



## DJ 101

### Comprehensive how-to kit provides the basics for aspiring DJs

**So you want to be a superstar DJ, huh?** You've already used the credit card your folks gave you to take to college (the one "for emergencies only") to finance a basic set-up: two turntables, a mixer, headphones, records, etc. Then there are the countless hours spent troubleshooting, trying to figure what plug goes where and how come no matter what, your mixes sound like two Amtrak trains in a head-on collision. At this rate, you won't be opening for Mixmaster Mike anytime soon.

Esteemed Boston Berklee College of Music and professor

Stephen Webber have come to your rescue, putting together a comprehensive *Toolsfor DJs* product line that takes you by the hand and gently makes sense of it all. *Turntable Technique: The Art of the DJ* is a 125-page manual that covers everything from how to set up tone arms to various scratching styles to interviews with top turntablists like A-Trak, Q-Bert and DJ Swamp. It also comes with a double-disc vinyl set loaded with DJ-friendly beats and cuts. They even attempt to teach music sight-reading. Ambitious, but admirable. *Turntable Basics* is the quick 40-page handbook that boils it all down to a 10-

point checklist. For actual sound tools, there's a five-volume *Vital Vinyl* series of records, which run the gamut from *Beat Bomb*, which is thick with snappy hip-hop drum breaks, to *Tech Tools*, which focuses on loops tooled for techno, house and trance. For those about to spin, *Tools for DJs* salutes you. They won't be able to help explain your credit card bill to the parents, though.

**Timothy Brown**