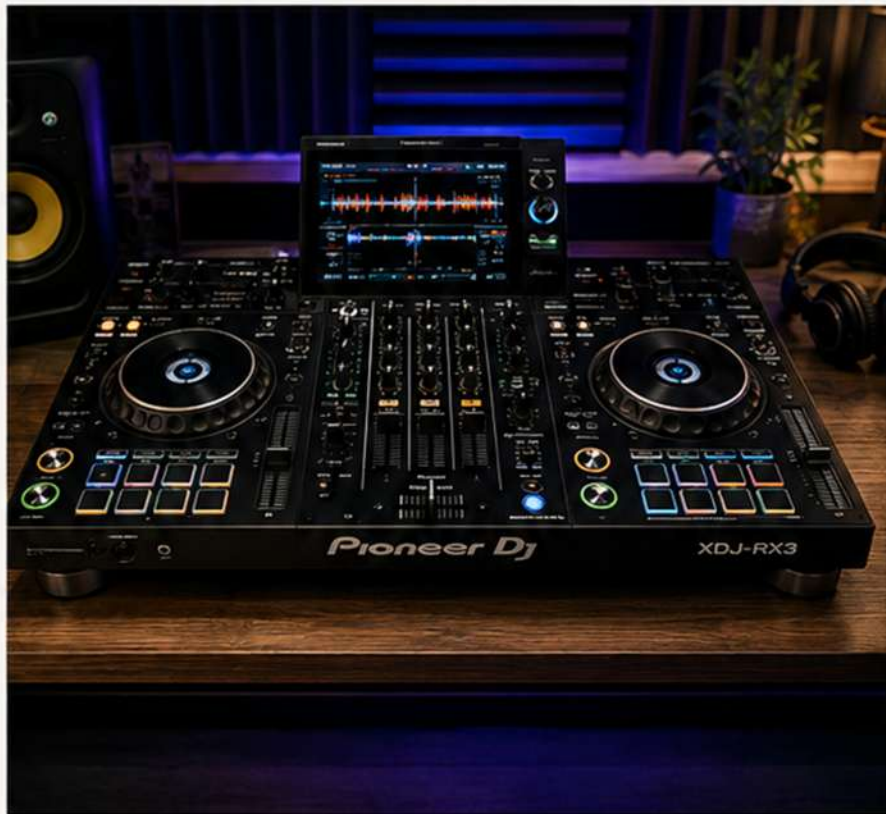
1. CONTROLLERS

YOUR FOUNDATION

The first thing you need is a controller. There are loads of different controllers out there. Some are fully on board, some aren't, and some you need a laptop to work with.

I personally recommend an All-In-One controller. The two best out there are Pioneer's XDJ-RX3 and Denon's Prime 4.

We're talking totally digital here.
We're not talking about vinyl.



ALL-IN-ONE CONTROLLERS

Two of the best out there...

PIONEER XDJ-RX3



- 2 Decks
- Industry standard in clubs worldwide
- Same layout as Pioneer club equipment
- Get used to it now, walk into any club and know exactly where everything is
- Feels more natural and comfortable when you're playing out
- My personal choice and recommendation

DENON PRIME 4



- 4 Decks instead of 2
- Best brain for controlling in my opinion
- Brilliant features and performance
- A little bit more expensive

WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?



LOOKING AT PLAYING OUT?

I recommend
PIONEER.

It's the industry standard in clubs worldwide, just like Technics are the standard for vinyl.

OR



STAYING IN YOUR BEDROOM?

I recommend
DENON PRIME 4.

More decks, amazing features and the best control brain out there.



TOP TIP:

If you're starting out, get used to the Pioneer layout. It will make you feel right at home in any club.



From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

Getting Your Setup Together

As far as speakers go, you can go two different ways. You can either have active speakers, which means they've got power amplifiers built into the speakers, which is what I recommend, or you can get separate speakers and amps and do it that way around.

If you're looking for a recommendation, what I use are M-Audio BX5s. They've got Kevlar drivers on them, so they're really tough and really good, and I've never had a problem with mine.

The next thing you're going to need is a decent USB memory stick. What I recommend is a company called SanDisk. They're really good, really reliable, and that's exactly what you need when you're out in front of hundreds of people.

Once you've got all that equipment together, the next stage is streaming.

It's really important to stream, whether you actually want to put yourself out there on the internet or you just want to stick to the bedroom, because you need to record yourself and what you do.

It's one of the best ways of learning. You can actually see what you're doing and, when you make a mistake, see what you did wrong as well as hear what you did wrong.

That will mean that eventually you hopefully won't make that same mistake again.

For your streaming setup, what I recommend is two cameras. I personally go for Logitech C920s. They're really high-quality cameras, they're robust and they really work.

I've taken them out, I've taken them to parties, and I use them at home when I stream. They're absolutely first class and fully recommended.

Next up, you're going to need a sound card. This isn't some big, complicated thing; it's a small bit of kit and you can get them fairly cheaply.

What you're going to need to do is take the output from your controller into the input of the sound card. You then connect that to your laptop so you can bring your controller's audio into your streaming or recording software.

They're relatively cheap. You can find basic ones for around a tenner or less online. Not that I'm advertising Amazon!

2. SPEAKERS & ESSENTIALS

SOUND & STORAGE

Once you've got your controller, these essentials will complete your setup and get you ready to stream, record and play out with confidence.

These are the items I personally recommend and use in my own setup.

ACTIVE SPEAKERS (RECOMMENDED)



M-AUDIO BX5

- Active speakers with built-in power amplifiers
- Kevlar drivers – tough, reliable and high quality
- Excellent sound and perfect for home or studio use
- My personal recommendation – I've never had a problem with mine

USB MEMORY STICK (RECOMMENDED)



SANDISK USB STICK

- Reliable, fast and built to handle your entire music library
- A good quality USB stick is essential when you're playing out
- I recommend SanDisk – really good and really reliable



TOP TIP: Always have a spare USB stick with you. Better safe than sorry!

STREAMING & RECORDING ESSENTIALS

Everything you need to stream, record and improve your sets.

