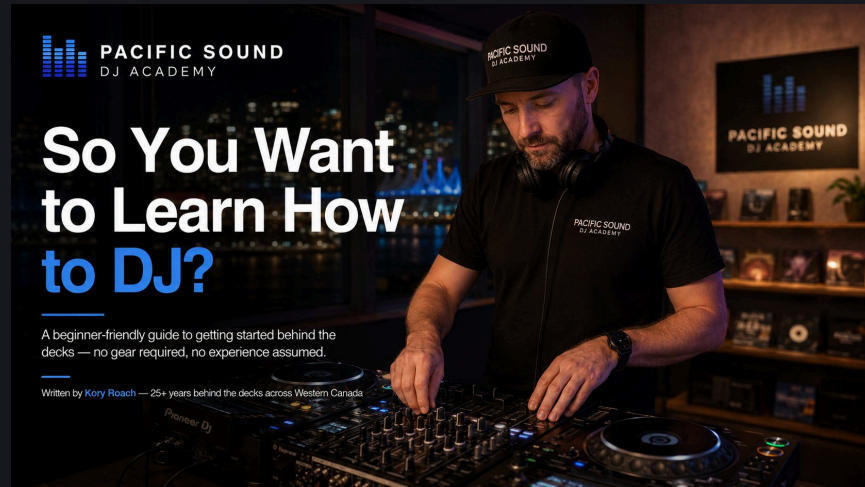


PACIFIC SOUND DJ ACADEMY

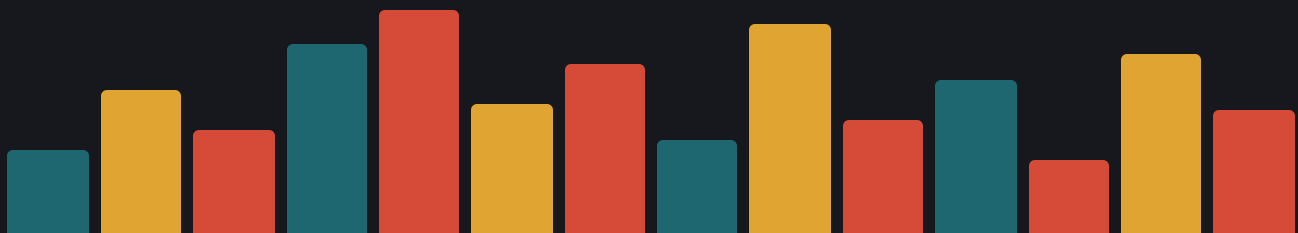
PACIFIC SOUND ENTERTAINMENT CANADA INC. · VANCOUVER, BC



So You Want to Learn How to DJ?

A beginner-friendly guide to getting started behind the decks — no gear required, no experience assumed.

Written by **Kory Roach** — 25+ years behind the decks across Western Canada



WELCOME

Everyone starts somewhere.

If you've ever stood at the edge of a dance floor, watched the DJ read the room, drop the right track at the right moment, and thought *"I'd love to be able to do that"* — this guide is for you.

I'm Kory Roach. I've been DJing across Western Canada for more than 25 years — weddings, festivals, corporate rooms, school grads, and everything in between. I started Pacific Sound DJ Academy because I kept meeting people in Vancouver who were curious about DJing but felt locked out before they even began. They didn't own gear. They didn't know a CDJ from a controller. They'd watched a few videos and ended up more confused than when they started.

Here's the truth I want you to take from this guide: **you do not need to own any equipment, and you do not need to "already be good," to start learning.** Learning first — on real gear, with someone guiding you — is the smartest, cheapest, and least stressful way to begin.



A QUICK NOTE BEFORE WE START

This guide is genuinely useful on its own. But if you'd like to hear about upcoming beginner classes, free workshops, and one-on-one openings, you can join our mailing list anytime at pacificsoundentertainment.tech. No spam — just real dates and real opportunities to get started.

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Why DJing feels confusing at first

Almost everyone who walks into their first lesson says some version of the same thing: "I tried to figure this out on my own and I just got overwhelmed." That's not a personal failing — it's the natural result of how the DJ world presents itself to newcomers.

