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Pioneer CDJ 1000 Mk3 review



The latest version of the now classic and club standard DJ cd player is out. For years now the CDJ 1000 has been the industry standard DJ CD player, in fact its fair to say that it has become to CD players what the SL1210 is to turntables with one twist, you can add more to CD players with each revision than you can to a turntable!

The new Mk3 has all the standard offerings of the previous versions like hot cues, master tempo, cue point memory, wave display and of course the classic scratch mode. One of the key additions is the long awaited support for MP3's and Pioneer not being happy with just making it compatible, have made sure all the features that work on CD will also work on MP3 even the -100% pitch control.



The CDJ1000 Mk3 brags the fact that it can handle up to 999 Folders all of which can be displayed on its brighter FL display. You can of course search tracks by artist, title or album. Also on the new display you'll find the improved waveform display showing the full track in one go.

The other major addition to the CDJ1000 mk3 is the adjustable jog wheel. You can now set how loose or tight you want the jog wheel to feel. It's very obvious when you move the small adjustable control that you are doing something mechanical! With every turn you can hear the faint sound of cogs turning and it all feels very industrial and reassuring.

One other not so obvious (at first) change is the central display in the jog wheel, this is now closer to the top making it easier to see at different angles, there's also an extra ring in the display to show when you are touching the top of the wheel.

HOT CUE is now partnered by a new HOT LOOP feature that stores up to three loops per track. The buttons are back lit orange for the loop and green for the cues while the re-loop button is now also back lit. A further addition is 'resume play': the deck will restart playing from the same point if a CD is ejected accidentally.

Cue point memory is the same, the memory card slot can save 100 cue or loop points per disc for 10,000 discs to a 16mb SD or MMC card (included) as well as wave displays and hot cues. You can still create hot cues on the fly as well as loops and store them in the internal memory. The internal memory can store 10 Cue and Loop points per disc and for a total of 100 discs. When the data exceeds 100 discs worth of data, data items are deleted starting from the oldest items.

The SD / MMC card slot now has its' own little 'door' as well as the green LED to indicate when the card is in use.



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When in Vinyl mode the top of the jog wheel (now with a metallic, non slip finish) becomes touch sensitive, touch it while the track is playing and the sound stops, let go and it starts up these speeds can be adjusted. Touching and moving the top of the wheel, lets you scratch just like vinyl.

Pitch control still has $\pm 6 / 10 / 16$ % as well as WIDE which gives +70% and – 100% Start up and braking can be individually adjusted and you can even switch off the 'vinyl' mode to allow you to use the full wheel without scratching.

Looping is very simple, hit the loop in at the start and loop out at the end. If you don't get it right first time, dont worry, you can adjust the loop start and end points buy hitting the in or out buttons while the loop is running and moving the wheel to tweak it. The central jog dial display also shows the loop point.

Connectivity at the back offers gold plated analogue RCA outputs as well as gold plated SPDIF digital out.

As mentioned before the jog wheel top plate has been replaced with a metallic finish and even the pitch fader knob is now metallic, giving the whole unit a tougher feel.

Overall, if you look at a MK3 on its' own, you won't see too much difference, put it side by side with the Mk2 and the older machine starts to show its' age.



Specifications

System : Compact disc digital audio system
Power requirements : AC 220-240 V, 50/60 Hz
Power consumption : 27 W
Operating temperature : +5C - +35C
Operating humidity : 5 % - 85 %
Weight : 4.2 kg
Dimensions : 320 (W) x 370 (D) x 105 (H) mm

Audio Section:

Frequency response : 4 Hz – 20 kHz
Signal-to-noise ratio : 115 dB or more (JEITA)
Distortion : 0.006 % (JEITA)

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