WEBCAMS (RECOMMENDED)



LOGITECH C920

- Two webcams for multiple angles
- High quality, reliable and robust
- I've taken mine out to parties and use them at home – absolutely first class



USE TWO ANGLES:
SIDE DJ (side view)
& SKY (overhead view)

SOUND CARD



SIMPLE SOUND CARD

- Small, simple and not expensive (around £6.50)
- Connect output from your controller to the input of the sound card
- Then connect the output of the sound card to your laptop input
- Brings your controller audio into your streaming software

ACOUSTIC PADS



ACOUSTIC PADS

- Blocks of acoustic padding that go on the walls behind your speakers
- Helps improve the sound in your room
- Reduces unwanted echo and reflections

LED LIGHTING



LED LIGHTS WITH STANDS

- Improves the quality of your video
- Fairly cheap (around £25 for a pair)
- Essential for a better streaming setup



SET IT ALL UP AND TEST

Once you've got all this equipment together, set it all up, do a test and make sure everything works: sound, video and lighting.





From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

Building Your Streaming Setup

The other thing I'm going to recommend is some acoustic pads. These are basically blocks of acoustic padding that go on the walls behind your speakers and can help with the sound in your room.

Next, you're going to want some lighting. You can get that fairly cheaply as well. You can pick up a pair of decent LED lights with stands without spending a fortune.

This is important because good lighting will give you much better-quality footage from your cameras.

Right, so that's all your equipment sorted. Now all you need to do is set it all up and do a test.

As far as software for actually streaming and recording your sets goes, I recommend OBS Studio. It's free, it's really easy to use, and it's a solid and stable platform.

You can go directly to the official website and download the latest, up-to-date, all-whistles-and-bells version of the program, but I recommend you check your plugin compatibility first, and I shall explain why.

When OBS Studio brought out version 27.2.4, it was the last version I used where all the third-party plugins I relied on worked correctly with the program.

With later versions, some older plugins may not work unless their developers have updated them to support newer versions of OBS.

One of the plugins I recommend looking at is Advanced Scene Switcher. This allows you to automate how and when your different scenes and cameras change while you're recording or streaming.

OBS basically gives you two important functions for what we're doing here: recording and streaming.

And remember, you don't actually have to stream anywhere.

You can simply press record and, once everything is set up, record all your sets privately. That alone is an incredibly useful tool for learning.

3. BEDROOM 2 STAGE

BUILDING YOUR STREAMING SETUP



Now that you've got all your equipment, it's time to put everything together and create the best possible environment for your streaming and recordings.

A good setup now will save you problems later and help you focus on what matters – your mixes.

ACOUSTIC PADS



Blocks of acoustic padding that go on the walls behind your speakers and help improve the sound in your room.

- Reduces unwanted echo and reflections
- Gives you a cleaner sound
- Improves overall audio quality in your recordings and streams

LED LIGHTING



Good lighting gives you much better-quality footage from your cameras.

- Pick up a pair of decent LED lights with stands
- Fairly cheap (around £25 for a pair)
- Essential for a professional looking stream or recording

SET IT ALL UP



Once all your equipment is sorted, set everything up and do a test.

- Check your audio levels
- Check your camera angles
- Check your lighting
- Make sure everything works together smoothly

TEST EVERYTHING



Do a full test before you go live or start recording.

- Test your audio
- Test your video
- Test your lighting
- Test your recording and streaming



TOP TIP:

A little time spent setting up and testing now will make a massive difference to the quality of your streams and recordings.

SOFTWARE: OBS STUDIO



OBS Studio

OBS Studio is my recommended software for streaming and recording.

- It's FREE
- Really easy to use
- Solid and stable platform
- Perfect for both beginners and advanced users



Download the latest version from the official website: obsproject.com

VERSION COMPATIBILITY

When OBS Studio brought out version 27.2.4, it was the last version I used where all the third-party plugins I relied on worked correctly with the program.

With later versions, some older plugins may not work unless their developers have updated them to support newer versions of OBS.



IMPORTANT:

Check your plugin compatibility before updating to a newer version of OBS.

RECOMMENDED PLUGIN: ADVANCED SCENE SWITCHER



Advanced Scene Switcher

This powerful plugin allows you to automate how and when your different scenes and cameras change while you're recording or streaming.

- Automate scene changes
- Automate camera switching
- Makes your streams look more professional

WHAT OBS DOES FOR YOU



RECORDING

Record all your sets privately. This is an incredibly useful tool for learning and improving.



STREAMING (OPTIONAL)

You don't have to stream anywhere. You can simply press record and save your sets for yourself.



REMEMBER:

The most important thing is to practice, experiment and have fun. Record your sets, listen back, learn and keep improving!





From the Bedroom to the Stage with DJ Tech

Your First Set

Now you're ready to go.

Get your music on, do your first set and, most importantly, watch it back afterwards.

When you finish your first recording in OBS, find the folder where your recordings are being saved. OBS gives you a default recording location, although you can change this in the settings to wherever you want your sets stored.

Open your recording and watch the whole thing back.

Don't just listen to the mix. Watch what you were doing as well.

Look at your hands. Look at what you were doing on the controller. Listen to your transitions. Pay attention to anything that didn't sound quite right and then look at what you were actually doing when it happened.

That's the whole point of recording yourself.

Everybody makes mistakes when they're learning. The important bit is understanding why you made the mistake, because once you understand that, you can work on stopping yourself from making it again.

And that's where the journey really starts.

You've got your basic equipment, you've got your controller, your speakers, your cameras and your recording setup.

Now it's time to start using it properly, learning your equipment and developing your skills.

From the bedroom to the stage, you've got to start somewhere.

4. YOUR FIRST SET

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS NOW

Now you're ready to go.

Get your music on, do your first set and, most importantly, watch it back afterwards.

Recording your sets is one of the most valuable tools you have as a DJ – it's where you learn, improve and start to take things seriously.

From the bedroom to the stage, you've got to start somewhere.



YOUR FIRST SET – WHAT TO DO

1 DO YOUR SET



Get your music on and do your first set. Don't worry about being perfect – just enjoy the process and get comfortable.

2 FIND YOUR RECORDING



When you finish recording in OBS, find the folder where your recordings are being saved. OBS has a default location, but you can change it in settings.

3 WATCH IT BACK



Open your recording and watch the whole thing back. Don't just listen to the mix – watch what you were doing as well.

4 ANALYSE EVERYTHING



Look at your hands. Look at what you were doing on the controller. Listen to your transitions. Pay attention to what didn't sound right.

5 LEARN & IMPROVE



Understand why you made any mistakes. Once you understand that, you can work on stopping it happening again next time.



WHY IT MATTERS

Everybody makes mistakes when they're learning. The important bit is understanding why you made the mistake, because once you understand that, you can work on stopping yourself from making it again. That's where the journey really starts.