The equipment looks like a cockpit

Controllers, CDJs, mixers, turntables — rows of knobs, faders, and jog wheels that seem to demand you understand all of them at once. You don't. Most of those controls fall into a handful of simple categories, and a good teacher introduces them one at a time so the layout stops looking like noise and starts looking like a tool.



There are too many "right" answers online

Search "how to DJ" and you'll get someone insisting Serato is the only way, someone else pushing Rekordbox and CDJs, a third saying controllers are for amateurs, and a fourth telling you to learn on vinyl or you're not a real DJ. All of that advice contradicts itself, and none of it knows where *you're* starting from. It's the number one reason beginners stall.

The vocabulary is a wall

Beatmatching, gain staging, EQ, cue points, phrasing, BPM. The terms get thrown around like everyone's supposed to already know them. They're all learnable in a couple of sessions — but read cold, they make DJing sound far more complicated than it is.

THE REFRAME

None of this is hard. It's just *unguided*. The reason it feels confusing is that you're trying to assemble a coherent skill out of scattered, contradictory pieces. Put those pieces in the right order, on real equipment, with someone answering your questions in real time — and the fog clears fast.

Curious what the right order actually looks like? Join the mailing list at pacificsoundentertainment.tech and we'll let you know when the next beginner session opens.

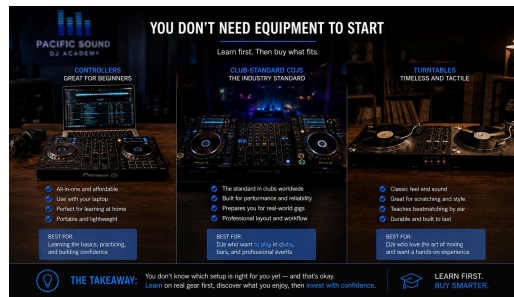
You don't need equipment to start

This is the single most important thing in this guide, so I'll say it plainly: **do not buy DJ gear before you learn.** I've watched too many people spend \$800 to \$1,500 on a controller or a pair of decks based on a forum recommendation, only to discover months later that it wasn't the right fit for how they actually want to play.

"Buy the gear that fits the DJ you've become — not the DJ you imagined you'd be before your first lesson."

Why learning first saves you money

When you learn on real equipment before purchasing, three things happen. You find out whether you genuinely enjoy mixing before spending a dollar. You learn the real differences between a controller setup, club-standard CDJs, and turntables — so a spec sheet actually means something. And you develop your own preferences, so when you do buy, you buy once and buy right.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

You can show up to your first session with zero gear, zero software, and zero experience — and still leave having mixed two tracks together. The barrier to starting isn't money or equipment. It's just taking the first step.

The order that actually works

- **Learn the fundamentals** on real equipment with guidance.
- **Discover your style** — what you like to play and which platform feels right in your hands.
- **Then buy** — informed, confident, and without wasting money on the wrong setup.

Want to try before you invest a cent? Ask us about upcoming beginner sessions and the occasional free workshop at pacificsoundentertainment.tech.

What a beginner should actually learn first

There's a myth that DJing is all about fast hands and flashy tricks. The opposite is true. The skills that separate a confident DJ from a nervous one are quieter, and they're all completely learnable. Here's what genuinely matters when you're starting out.

Setup & signal flow

Knowing how sound travels from your music source, through the mixer, to the speakers. Once you understand signal flow, you stop being afraid of the gear — you can plug in, troubleshoot, and set up a basic system without guessing.

Reading the layout

Channels, faders, EQ, the crossfader, gain. Not memorizing every button — understanding the logic of how a mixer is organized, so any setup you sit down at makes sense.

Music selection & building a set

This is the heart of DJing and the part beginners underestimate most. Choosing the right track for the moment, building energy, knowing when to lift a room and when to let it breathe. Great technical DJs clear floors; great *selectors* fill them.

Timing, listening & confidence

Training your ear to hear the beat and anticipate where the next mix should land — a skill you build, not a talent you're born with. And confidence: most beginners aren't short on ability, they're short on reps in a low-pressure environment where it's safe to make mistakes. That's what a class gives you that a video never can.

