

How to Do  
*Everything*  
with Your

**Dell™ DJ**

Rick Broida  
Dave Johnson



**McGraw-Hill/Osborne**

New York Chicago San Francisco Lisbon  
London Madrid Mexico City Milan New Delhi  
San Juan Seoul Singapore Sydney Toronto

**McGraw-Hill/Osborne**  
2600 Tenth Street  
Berkeley, California 94710  
U.S.A.

To arrange bulk purchase discounts for sales promotions, premiums, or fund-raisers, please contact **McGraw-Hill/Osborne** at the above address. For information on translations or book distributors outside the U.S.A., please see the International Contact Information page immediately following the index of this book.

### **How to Do Everything with Your Dell™ DJ**

Copyright © 2004 by The McGraw-Hill Companies. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of publisher, with the exception that the program listings may be entered, stored, and executed in a computer system, but they may not be reproduced for publication.

1234567890 DOC DOC 01987654

ISBN 0-07-225550-1

<b>Publisher</b>	Brandon A. Nordin
<b>Vice President &amp; Associate Publisher</b>	Scott Rogers
<b>Acquisitions Editor</b>	Marjorie McAneny
<b>Project Editor</b>	Patty Mon
<b>Acquisitions Coordinator</b>	Agatha Kim
<b>Technical Editor</b>	Eliot Van Buskirk
<b>Copy Editor</b>	Lunaea Houglund
<b>Proofreader</b>	Stefany Otis
<b>Indexer</b>	Valerie Perry
<b>Illustrators</b>	International Typesetting and Composition, Melinda Lytle
<b>Series Design</b>	Mickey Galicia
<b>Cover Series Design</b>	Dodie Shoemaker

**Photos of the Dell DJ courtesy of Dell Inc. All Rights Reserved.**

This book was composed with Corel VENTURA™ Publisher.

Information has been obtained by **McGraw-Hill/Osborne** from sources believed to be reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error by our sources, **McGraw-Hill/Osborne**, or others, **McGraw-Hill/Osborne** does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions or the results obtained from the use of such information.

## **Dedication**

For Steve Schwartz, who brought someone important into my life.

—Rick

This is for my own personal cheering section: Mom and Dad.

—Dave

## About the Authors

**Rick Broida** is a freelance writer and regular contributor to *CNET*, *Computer Shopper*, and *MobilePC Magazine*. He writes technology columns for Microsoft and Michigan's *Observer & Eccentric* newspapers and conducts mobile-computing seminars. He is the founder and former editor of *Handheld Computing Magazine*, author of *How to Do Everything with Your GPS*, and co-author of the best-selling books *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Handheld* and *How to Do Everything with Your Sony CLIÉ*.

In his formative years Rick played flute and tenor saxophone, then decided to give them up ("for the greater good"). In his next life he plans to become a jazz pianist and classical guitarist. For the moment, however, he enjoys kickboxing, basketball, and raising his two kids.

**Dave Johnson** is a technology journalist with three dozen books to his credit. He writes *PC World's Digital Focus* (a weekly digital photography newsletter) and is the former editor of *Mobility Magazine*. He's an award-winning wildlife photographer and the author of *The Wild Cookie*, an interactive children's story on CD-ROM.

Before Dave started writing, his somewhat unfocused career included flying satellites, driving an ice cream truck, photographing a rock band, stocking shelves at Quick Check, teaching rocket science, and writing about intergalactic space penguins. Today, he relaxes by photographing wolves; he's also a scuba divemaster and assistant instructor. Dave is also a dedicated—but entirely talentless—guitarist, though he tries to make up for that deficiency by dressing like Pink Floyd's Roger Waters. Moreover, Dave's current obsession is drums, and in his free time he's been busy learning the drum part to every White Stripes song.

## About the Technical Editor

**Eliot Van Buskirk** has been a journalist with CNET covering music-related technology since the first MP3 player came out in 1998. His "MP3 Insider" column is the longest-running single-writer column at CNET, the largest online tech publication in the world. He's also a home recording enthusiast and has made music with a number of groups, including the NYC Opera, Solarium, and Planet Vegas, among others. Eliot's column received the 2004 Maggie award for Best Regularly Featured Online Column.