WHAT YOU'VE GOT

CONTROLLER



The heart of your setup. Learn it inside out.

SPEAKERS



Hear your mix clearly and make better decisions.

CAMERAS



Capture your performance from different angles.

AUDIO SETUP



Get clear, clean audio into your recordings.

RECORDING SETUP



Record, review and improve every time.



PRACTICE. REVIEW. LEARN. IMPROVE.

— THAT'S HOW YOU LEVEL UP. —



REMEMBER:

The most important thing is to practice, experiment and have fun. Record your sets, listen back, learn and keep improving!



TOP 10 DNB

TOP TEN DNB TRACKS END OF JULY 2026

- 1 - Document One - Cheap Shot VIP
- 2 - A.M.C & Circadian - Energy In Motion (A.M.C Remix)
- 3 - Cleveland Watkiss & Benny L - Metaphors
- 4 - Chase & Status, IRAH & J Hus - Disgruntled
- 5 - Molecular - Rukus
- 6 - Delta Heavy - Set You Free
- 7 - S.P.Y - Rock Da House (Alibi Remix)
- 8 - Kanine - Wide Awake
- 9 - Camo & Krooked, Mefjus & Joe Killington - Redemption
- 10 - Changing Faces - The Logical Song

TOP TEN DNB TRACKS AUGUST 2026 SO FAR

- 1 - Document One - Holy Moly VIP
- 2 - Culture Shock - U & I
- 3 - Subsonic & Dimension - Ghost Town
- 4 - Andromedik & Teddy Bee - Up
- 5 - Voltage & Ayanna - Free
- 6 - DJ Die - Rock Steady
- 7 - Valor, EMZ & Nasser UK - Free (Hoax Remix)
- 8 - Andy C & Mali-Koa - Come Together
- 9 - Neonlight - ELEVATE
- 10 - SMG & Duskee - Mishap

TOP 10 DNB TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Honey Bunny - Calmness
- 2 - Zenoion - Vantadrift
- 3 - Aquasion & Vitaphase - Quantayne
- 4 - Zenoion & Vitaphase - Communication Foreign
- 5 - Vitaphase - Aeroyte
- 6 - Northbridge - Afterglow Signals
- 7 - T.R.A.C. & Winslow - TRUE STARS
- 8 - Youthman, Lady Late & Marika - Hush
- 9 - Youthman - Crapo
- 10 - Pyxis, Luke Truth & Counter Culture - Surviving

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE JULY 2026

- 1 - Bushbaby & Danny P – Back To Funk
- 2 - Jme, Luke Dean & Locky – Check One, Check Two
- 3 - Drinks On Me – Curaçao Blue
- 4 - NOTION & X CLUB. – U KNOW
- 5 - Basement Jaxx – Where's Your Head At (Tonz Remix)
- 6 - Gabriel Muñoz – Taking You
- 7 - zacattacq & Shez Kurx – Fadermaster
- 8 - Sulphur & Captain Wallop – Godfather
- 9 - Burnski & Kepler – Feel It
- 10 - Cesco – Pointless

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE TRACKS FOR AUGUST 2026 SO FAR

- 1 - MPH & Skrillex – Mirage
- 2 - Kosmo Kint & Silva Bumpa – Fantasy (Baby If U Know Me)
- 3 - Ive Lovers – Filthy Renegade
- 4 - Prozak – Into You
- 5 - Ive Lovers – WELIKE2PARTY!!
- 6 - Gorgon City & Jem Cooke – Oracle (Y U QT Remix)
- 7 - Joe Hunt & Carter Walsh – Get Shaky
- 8 - Owen Andrews & Luke Andrews – Let's Go
- 9 - zacattacq – Check Da Mic
- 10 - Lisa Korver – Picante

TOP 10 GARAGE & BASSLINE TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

1. 1 - Ivan Kay & Fiorez – Cuba Libre
2. 2 - Blacklight – Don't Stop Moving
3. 3 - Double OO – I'm Sikk
4. 4 - Tova Brown – Dakota
5. 5 - Datagitch – City01
6. 6 - DJ Dove – Under Your Spell (2Sleep Remix)
7. 7 - RAFFFAEL – Kill Da
8. 8 - Melk AU – En Un An
9. 9 - Sir Hiss – Risky Roman
10. 10 - Rodney_ – Don't Give Up

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS END OF JULY 2026

- 1 - Tristan Henry, Cloonee & Prospa – Good Girl
- 2 - ANOTR & Emily Warren – Silver Lines
- 3 - Sean Doron – Little More (Body Action)
- 4 - Swedish House Mafia & Lykke Li – Happiness Is So Sad
- 5 - Kolter – Hey Everybody
- 6 - Stryv – Patigo
- 7 - Josh Baker & Poppy Baskcomb – My Place
- 8 - Porter Robinson & Ninajirachi – WannaCry
- 9 - Kyle Walker, Ranger Trucco & Nate Katz – The Bridge
- 10 - HILLS – Lift Me Up

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS AUGUST 2026 SO FAR

- 1 - Rooléh – Want To Know
- 2 - Max Styler & Kuuda – Love Forever
- 3 - Route 94 – 4Get The Girl (Mellizos Remix)
- 4 - Antonia, Tom Boxer, OLEXO & Alex Macondo – Morena
- 5 - Tommy Phillips – Sun Is Shining (Lovelee Dae)
- 6 - DJ Spade & Dawda – Low
- 7 - Ferra Black & Chico Rose – All Night Long
- 8 - Bensy, Kabusa Oriental Choir, Neyl & Serve Cold – Do It Again
- 9 - Robbie Doherty – Loneliness
- 10 - CamelPhat & Jessie Ware – Sauna

TOP 10 HOUSE & DANCE TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Steve K – One Day At A Time
- 2 - FREDRXX – Hole In My Heart
- 3 - Mama House & Dura – Saxy Waxxy (Oziriz Remix)
- 4 - Outer World – Golden Library Of Knowledge
- 5 - La Rose Noire – Ombre Et Lumière
- 6 - The Honest Heart Collective – Sheer Will
- 7 - Jembaa Groove & The Cavemen – Obi
- 8 - De Staat – THE FIRE 9 - Azekel & Jembaa Groove – No Pain No Gain
- 10 - Palace – Dream On

