

# DJING AT THE BURN

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I thought I'd save you the hassle/heartache/expense of wrecked equipment and long pauses of painful silence by sharing with you a few tips that I've picked up from Djing there the last few years.

As I'm sure you're all aware the fine alkali dust of the playa is a pretty integral part of the Burning Man experience and it gets *everywhere*... in your hair (get ready to look like Don King for the week Jamie), up your nose, all over the inside of your RV (if you forget to turn your air conditioning off when the wind blows up) and all over any equipment that you might happen to be DJing on. Rather like a muddy Glastonbury you get used to it pretty quickly but it can be a pain when there's electronics involved.

With this in mind here's a few tips for damage limitation depending on how you DJ:

Vinyl... Forget about it. Don't bring vinyl to the desert, it's heavy to carry about, it will warp in the heat and a lot of camps/rigs/sound systems don't have record decks as their are either windward facing or on moving art cars. It's worth bringing control discs for Traktor/Serrato for the systems that do have decks as these are replaceable but don't risk ruining any of your favourite vinyl as they will get covered in dust, which is a bitch to clean off, and may warp.

CDs... CDs are your best bet as they are portable (a lot of sound systems can only be reached on bike if they are deep-playa) and sturdy/dust resistant. Most systems have CDJ1000s though these can be very precious in the desert as the dust gets in the jog wheel and they cease to work. Our camp got through four of them during the course of last years Burn as they kept packing up. With this in mind a lot of the sound systems have the older CDJ200 models as they are far more robust so be prepared for a lack of vinyl mode if you're playing on these. It's definitely worth bringing a fine dust cloth for wiping your CDs before loading them in and perhaps consider stacking them rather than keeping them in a CD wallet as the process of sliding them in and out of the pouches will scratch them if they've got dust on them. Alternatively you could just burn a whole new set of CDs just for the Burn so you don't have to worry if they get wrecked... This is the

advantage of CDs as they are totally replaceable.

Laptops... Lots of people play on laptops in the desert but they are prone to death by dust if the air intakes for the cooling gets clogged. I know that Gadi and Zev have an old black plastic Macbook that they use just for the Burn so if you've got an old laptop lying around that is powerful enough to run Traktor/Serrato then it's worth taking this instead of your shiny new Macbook Pro. I'd strongly suggest that you invest in an iSkin keyboard cover ([http://www.amazon.co.uk/SKQUE-Clear-Silicone-Macbook-Keyboard/dp/B0036Q7QIO/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr0\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1281571868&sr=8-3-fkmr0](http://www.amazon.co.uk/SKQUE-Clear-Silicone-Macbook-Keyboard/dp/B0036Q7QIO/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1281571868&sr=8-3-fkmr0)) to protect the keyboard from collecting dust in the keys. I'd also suggest if you've got a Macbook Pro running it not plugged in while you're playing so it doesn't get too hot and trigger the higher fan rate which will increase the air intake and hence the amount of dust sucked in the back. If you're super paranoid about protecting your Mac then you could tape a thin strip of foam or cotton wool along the air intake at the back to protect it from the dust but again watch out for your computer running too hot. If you only own one Mac which is where all your production/music/emails/ongoing-career is stored then make sure it's completely backed up or think twice about bringing it to the Burn.

Traktor/Serrato... If you're worried about your soundcard getting trashed then simply tie it up in a plastic bag with all the cables coming out and it will be fine. Having said this, they are pretty robust and so this shouldn't be necessary.

One final thing that it's worth investing in is several cans of compressed air spray which is available from the electronics department in any big Walmart. This will allow you to blow away any dust that collects on the difficult to reach parts/intakes/USB sockets/plugs/jog wheels etc etc of your equipment.