# Contents

	Acknowledgments .....	xi
	Introduction .....	xiii
<b>PART I</b>	<b>Getting Started</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>Welcome to the Dell Digital Jukebox .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	A Brief Overview of the Dell DJ .....	5
	Inside (and Outside) the DJ .....	9
	Introduction to Musicmatch Jukebox .....	10
	Alternatives to Jukebox .....	12
	DJ Resources Online .....	13
	Where to Find It .....	13
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>Getting Set Up .....</b>	<b>15</b>
	Charge the DJ .....	16
	Prep Your PC .....	18
	All About USB .....	18
	Install the Software .....	21
	Existing Musicmatch Users .....	22
	Check for New Firmware .....	22
	Troubleshooting the DJ .....	24
	Troubleshooting Musicmatch Jukebox .....	24
	Finding DJ Help Online .....	27
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>Quick Start: Get Music into Your DJ .....</b>	<b>29</b>
	A Quick Tour of Musicmatch Jukebox .....	30
	Add Music to Musicmatch .....	33
	Play a Single Song .....	35
	Build and Play a Playlist .....	36
	What Is a Playlist? .....	36
	Loading Songs onto the DJ .....	39
	Loading Tracks from the Library .....	42
	Loading Tracks from Elsewhere on the Hard Disk .....	43

	Loading a Playlist .....	44
	Syncing Your Entire Library .....	44
	Upgrading Musicmatch .....	45
<b>PART II</b>	<b>The Dell DJ Experience: Downloading, Organizing, and Enjoying Digital Music</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>A Digital Music Primer .....</b>	<b>49</b>
	What Makes It Digital? .....	50
	Sound Waves 101 .....	51
	The Age-Old Debate: Digital or Analog? .....	53
	Making Sense of Audio Formats .....	56
	How Bit Rate Affects Sound Quality .....	56
	So Just What Is MP3? .....	57
	What's the Big Deal About Compression? .....	57
	And What's WMA? .....	58
	And Those Other File Formats .....	59
	Which Format to Use? .....	60
	Picking a Bit Rate .....	61
	Where Do Digital Music Files Come From? .....	61
	What About All the Legal Stuff? .....	62
	The Ultimate Portable Player .....	62
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b>Ripping Music from CD .....</b>	<b>65</b>
	Working with Jukebox Software .....	66
	Using a Jukebox .....	67
	Using Other Jukeboxes .....	73
	Dealing with Glitches .....	78
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	<b>Copying Music from LP and Cassette .....</b>	<b>81</b>
	Making the Connection .....	82
	Sound Card Inputs .....	84
	Analog Source Outputs .....	86
	Cabling It All Together .....	87
	Audio Recording Software .....	91
	Prep for Surgery with Audio Editors .....	91
	Making the Recording .....	92
	Setting the Recording Device .....	94
	Setting Sound Levels .....	96
	Recording Your Audio .....	97
	Recording Strategies .....	99
	Editing Your Music .....	100
	Cleaning Up Noisy Audio .....	104
	Giving Your Music the Gift of ID3 .....	106

CHAPTER 7	<b>Downloading Music from the Internet</b> .....	<b>111</b>
	Download Music from Musicmatch .....	112
	Buying Your First Song .....	114
	Download Music from Other Online Services .....	117
	The Format Workaround .....	121
	File-Sharing Services .....	121
	A Brief History of the MP3 Controversy .....	122
	How to Not Break the Law .....	127
	And in the End .....	130
CHAPTER 8	<b>Listening to Audiobooks and Radio Shows</b> .....	<b>131</b>
	Download and Go with Replay Radio .....	132
	Understanding Internet Radio .....	132
	Get Started with Replay Radio .....	136
	Audiobooks from Audible.com .....	145
	Converting Audible Files into MP3s .....	147
	Where to Find It .....	148
CHAPTER 9	<b>Managing a Digital Music Collection</b> .....	<b>149</b>
	Planning for Music Storage .....	150
	Organizing Your Songs .....	152
	Controlling Playback with Filenames .....	153
	Selecting a Folder and Filename Strategy .....	153
	Editing Music File ID Tags .....	155
	Changing Several Tracks at Once .....	157
	Fixing the File Type Association .....	158
PART III	<b>Do More with Your Dell DJ</b>	
CHAPTER 10	<b>Listening to Music on the DJ</b> .....	<b>165</b>
	Getting Around the DJ .....	167
	Buttons, Sliders, and Wheels, Oh My .....	167
	Playing Music .....	171
	Using Play Views and Selected Music .....	175
	Controlling Your Play Mode .....	176
	Adjusting the DJ's Settings .....	177
CHAPTER 11	<b>Optimizing the Sound</b> .....	<b>181</b>
	Back to Bit Rates .....	182
	Should You Re-rip? .....	183
	All Things Being Equalized .....	185
	The Ears Have It .....	187
	Learn to Love Volume Leveling .....	189
	How to Apply Volume Leveling .....	189
	Where to Find It .....	193