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME END OF JULY 2026

- 1 - Zero – Stop Scheming
- 2 - SampliFire & MAD DUBZ – Riddim N Dabs
- 3 - SVDKO, Mary Droppinz & JONCASS – LOUDER
- 4 - Nero, Taiki Nulight & Emily Makis – We're Not Alone
- 5 - Skybreak & longstoryshort – WHIPLASH
- 6 - Excision & LEVEL UP – Club XL
- 7 - Borne & WINK – Drown
- 8 - Kaskade & Crankdat – A Little Bit
- 9 - HURTBX – TARGET
- 10 - LUMBERJVCK – RUN AWAY

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME TRACKS FOR AUGUST 2026 SO FAR

- 1 - Axel Boy – Proximity
- 2 - Subtronics – Bird Phone
- 3 - Axel Boy & Dr. Ushūu – Promise Me
- 4 - Crankdat, Wooli & TiaCorine – Fux With Us
- 5 - Paper Skies & DR MAD – Honest
- 6 - Kill The Noise & LSDREAM – STINK MODE
- 7 - Monty – No Context
- 8 - Infekt, Xae & SampliFire – Final Tick
- 9 - Scrufizzer & Machinedrum – WHO
- 10 - Space Laces – Hazard Pay

TOP 10 DUBSTEP & GRIME TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Doctor Jeep – Ascend
- 2 - Tophe – Squat Jogs VIP
- 3 - Sustance – Sludge
- 4 - Zandyr – On A Mission
- 5 - Neffa-T & Cimm – Sherman
- 6 - Pixelated Biscuit – Acid Track
- 7 - Wingz – Like That
- 8 - Keeb & Mortals – Got It Like
- 9 - Basura – 9 Cans
- 10 - PLSMA – Cause The Money

TOP 10 TRANCE & TECHNO

TOP 10 TRANCE & TECHNO TRACKS END OF JULY 2026

- 1 - Armin van Buuren & Sacha – Everlasting (Rising Star Remix)
- 2 - Victor Ruiz & Kaufmann – Don't Mess With Us
- 3 - Binary Finary, Paul Oakenfold & Marie Vaunt – 1998
- 4 - Oliver Huntemann & Kaufmann – K.O.
- 5 - Armin van Buuren & Sacha – Everlasting
- 6 - 19:26 & Bittermind – Dancing
- 7 - Ronski Speed – Nuru Mpya
- 8 - Alignment & Space 92 – Proton
- 9 - Argy, Paul Oakenfold & Planet Perfecto Knights – ResuRection
- 10 - 2000 And One – Tropical Melons (Bart Skills Remix)

TOP 10 TRANCE/TECHNO TRACKS FOR AUGUST 2026 SO FAR

- 1 - Alex M.O.R.P.H. & Dan Cooper – Mai Pen Rai
- 2 - Liquid Soul & Captain Hook – Liquid Hook (Victor Ruiz Remix)
- 3 - DJ HEARTSTRING – Another Year Alone (I Love You)
- 4 - Oliver Huntemann – Y (Victor Ruiz Remix)
- 5 - Bryan Kearney & Nedeia – Back Once Again
- 6 - Phoenix Movement & Bora Project – Blow Out
- 7 - Above & Beyond & Victoria Horn – When You Believe
- 8 - The YellowHeads – Reboot.exe
- 9 - Bo Bruce & Key4050 – Empty Space
- 10 - UMEK – Vibrancy (Kos Remix)

TOP 10 TRANCE/TECHNO TRACKS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 - E.V.Geniy Kronikh – Psy Dimention
- 2 - DJ Vargas – Szandi
- 3 - Cadeya – Can't Say Goodbye
- 4 - Lambart & Tesch – Hard Knock Life
- 5 - Evoke – Elevation
- 6 - DJ Lux – Mirage
- 7 - Vince Blakk – Light Trails
- 8 - Yasmin Regisford – Sirocco
- 9 - Ydil Woods – Like To Go Fast
- 10 - Drumcomplex – Zirkus Maximus

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
8PM TILL 2AM

DIVERSIFY **26**

**MID-LIFE
KRISIS**

SWINDONS MULTI GENRE DANCE EVENT

FEATURING

**TOMMYB B2B
FRANKIE4FINGERZ**

HARD TRANCE

COLONEL WINTERS

HARD HOUSE

KIMFLUENCE

DRUM AND BASS

MY MATE JAMES

BASS HOUSE

LADY Y LEN

4X4

DJ BIZZ WITH MC 2BAD00

DRUM AND BASS

CLOSE SHAVE CRAIG

HARD DANCE

VENUE:

THE VICTORIA, OLD TOWN, SWINDON, SN1 3BD

INSTAGRAM @MIDLIFEKRISISRIG AND OUR FACEBOOK @MID LIFE KRISIS EVENTS FOR FUTURE INFO

BIGGER BEATS. MORE BASS. NEW LIGWA SOUND SYSTEM.

Mid Life Krisis return to their home 'The Victoria' in Old Town, Swindon. This time bringing bigger beats and more bass with the new Ligwa sound system, a night of Multi Genre dance music from 8pm till 2am.



DJ TECH – A LIFETIME DEDICATED TO THE UNDERGROUND

THE EARLY YEARS

For readers who may be discovering you for the first time, can you introduce yourself and tell us who David George, better known as DJ Tech, is?

I'm David George, better known as DJ Tech. I've been involved in the underground scene for over 30 years, starting out playing Hardcore before

moving into Hard Trance and Techno. I came through the early rave scene and the Exodus years, playing warehouses, sandpits, forests and parties all over the place. I've always preferred being in a dark corner of a warehouse rather than under the spotlight. These days I've retired from DJing to concentrate on production, working on my own music, with Beat Jugglers and on the Cause & Effect project with M-Zone. Away from music, I'm an ex-tattooist and now a lorry driver. Basically, I've spent most of my life making music, playing music and trying to keep the underground vibe alive.

When did music first become such an important part of your life?

In about 1978, when Kraftwerk's The Model came out. All my mates thought I had lost it... and they were probably right!

What first drew you towards Jungle and Drum & Bass?

Going to raves like Equinox at Milwaukeees.

Can you remember the first rave you ever attended and what impact it had on you?

It was a Spiral Tribe squat party at the Roundhouse in 1991.

When did you decide you wanted to become a DJ rather than just a raver?

Dreamscape 2, 28th February 1992.

What was it like learning to mix back in those days?

