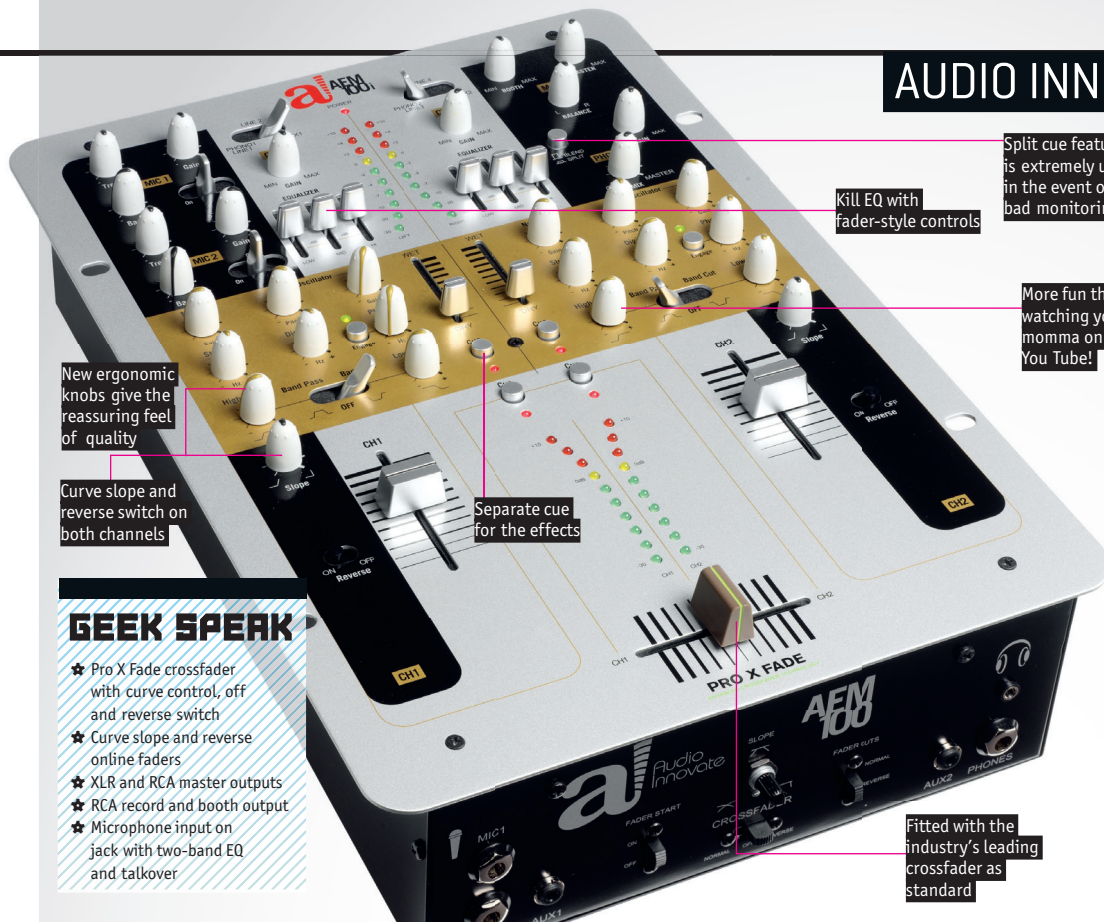


# AUDIO INNOVATE AEM 100i TECH



New ergonomic knobs give the reassuring feel of quality

Curve slope and reverse switch on both channels

## GEEK SPEAK

- ★ Pro X Fade crossfader with curve control, off and reverse switch
- ★ Curve slope and reverse online faders
- ★ XLR and RCA master outputs
- ★ RCA record and booth output
- ★ Microphone input on jack with two-band EQ and talkover

Separate cue for the effects

Kill EQ with fader-style controls

Split cue feature is extremely useful in the event of bad monitoring

More fun than watching your momma on YouTube!