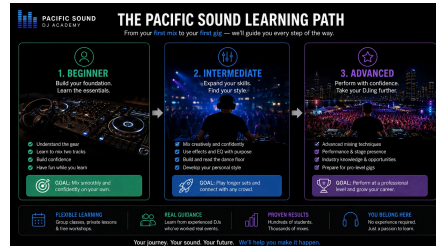


THE TAKEAWAY

Notice what's *not* at the top of this list: expensive gear, complicated software, or party tricks. The foundation is understanding, ears, taste, and reps. Everything flashier is built on top of those — and they're far easier to learn than the internet makes them seem.

The Pacific Sound learning path

We built the Academy around a simple idea: take you from wherever you are now to wherever you want to be, in a clear, staged order — without skipping the foundations or drowning you in detail you're not ready for. Here's how the levels fit together.



BEGINNER

Foundations & confidence

For people who are brand new or nearly brand new. We cover equipment understanding, setup basics, signal flow, DJ workflow, and the all-important confidence to sit at the decks without freezing up. You leave knowing how the gear works and how to start mixing.

INTERMEDIATE

Mixing & musicality

Once the foundations are solid, we move into beatmatching, smooth transitions, timing, and music flow — the practical skills that turn a sequence of songs into an actual set. This is where it starts to feel like real DJing.

ADVANCED

Performance & real-world workflow

For developing DJs ready to sharpen up: Serato DJ Pro, controller workflow, advanced mixing, music organization, and the performance-prep habits working DJs rely on when it's showtime.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMMIT TO ALL OF IT

Plenty of students take a beginner course purely for fun and stop there — a perfectly good outcome. Others discover they love it and keep climbing. The path is there if you want it, never a pressure.

Not sure which level fits you? Request information about the next session at pacificsoundentertainment.tech or call 236-268-9905.

Inside a beginner DJ course

People often ask what actually happens in a beginner session — usually because they're picturing something intimidating. It isn't. The whole design is to get you comfortable and mixing without overwhelming you. Here's the shape of it.

You start at the gear, not at a whiteboard

We get your hands on real equipment early. You'll learn what each main section of the setup does by using it, not by memorizing a diagram. The mystery wears off quickly once you're the one turning the knobs.

One concept at a time

We introduce the layout, then signal flow, then how to load and cue a track, then how to bring two songs together — in an order that builds. You're never asked to juggle five new ideas at once.

You'll mix something on day one

The goal of a first session isn't perfection. It's the moment you blend two tracks and think *"oh — I can actually do this."* That click is what keeps people coming back, and almost everyone gets there faster than they expected.

Questions are the point

No question is too basic. "What's that knob?" "Why did that sound bad?" "Can you show me that again?" — that's the whole reason to learn with a person instead of a screen.

WHAT YOU WALK AWAY WITH

A working understanding of how a DJ setup is organized, the ability to load, cue, and blend tracks, and — most importantly — the confidence that this is something you can genuinely do.

Ready to feel that "I can do this" moment for yourself? Join the mailing list for upcoming beginner course dates at [pacificsoundentertainment.tech](https://www.pacificsoundentertainment.tech).

What comes after beginner level

Once the foundations click, the fun really opens up. This is the stage where you stop thinking about *which button does what* and start thinking about *how you want the room to feel*. Here's what you grow into.

Beatmatching & transitions

Getting two tracks locked in tempo and blending them so the dance floor never notices the seam. We cover both ear-trained beatmatching and how the gear can assist — so you understand what's happening rather than just trusting a sync button.

Building real sets

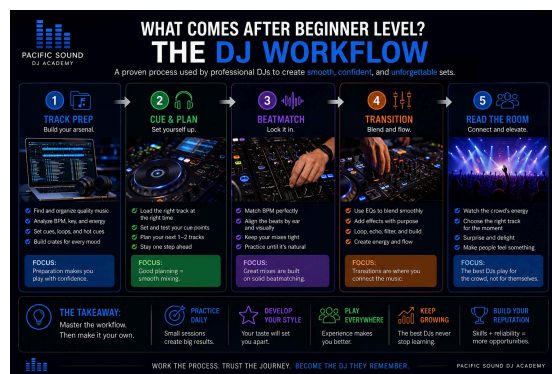
Phrasing, energy management, and reading a crowd. Learning to structure a set so it tells a story — a slow build, a peak, a comedown — instead of a random shuffle of songs you happen to like.