I was self-taught, purely by watching and listening to the DJs at Milwaukeees, Equinox, Helter Skelter and Dreamscape. You could stand right next to the DJs and see what they were doing and how they were doing it. If you check my YouTube channel, every set I've done has the camera focused not on me, but on my hands and the decks. This is purely to help other DJs see what I'm doing and how I'm doing it, because that's how I learned.

Looking back now, did you ever imagine music would become such a huge part of your life?

No.



EXODUS

THE EXODUS YEARS

Many people know you through Exodus Crew. How did that journey begin?

By a phone call to my mate when we were all sitting in a pub in Dagnall. "There's a party going off at Caesars Palace in Luton!" So we all jumped into a couple of cars and raced up there.

What made Exodus different from other crews around at the time?

Exodus were more like a military operation than a rave. They were so organised and on point. They seemed to have every angle covered, plus they were fully the 'in thing'. Their DJs were the very best in the area, and they did everything for the right reasons.

What are some of your favourite memories from those years?

Playing in endless warehouses, sandpits and forests with the coolest people you could ever meet.

Was there a particular event that really cemented your place within the scene?

Not really. Every event was the best you could imagine and one I would never forget.

How important was family and friendship within the crew?

Very important. I made most of my friends through Exodus and the party scene, and many of them are still my friends to this day.

What lessons did those years teach you, both personally and professionally?

Number one piece of advice: always keep your tunes in the car until it's your turn to play! There was nothing funnier than seeing up-and-coming DJs wandering about with a record bag or box, just posing. Some people didn't even want to play; they seemed to just like the ego side of things. I've never been an ego type of guy. Given the choice of being on a stage under the spotlight or being in a warehouse in a dark corner, I've always preferred the dark corner.

Is there one Exodus moment you'll never forget?

Getting the chance to drop the Exodus anthem and seeing everybody run into the warehouse, with the dancefloor filling to full capacity.

That's a moment I will never forget!



♥ THE UNDERGROUND SCENE

You've witnessed the Jungle and Drum & Bass scene evolve over several decades. What's changed the most?

The problem I've always had is that there's so much stuff out there that's not good. It's all about finding that little gem. I used to go to record shops and hear 50 crap tunes and find two. But those two were the best you'd ever heard.

What do you miss about the early rave scene?

The vibe.

What excites you most about today's scene?

Still finding that special tune that no one has heard before.

Has social media changed the way DJs connect with fans?

Yes, massively. Some good, some bad.

Do you think enough recognition is given to DJs who've dedicated decades to the underground?

No, not really. The underground is where everything starts and, to be honest, they're the heroes in my book.

What does the underground scene mean to you today?

It's raw and right. You can't muck about on the underground. If you're crap, you get thrown off the decks, unlike commercial DJs who get paid! Luckily, I've never been thrown off the decks in 30-plus years, but I've seen it happen to other people many times.

SHARING THE STAGE

You've played alongside countless DJs over the years. Who are some of your favourite people to perform with?

It has to start with DJ Guy, my favourite B2B DJ. The bloke just knows how to handle a crowd. Also DJ Tease, another guy who can control a crowd perfectly.

Is there anyone who had a major influence on your career?

DJ M-Zone has always been a major influence on me, both through DJing but mostly through production. He has been handing me dubplates and white labels for over 20 years. In fact, every time I ever saw him at a party, he'd

pull five or ten tunes from the back of his box for me. Now, in 2026, we're working together on a live PA project called Cause & Effect, which I'm really excited about.

Have there been any unexpected friendships formed through music?

Yes, many. Sterling Moss, who in my book is one of the best producers and DJs out there. A proper legend.

If you could go back and play one historic rave again, which would it be and why?

TNT Warehouse, 1997, at the top of Dallow Road, Luton.

💙 LIFE BEYOND MUSIC

Who is David George away from the DJ booth?

Well, an ex-tattooist and now a lorry driver.

How do you balance music with everyday life?

I just love making music nowadays, mostly with the band I'm in, Beat Jugglers.

Has music changed who you are as a person?

I don't think so. I've always been a bit crazy... lol.

What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?

I used to be a glider pilot when I was younger, a tattooist, and a robotic dancer!

What keeps you motivated after all these years?

Just buzzing people up and helping to keep the vibe alive.

🚀 LOOKING FORWARD

What keeps your passion for DJing alive today?

Well, I retired from DJing in May this year, purely to focus on production. I've just released my second album, plus I'm working for other people on productions. So, to give me the time to do that, something sadly had to give.

Are there any upcoming events or projects you're excited about?

Beat Jugglers is always number one for me, to be honest. It's so exciting working with people who are at the top of their game. I'm also working with M-Zone on the Cause & Effect project.

Do you still have ambitions you'd like to achieve within music?

Only to keep making music that hopefully people enjoy, and to keep making music and performing with



Beat Jugglers, which is my favourite thing.

Is there anything you've never done that you'd still love to experience?

Flying was probably my favourite thing to do other than music..It's a bit like the best video game you've ever played, but with consequences. If you fluff up, you're dead! Sadly, I do like danger... lol.

Where do you see DJ Tech in the next five years?

Hopefully still touring and making music with Beat Jugglers!

🏆 LOOKING BACK

Looking back over your career, what achievement makes you proudest?

Beat Jugglers.

Have there ever been moments where you considered walking away?

Yes, a few times. But you get over it and power through it.

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Just keep going. It will be worth it.

What do you hope your legacy within Tribal Trance and Techno will be?

Hopefully my legacy would be: "He knows what he's doing, that geezer!" Lol.

How would you like people to remember DJ Tech?

Hopefully that he normally smashes the party. Guaranteed!

<https://beatjugglers.com>



⚡ QUICK FIRE ROUND

Vinyl or Digital?

Vinyl, if I get the chance.

Favourite rave of all time?

Exodus.

Favourite venue?

Heath and Reach sandpits.

Favourite MC to perform with?

None.

Favourite Jungle anthem?

UK Apache & Shy FX – Original Nuttah.

Favourite Drum & Bass producer?

Shy FX.

One DJ you've always admired?

DJ M-Zone.

Sunrise or closing set?

Closing set.

Tea or coffee?

Coffee, always.

One word to describe Tribal & Hard Dance?

Having it.

One word to describe the future?

Exciting.

❤️ FINAL QUESTIONS

What advice would you give to young DJs trying to break into the scene today?

Go to the parties you want to play at and just keep hassling them with your recordings. Plus, never give up.

What's the biggest lesson music has taught you?

Life is crap without music.