Fitted with the industry's leading crossfader as standard

## EFFECTS

**NOISE:** A white noise generator, good for use with the oscillator

**OSCILLATOR:** Generates a square wave, adjustable pitch and gain

**STUTTER:** Similar to a transform, this effect cuts the sound on and off ranging from quite slow to very fast

**DIGITIZE:** Samples and holds the sound, effectively lowering the sample rate/bit depth

**PHASER W/ENGAGE SWITCH:** A classic sweeping phaser

**FILTERS:** Low pass and high pass, with notch and band pass options

These effects have a bit more 'staying power' than most preset patterns, which tend to get tired after a while, but you need to invest some effort into learning them in order to get the best out of them. The more we used them the better they got!

# 21ST CENTURY SOUND

A cosmic makeover turns this analogue effect mixer into a real contender on the scratch market.

## SPECS

**PRICE**  
£399

**CONTACT**  
www.audioinnovative.com

- TECH**
- ★ Two-channel mixer
  - ★ Three inputs per channel
  - ★ Two mini-jack inputs
  - ★ Two mic inputs
  - ★ Three-band EQ per channel
  - ★ Filters and effects with cueing
  - ★ Split or blend cue mixing
  - ★ Jack and mini-jack headphone sockets
  - ★ Dual level meters

**AUDIO** Innovate's unique AEM 100i, two-channel mixer has undergone major aesthetic changes from its predecessor, the AEM 100. Creator Elliot Marx has refreshingly taken on suggestions made by the DJ community and combined his experience in DS audio electronics with an open-minded attitude to design, making a product that people will recognise and remember in the future.

Those familiar with Audio Innovate's first outing – the AEM 100 – will immediately notice a new colour coded layout, new ergonomic knobs and the omission of the fader cuts feature (a group of transform/mute buttons around the crossfader). These changes give this upgrade a less daunting first impression and make it easier to identify different sections of the mixer. Scratch DJs will be happy to learn that the line faders now have an extremely accurate curve slope and reverse switch. All the basic mixing duties are handled without any complaints. We particularly liked the reassuring feel of quality when tweaking the knobs. Most importantly, the sound quality is impressive for a mixer of this price.

**FX-ITING**  
The effects section in the AEM 100i takes a different approach to most other mixers.

Instead of a bank of preset sounds, Audio Innovate provide a series of basic analogue-style effects in sequence, designed to be layered and combined to build your own. Both channels have their own identical section so individual effects can be independently applied. Working with the effects feels more like working a synth than applying DJ effects and the sheer range of possibilities mean you'll run out of ideas long before you run out of ideas!

The filters in particular were useful; more experienced DJs could look at them as extremely flexible parametric EQs in conjunction with the wet/dry slider. Combining digitize and the phaser made some serious dirtiness. The oscillator was great fun for jamming over the top of loops, and because all effects are pre-fader you can add a background tone to beef up cuts. The stutter works well with digitize too and lets you build the effects to a real climax.



## FINAL WORD

It's seldom you see a mixer that strays from the safety of the pack as much as the AEM 100i. Rarer still are companies such as Audio Innovate who have been so quick to react to customer suggestions and implement recommended changes! We recommend this mixer to anyone who is looking to add an extra edge, particularly the new breed of d&b, house and dance DJs who use scratch techniques in their sets. ★

## VERDICT SCORES OUT OF 5

<b>BUILD QUALITY</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>SOUND QUALITY</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>EASE OF USE</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>VALUE FOR MONEY</b>	<b>4.0</b>

## HYPE

Reliable cross fader, lots of in and out options, good sound quality and top notch effects, it's surprising what a little makeover has done for this mixer.

## GRIPE

The distance between the two line faders is annoyingly wider than most other two-channel mixers plus it's not the easiest of mixers to master.

**The cost effective analogue alternative to the Pioneer DJM-909, when mastered it can be one serious piece of kit!**

TECH VERDICT (OUT OF 5)

# 4.25

words SYVA FAKHER