

# Mission Fusion DJ Guidelines

As an MF DJ you are a critical part of the success of the event. You set the tone and energy of the dances and the event as a whole (and help shape the broader Fusion scene)!

We request that you please read through this entire document to be updated on our latest guidelines.

We appreciate you, and all the work you put into DJing!

Thank you in advance :)

---

**1. We request that you have some sort of back up device to DJ from in case your computer fails.** It doesn't happen often, but having music on a phone or ipad or even an external hard drive can seriously decrease stress if your computer crashes.

**2. Pay attention to your transitions between genres and tempo.** We want to send folks into dancing bliss. We would love sets to flow without harsh/surprising transitions (unless you are going for a specific effect ;)

**3. Variety and creativity.** Not too little, not too much... just right (for the average dancer)

- We see DJing as a service position. A DJ's job is to play what the floor wants, not necessarily what the DJ wants to hear. Getting to play cool new music is the reward for building a foundation where the crowd is following along with you. **We would like to aim to create variety and accessibility to the average Fusion dancer.**
- Cultivate a balance of familiar favorite songs, familiar sounds/rhythms, and new music.
  - After speaking with a variety of dancers, we have had requests to have more familiar songs played. **Aim to play at least 30% of songs that would be recognized by many dancers and at least another 30% that are familiar beats/rhythms/structure.**
  - Less familiar, more challenging, songs should be couched between songs that are accessible.

- Play a variety of styles/genres including but not limited to Blues influenced/modern Bluesy, Latin influenced, Funk, Soul, and international music, lyrical, instrumental, electronic, acoustic, etc. Please do not feel the need to play all genres in one set, but we do encourage you to create variety in sound, tempo, and genres.
- **First Set: start the night beginner friendly through the first 45 minutes.**
- **Second Set: Generally, take the vibe lower tempo towards the end of the night.**

**4. Watch the room.** Cultivate an awareness of the energy of the whole room (not just in front of the DJ booth) and how dancers are responding to your music. For example, are many people sitting out or do they seem to be dancing awkwardly/having a hard time identifying the beat/resonating with the music. Be ready to shift a set if people are not dancing or not dancing well (aka having fun!). It's great to have a selection of tried and true favorites at the ready, in case an experimental song falls a bit flat. We love you and trust your DJ skills (that's why we hired you), but if we feel like a set is losing the crowd, we may kindly ask you to adjust.

**5. Know your music.** Generally work to represent artists and music from a variety of ethnic backgrounds in your set. Covers can be great, but we also love originals, especially the classics that built our modern music. Please avoid songs with lyrics that include triggering themes like excessive strong language, derogatory/inflammatory words, violence, suicide, abuse etc.

**7. Walk the room** and check your volume and sound balance. There will be a decibel reader at the DJ booth. We aim to keep the sound peaks below 90 decibels.

**8. Have a quality sound card** for your computer (we have an extra for emergencies).

Your laptop's internal sound is not designed for a 3KW PA system. It's designed and optimized for headphones (small wattage), not driving a PA like we have at Mission Fusion. Laptop manufacturers don't put money into a quality DAC (Digital Analog Converter) for the output of your computer. As with many things they buy enough to get by, and enough that 99% of the population doesn't know the difference. As a DJ for Mission Fusion, you are part of the 1% that a quality DAC makes a difference for. Yes, even Apple is guilty of this, along with all PC makers. Good sound makes happy dancers!

9. Have quality tracks

Sound quality comes bitrate for audio files.

- Less than 128 Kbps: No, don't play it. I don't care if Beats Antique remixed the Beatles singing some Olde-English dubstep. (Ok, that might be cool and probably be the only exception)
- 128 Kbps: If you have classic tracks sometimes you can only find them in 128, however it would be best if you put in effort to find an upgrade.
- 192 Kbps: Minimum playable standard over PA
- 256 Kbps: This (and above) is where your tracks should be, nearly indistinguishable from lossless
- 320 Kbps: The gold standard of MP3, indistinguishable from lossless.

Thank you for reading through all of this.

We can't wait to dance to your music!

Please let us know if you have any questions.