After everything you've experienced in the scene, what are you most grateful for?

Being given the chance to play by all the sound systems and parties. Bless them all.

Finally, where can everyone follow you, hear your mixes and keep up with everything you've got coming up?

Mixcloud:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/tribaleditor/>

SoundCloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/tribaleditor>



WHAT'S ON...

dnb family: Summer Session

Basing House

25 Kingsland Road

London

E2 8AA

Saturday 5th September 2026

2:00pm–9:00pm

£10 — Final Release

18+

Summer Outdoor Garage Festival – Studio 338 London

Studio 338

338 Boord Street

London

SE10 0PF

Saturday 5th September 2026

2:00pm–10:00pm

£20 — General Admission

18+

Rulebreakerz Harder

Aldersgate Arms

85 Carnarvon Road

Clacton-on-Sea

CO15 6QA

Saturday 12th September 2026

3:00pm–10:00pm

£5

16+

Heavy Society X The Bassment

Geez King Street Dy28nz

34 King Street

Dudley

DY2 8NZ

Saturday 12th September 2026

2:00pm–11:30pm

£13.40 — Final Release

18+

Bonkers 30 Years

Ministry Of Sound

103 Gaunt Street

London

SE1 6DP

Saturday 12th September 2026

1:00pm–10:00pm

£25 — Final Release

18+



WHAT'S ON...

Frequency XL
Fire Vauxhall
South Lambeth Road
London
SW8 1RT

Saturday 26th September 2026
11:00pm–6:00am
£10 — First Release
18+

Deeper Drum & Bass September Session
Canvas
45 Poole Hill
Bournemouth
BH2 5PW

Saturday 26th September 2026
9:00pm–3:00am
Free
18+

CruClash Nottingham
Unit 13
Burton Street
Nottingham
NG1 4BT

Saturday 26th September 2026
4:00pm–10:00pm
Free
18+

Sidney Charles, Luuk Van Dijk & More | Groovebox at SteelYard
SYSheffield (Steel Yard)
Bardwell Road, Neepsend
Sheffield
S3 8AS

Saturday 26th September 2026
2:00pm–10:00pm
£27 — Third Release
18+

Sunset Outdoor All-Day Music and Beer Fest Part 2
The Golden Duck
Park Road
Rickmansworth
WD3 1HU

Saturday 26th September 2026
3:00pm–10:00pm
£8 — Early Bird
21+



WHAT'S ON...

Return 2 Rave
Network Sheffield
14-16 Matilda Street
Sheffield
S1 4QD
Saturday 19th September 2026
3:00pm-11:00pm
£15 — Earlybird
18+

Edele All-Dayer 2
XOYO
32-37 Cowper Street
London
EC2A 4AP
Saturday 19th September 2026
3:00pm-10:00pm
£15 — Final Release
18+

LEGACY Outdoors Summer Closing Party
Eutopia
42A River Road
Barking
IG11 0DW
Saturday 19th September 2026
2:00pm-11:00pm
£20 — Second Release
30+

Oxside After Party — All Shades of Drum & Bass
The Arches Behind Kelseys
Unit 4 Bath Place
Leamington Spa
CV31 3AQ
Saturday 19th September 2026
6:45pm-11:00pm
£5 — General Entry
18+

London Something: Jungle Drum & Bass in the Heart of Hackney
Earth (Hall)
11-17 Stoke Newington Road
London
N16 8BH
Friday 25th September 2026
11:00pm-4:00am
£10 — Early Bird
18+



WHAT'S ON...

FOMO Multi Genre Music Festival
The Rainton Arena
Mercantile Road
Houghton-le-Spring
DH4 5PH
Saturday 12th September 2026
12:00pm–11:00pm
£45 — Phase 1
18+

Rodman Rising
Club Colette
5 Lower Trinity Street
Birmingham
B9 4AG
Saturday 12th September 2026
10:00pm–4:00am
£10 — Earlybird
18+

Frontline Bass: The Enchanted Woods
The Wild Retreat
The Wood Retreat
Sawbridgeworth
CM21 0RL
Saturday 12th–Sunday 13th September 2026
1:00pm Saturday–8:00pm Sunday
£22 — Second Release
18+

DNB Spotlight Presents: Sub Zero & Shabba D
Underground
105 Market Street
Farnworth, Bolton
BL4 7NS
Saturday 19th September 2026
9:00pm–3:00am
£10
18+

Drum and Bass Classics Coventry
HMV Empire Coventry
22 Hertford Street
Coventry
CV1 1LF
Saturday 19th September 2026
10:00pm–4:00am
£22 — Final Release
18+



HOW TO ENTER

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- One entry per person, per category
- Maximum of three genre submissions where applicable
- At least 3 months of experience required

5.1 DJ SUBMISSIONS

- 15-20 minute video in MP4 format
- Matching WAV audio file
- Clearly show the DJ, equipment and use of pitch control
- Sync button use is not permitted
- No MCs or external performers

5.2 MC SUBMISSIONS

- 3-5 minute video performance
- Include the words "Music Recognition Awards" and "Twisted"
- Front-facing and clearly audible
- Matching WAV audio file

BY SUBMITTING, YOU AGREE

- Your track may be uploaded for public voting
- Your track may be made available for users to download

5.3 PRODUCER SUBMISSIONS

- Video showing the track within a DAW
- Matching WAV audio file

5.4 SUBMISSION METHOD

SUBMIT ONLINE

www.twistedofficial.com

OR SEND BY FILE TRANSFER

info@twistedofficial.com

EVERY ENTRY MUST INCLUDE

- Full name
- Artist or DJ name
- Contact details

6. CONTENT & CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

- Original work owned by the entrant
- No copyright or third-party rights infringement
- No offensive, illegal, defamatory or explicit material
- Suitable for public viewing

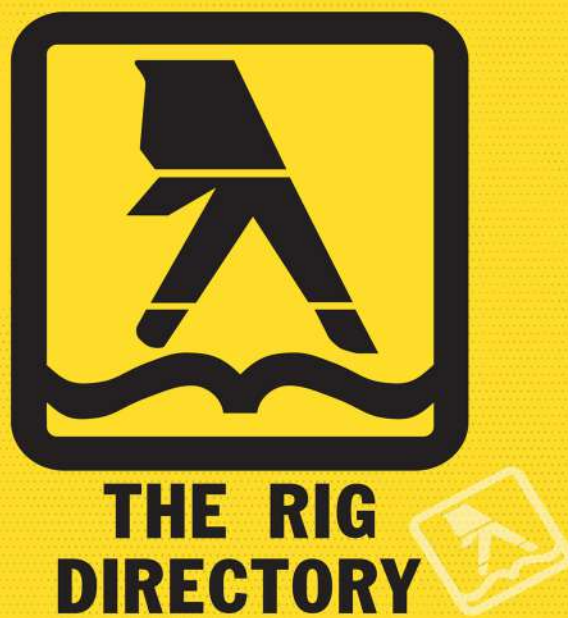
FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION

EMAIL

info@twistedofficial.com

WEB

twistedofficial.com/register_up_and_comers_awards



Our History

Founded in 2022, The Rig Directory was built on a simple but powerful idea: bring sound systems from across the country together in one central platform. A place where promoters, venues, and organisers can easily find the right rig for their event — while actively supporting sound system culture and the charities that matter to it.