Software, platforms & organization

This is where **Serato DJ Pro** and controller workflow come in, alongside the concepts behind Rekordbox and the club-standard ecosystem. You also learn how working DJs tag, sort, and prepare their libraries so the right track is one second away when the moment calls for it.

Performance preparation

Getting ready for a real gig — prepping your music, your gear, and your nerves. The habits that turn "I can mix at home" into "I can hold a room."



WHERE THIS CAN LEAD

Some students stay hobbyists who throw great house parties. Others go on to play real events. Both are valid, and the skills are the same at the start. The Academy supports whichever direction you choose.

Classes, workshops & one-on-one

Why small classes help

When we can keep group sizes small, everyone wins. More hands-on time at the gear, more direct feedback, and far less of that intimidating feeling of being lost in a crowded room. Smaller sessions mean I can actually watch how you're mixing and correct the little things early.

Free workshops & community education

From time to time, when scheduling allows, we run free workshops to help people get a no-risk first taste of DJing. We've hosted free one-hour DJ workshops at **Rosedale on Robson** in downtown Vancouver — on one workshop day I ran several one-hour sessions back to back, with a lunch break in the middle, and a number of the people who came out later became paid students. I mention this not as a pitch, but as proof that we care about education, not just enrollment.



HEADS UP

Free workshops are offered occasionally, when scheduling allows — not on a fixed calendar. The best way to catch the next one is to be on the mailing list when it's announced. Sign up at pacificsoundentertainment.tech.

Private lessons vs. group classes

GROUP CLASSES

Our main offering. Great energy, you learn alongside others at a similar level, and they're the most affordable way in. Ideal for most beginners.

PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE

Available when it's the right fit — for people who want personalized pacing, have a specific goal, or prefer focused solo attention.

Want to know which format suits you and when the next group class runs? Contact us at 236-268-9905 or request info at pacificsoundentertainment.tech.

Common beginner questions

Q Do I need equipment?

No. You can show up with nothing and learn on real gear from your first session. We actually recommend *not* buying anything until you understand what suits you.

Q Am I too old to learn?

Not even close. We've taught complete beginners well into adulthood. DJing rewards taste, patience, and music knowledge — all things that often come *with* age. There is no age limit on starting.

Q Can my teenager take a class?

Yes. We've worked with younger students and can advise on the right format — often a private or small-group setting works best for teens.

Q Do I need music already?

Not to start. We'll get you mixing in your first session, and as you progress we'll show you how to build and organize your own library properly.

Q Is this for hobby DJs or future working DJs?

Both. The foundations are identical. Some students just want to play great parties; others are building toward paid gigs. You don't have to decide on day one.

Q What software do you teach?

At the advanced level we work with Serato DJ Pro and controller workflow, and cover the concepts behind Rekordbox and the club-standard CDJ ecosystem. Beginners don't need to worry about software yet.

Q What happens after the beginner course?

If you're enjoying it, you can move into intermediate, then advanced. Or simply stop at beginner with a fun new skill. Entirely your call.

STILL HAVE A QUESTION WE DIDN'T COVER?

Just ask — we're happy to help.

Email or call us and we'll answer honestly, whether or not it leads to a class.

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How to get started

If you've read this far, here's what I hope you're feeling: that DJing is genuinely learnable, that you don't need to spend money on gear to begin, and that there's a friendly, no-pressure place in Vancouver to take that first step. Here's how to take it.

1 • Join the mailing list

The easiest first move. You'll be the first to hear about upcoming beginner classes, the occasional free workshop, and one-on-one openings — no spam, just real dates. Sign up at pacificsoundentertainment.tech.

2 • Ask about upcoming classes

Wondering when the next beginner session runs or which level fits you? Reach out and we'll walk you through your options honestly. Call **236-268-9905** or request info through the website.

3 • Request private or workshop info


Prefer one-on-one, or want to know when the next free workshop happens? Let us know what you're after and we'll tell you what's coming up.


"The hardest part of learning to DJ isn't the gear or the beatmatching. It's deciding to start. Everything after that is just reps — and we'll be right there with you for them."

PACIFIC SOUND DJ ACADEMY

Let's get you behind the decks.

 pacificsoundentertainment.tech

 236-268-9905

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