



## FEATURE

# BECOMING A DJ: SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

*Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 5, 7, 9 and 10*

### OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art (*Co10*)

### MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.3)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

### START

**Ask your students to read** “Becoming a DJ: Scratching the Surface” on pages 6-9 before reviewing the words below. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

**TURNTABLE**—a circular, spinning plate supporting a record as it is played

**SEAMLESS**—smooth

**HALLMARK**—a distinctive feature

**PHONOGRAPH**—a record player

**AFFAIR**—an event

**STAGE PRESENCE**—the ability to command the attention of an audience

**GAUGE**—estimate or determine

**RESIDENT**—attached to and working regularly for

**ENTREPRENEURIAL**—characterized by taking risks in hopes of profit

**NEGOTIATE**—try to reach an agreement

**COMPENSATION**—money received by an employee

**CORPORATE**—a large company

**TERRESTRIAL**—broadcasting using equipment on the ground rather than by satellite

**BROAD**—covering a wide scope of subjects

**WARY**—showing caution about possible dangers

**LUG**—carry or drag

**SOFTWARE**—programs and other operation information used by a computer

**COMPATIBLE**—able to be used with a specified piece of equipment

**MANIPULATION**—the altering and editing of sound data

### DEVELOP

Ask Students the following questions:

**What is DJing?**

**What are the four categories of DJs?**

**How are they different?**

**What are the primary responsibilities of a “Mobile DJ?”**

**Why might it be easier to be a Club DJ than a Mobile DJ? Why might it be more difficult?**

**What are the factors to be wary of when pursuing a career as a full-time DJ?**

**What are some tools you need to get started DJing?**

### CLOSE

Watch the YouTube video “A Beginner’s Guide to DJing” and have the class take notes. After the video ask students the following questions:

**What is the main goal of a DJ?**

**What does BPM stand for?**

**When mixing, why might you want to choose two songs with the same BPM?**

**On a controller, what is a “crossfader” used for?**

**What is beat-matching?**

**What is the difference between beat-matching and tempo matching?**

### ASSESS

**Did the students read the article?**

**Did they answer the review questions?**