Since launch, we've worked with some of the biggest and most respected rigs in the industry, creating a space that represents the scene properly and professionally.

The Concept

Every sound system listed on The Rig Directory is given its own dedicated page, fully editable by an admin at any time. Each page can showcase photos, social media links, contact details, price lists (if desired), and any key information that helps highlight the system, its services, and its identity. Each rig also chooses a charity they want to support. We link this directly on their page, allowing visitors to see who the sound system supports and donate straight to the chosen charity — no middlemen, no hidden cuts. To be listed on the directory, we simply ask for a one-off minimum £5 donation to the sound system's chosen charity. After that, any further donations are completely optional. Once set up, the page is theirs to share, promote, and use as a professional reference point. At a glance, people can view a rig's setup, services, and contact details — making booking easier and more transparent for everyone involved.

The Goal

Our goal is to give sound systems the visibility they deserve, present them at their best, and raise funds for meaningful causes at the same time. We know times are tough, which is why we've kept the minimum donation low — a fiver felt fair and accessible. Of course, anyone is welcome to donate more, but the focus is on inclusion, support, and strengthening the scene as a whole.

“One directory - One culture - Real support”

To be listed on the directory, we simply ask for a one-off minimum £5 donation to the sound system's chosen charity. After that, any further donations are completely optional. Once set up, the page is theirs to share, promote, and use as a professional reference point.

<http://therigdirectory.com>

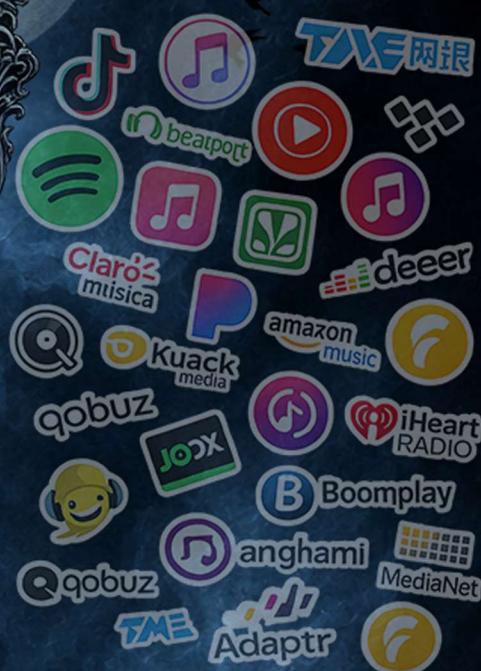


ASYNCHY
ASHLEY SMITH



DARK FADA

TWISTED RECORDZ RELEASES



SK

**EASPHAZE
ECHOES**

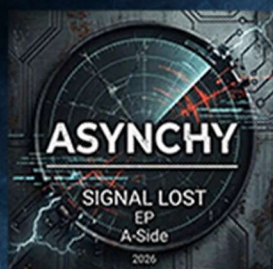
TWISTED
RECORDZ

COMING SOON

DJ TECH

OUT NOW

ASYNCHY



TWISTED RECORDZ



**COMING
SOON**
— TO —
CANNOCK

KINGSTON COURT

WWW.TWISTEDSTEEL.CO.UK

MISSING PERSON

HAVE YOU SEEN ALEX?

Specialist search-and-rescue teams are searching Cannock Chase for Alex, a 33-year-old man from Cannock.



PHOTOS: STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE / CHASE TV

WHAT WE KNOW

● LAST SEEN

Friday 21 August, first at a relative's address in the Gospel End area of Dudley, then later at a hotel in Bridgtown, Cannock.

● DESCRIPTION

Around 5ft 7in tall, stocky build, with short dark-brown hair.

● CLOTHING

Black T-shirt, black jeans and black-and-white Vans shoes.

● KNOWN AREAS

Stafford, Bridgtown and Cannock, Cannock Chase and Rugeley.

PLEASE DO NOT JOIN THE SEARCH OR LAUNCH DRONES

Allow the trained specialist teams already deployed on Cannock Chase to carry out the operation.

INFORMATION COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

CALL STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE ON

101

or use Live Chat at staffordshire.police.uk

QUOTE INCIDENT 334 OF 22 AUGUST

MEN & SUICIDE IN THE UK

THE SILENCE
KILLS.
LET'S
BREAK IT.

THE LATEST OFFICIAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE AS OF **AUGUST 2026**

Suicide is preventable. But right now, far too many men in the UK are dying by their own hand. These are the latest official figures available as of **August 2026**.

THE FACTS

LATEST OFFICIAL DATA
AVAILABLE AS OF
AUGUST 2026

 **3/4**

AROUND THREE QUARTERS
OF SUICIDES ARE MEN

Consistently around 75% of all suicides in the UK & Republic of Ireland. (Samaritans, 2024)

ENGLAND 2024 (LATEST FULL YEAR)

5,717

MEN TOOK THEIR OWN LIFE

Rate: 17.1 per 100,000 men
vs 5.6 per 100,000 women

(ONS, 2024 Registrations)

ENGLAND & WALES 2024

6,190

SUICIDES REGISTERED

Male rate: 17.6 per 100,000
More than 3x the female rate
of 5.7 per 100,000

(ONS, 2024 Registrations)

ENGLAND 2025 (PROVISIONAL)

5,728

SUICIDES REGISTERED

Q4 2025: 1,123 MEN
Rate: 17.7 per 100,000 men
vs 5.5 per 100,000 women
(ONS, 2025 Provisional Data)

! HIGHEST RISK:

MEN AGED **50-54** HAVE THE HIGHEST SUICIDE RATE: **26.8 PER 100,000** (ENGLAND 2024)



NEAR-TO-REAL-TIME DATA (ENGLAND, JAN 2026): MEN **15.0** PER 100,000 | WOMEN **5.1** PER 100,000 (NRTSSS, JAN 2026)

WHY SO MANY MEN SUFFER IN SILENCE

For generations, men have been told:

**MAN UP. GET ON WITH IT.
DON'T CRY, BE STRONG.
DEAL WITH IT.**

But silence isn't strength.

A man can look fine on the outside
and be breaking on the inside.

**LET'S STOP ASSUMING
SOMEBODY IS OKAY.**

WARNING SIGNS

To LOOK OUT FOR

-  Withdrawal, isolation, not wanting to talk
-  Hopelessness, no point in living, feeling like a burden
-  Increased alcohol or drug use
-  Giving things away, saying goodbye
-  Extreme mood swings, anger, agitation
-  Talking about death or suicide, or feeling trapped

**IF YOU NOTICE A CHANGE,
DON'T IGNORE IT.
ASK. LISTEN. TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

-  Start real conversations. Go beyond "You alright, mate?"
-  Ask twice. Give them time to open up.
-  Listen without judgement. You don't always need to fix it.
-  Take talk of suicide seriously. Ask directly if they're thinking about it.
-  Help them reach support. You could be the reason they stay.



**ASKING FOR HELP
IS NOT WEAK.
IT'S BRAVE.**

GET SUPPORT



SAMARITANS
116 123

FREE • 24/7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR

Call. Email. Or visit [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)



NHS 111
MENTAL HEALTH OPTION

Call 111 and select the
mental health option to reach
specialist crisis support.

Available in England.

IN AN EMERGENCY

999

IF SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE
DANGER OR AT RISK TO LIFE.
CALL 999 OR GO TO A&E.



ONE CONVERSATION CAN SAVE A LIFE. TALK. LISTEN. STAY.

Statistics from ONS, 2024-2025. Suicide registration data does not always reflect the year in which the death occurred, as registration can follow a coroner's inquest months or more than a year later.

RAISING AWARENESS. STARTING CONVERSATIONS. SAVING LIVES.

TWISTED MAGAZINE



REMEMBERANCE PAGE FOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST

"This is what mental health looks like when it's ignored.
Remember them. Speak up. Check in. Please stay."



Steven 'DJ Hurtz' Spencer - 24.08.1984 - 29.11.2025 💙🕊️ AGE: 41
EDITION 1



Thomas Smith - 20.04.1987 - 30.12.2020 💙🕊️ AGE: 33
EDITION 1



Chris Wright - 22.03.1983- 24.10.2022 💙🕊️ AGE:39
EDITION 1



Aaron-Louis Kingsley Enderby - 24.11.1992 - 01.04.2022 💙🕊️ AGE: 29
EDITION 1



Robert Williams - 29.06.1984 - 10.02.2020 💙🕊️ AGE: 35
EDITION 1



James Clinton - 18.12.1986 - 23.06.2025 💙🕊️ AGE: 38
EDITION 1



Connor James Dean O'toole - 1995 - 2021💙🕊️ AGE: 26
EDITION 1



Richard 'Blowa' Blower - 22.08.1989 - 03.09.2014 💙🕊️ AGE: 25
EDITION 1

We want to honour your loved ones while raising awareness for mental health — to have someone special listed,
please contact us at info@indulgencewithatwist.com 💙



999

Helpline Numbers

Helplines and crisis contacts

If you are at all concerned about your health or the health of a friend or family member, you may find useful information from one of the sources below.

Hub of Hope

Hub of Hope is the UK's largest mental health support directory. Whether you want to find a service to help you feel better or you want to support someone who is struggling, we can help. Use the address to search the directory <https://hubofhope.co.uk>

Samaritans

Available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.

www.samaritans.org

116 123 (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours a day

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Mind

Mind offers advice, support and information to people experiencing a mental health difficulty and their family and friends. Mind also has a network of local associations in England and Wales to which people can turn for help and assistance.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm (except bank holidays).

www.mind.org.uk

InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463

Email info@mind.org.uk

Rethink Mental Illness

Rethink Mental Illness works to help everyone affected by severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, recover a better quality of life. It provides effective services and support and campaigns for change through greater awareness and understanding.

www.rethink.org

National Advice Service: 0300 5000 927 (Open 9:30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday)

Email advice@rethink.org

(Rethink was formerly called the National Schizophrenia Fellowship)

PAPYRUS UK

PAPYRUS is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. They support young people under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, as well as people concerned about someone else.

Their HopelineUK service is open 9am – midnight every day of the year (including weekends and bank holidays).

www.papyrus-uk.org

Helpline: 0800 068 4141

Text: 07860039967

Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org



999

Helpline Numbers

Helplines and crisis contacts

If you are at all concerned about your health or the health of a friend or family member, you may find useful information from one of the sources below.

YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm, excluding bank holidays)

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)

A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support.

Open 5pm to midnight, every day of the year.

www.thecalmzone.net

Helpline: 0800 58 58 58

Webchat: www.thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/

Sane

SANE services provide practical help, emotional support and specialist information to individuals affected by mental health problems, their family, friends and carers.

SANeline is open between 4pm and 10pm, 365 days a year.

Support Forum: www.sane.org.uk

SANeline: 0300 304 7000

Textcare: https://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/textcare/

NHS mental health services

Find information, advice and local services on the NHS website. You can also get advice from the NHS 111 phone service.

Shout

Get help

To start a conversation, text the word 'Shout' to 85258. Shout is a free, confidential and 24/7 text messaging service for anyone in the UK who needs support. If you are struggling to cope and need to talk, our trained Shout Volunteers are here for you.

If your life is at imminent risk, please call 999 for immediate help.

Other sources of mental health help and information

List of mental health helplines from the Helplines Partnership

Mental Health Foundation provides useful information on a range of mental health difficulties, as well as resources to support your wellbeing Mentally Healthy Schools has a wide range of information for schools and teachers to support young people's mental health

Mental Health and Money Advice provides practical advice and support for people experiencing issues with mental health and money Me and My Mind has some useful information for young people who may be having unusual experiences, such as paranoia or hearing voices



Created in association with

TWISTED OFFICIAL
and
THE DRUM & BASS BIBLE

**AMMY'S
PHOTOS**



www.twistedofficial.com

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