CHAPTER 12	<b>Accessorize!</b> .....	<b>195</b>
	Happiness Is Happenin' Headphones .....	196
	Dave's Favorite: Bose QuietComfort 2 .....	197
	Rick's Favorite: Shure E3c .....	198
	Make Your DJ the Hub of Your Home Stereo .....	199
	Build a Home Stereo Around the DJ .....	201
	Use Your DJ in Your Car .....	202
	DJ Carrying Cases .....	206
	Where to Find It .....	209
CHAPTER 13	<b>Managing Music with Playlists</b> .....	<b>211</b>
	Playlists and Musicmatch .....	213
	What Is a Playlist, Really? .....	214
	Creating a New Playlist .....	214
	Playlists and Transferring Music .....	218
	Copying Playlists via the Portable Device Manager .....	218
	Drag and Drop Between Playlists .....	221
	Playlists on the Dell DJ .....	222
	Finding Your Playlists .....	223
	Playing Your Playlists .....	224
	Creating or Editing a Playlist .....	224
CHAPTER 14	<b>Beyond Musicmatch: Using Other Music Software with the DJ</b> ....	<b>229</b>
	Life Beyond Musicmatch .....	230
	Using Windows Media Player .....	231
	Copying Music to the Dell DJ .....	231
	Deleting Tracks from the DJ .....	235
	Using Dudebox .....	236
	A Quick Tour of Dudebox .....	238
	Copy Music to the Dell DJ .....	240
	Copy Music from the DJ to Your PC .....	242
	Play Music on Your DJ from Your PC .....	243
	Stream Music to Your PC .....	247
CHAPTER 15	<b>Recording Audio with the DJ</b> .....	<b>253</b>
	Press Here to Record .....	255
	Play Back Recordings .....	258
	Delete Recordings .....	259
	Transfer Recordings to Your PC .....	259
	Rename Your Recordings .....	263
	Use Your Recordings in Other Applications .....	264
	Where to Find It .....	268

CHAPTER 16	<b>Use Your DJ as a Digital Briefcase</b> .....	<b>269</b>
	The Data Side of Dell DJ Explorer .....	271
	Moving Files to Another Computer .....	274
	The Data Side of Dudebox .....	275
	Copy Files to the DJ .....	276
	<b>Index</b> .....	<b>279</b>



# Acknowledgments

Since this is the 65th book we've written with the Crack Osborne Book Editing Team (known throughout the free world as COBET), what can we say? These folks have producing great books down to a science. Thanks as always to fantastic folks like Margie McAneny, Agatha Kim, Julie Smith, and Patty Mon. Hey, Agatha: did you know that Microsoft Word's spelling suggestion for your name is Apathy? (Obviously Word doesn't know what it's talking about.)

**Dave:** In addition to that, I'd like to add that this was a difficult book for me to write. In the middle of my writing schedule, I had to pack up and move 2,000 miles away. Living out of a suitcase, having intermittent Internet access, and suffering a full-blown computer failure ("Insert an Operating System!") with all of my system restoration tools and hard disk backups in long-term storage became a near suicidal experience. Through it all, my buddy Rick kept me mostly sane and was always there to offer sage advice, like "I told you not to rely on RAID," and "You should have had a backup handy." Thanks, Rick. You're a pal.

**Rick:** Aw, c'mon, you've never been anywhere near "mostly sane." Anyway, a big thank you to Margie for corralling us for this book, which was great fun to write. Thanks also to tech-editor extraordinaire Eliot Van Buskirk, who fixed Dave's wildly inaccurate "facts" and proved an endless supply of sage counsel. Finally, special thanks to Shiv Naimpally, Chris Leckness, and "Red" for lending their voices to our "Voices from the Community" sidebars.



# Introduction

A whole book on the Dell DJ? Really? That was our reaction when Paul McCartney came to Dave in a dream and said, in his cute Liverpool accent, “Hey, lad, a book on the DJ would be peachy.” Dave then told Rick this story. Coincidentally, Rick had been visited that very night in his dreams by Christina Aguilera, who had mumbled something about not knowing how to plug in a hairdryer.

Anyway, one thing led to another, and Dave and Rick decided that a Dell DJ book was a splendid idea (and not just because one of the Fab Four had suggested it). That’s because there is so much more to the portable music phenomenon than just pressing Play on the DJ. The Dell DJ is a sophisticated gadget with lots of capabilities. It can store tunes, ferry data files like a portable hard disk, and make voice recordings. With the right software, it can stream music across a network or the Internet. There are accessories to consider. And don’t forget that you need to get the music onto the DJ to begin with, so you need to know about ripping songs from CD, downloading tunes from Web sites, and copying music from analog sources like LPs and cassettes.

The Dell DJ is the state of the art in a fairly new phenomenon: digital music. Digital music has launched a whole new era in arts, entertainment, and technology. When the very first music fans uploaded a song to the Internet and shared it with the world, they had absolutely no idea how profound and far-reaching the effect would actually be.

We’re not exaggerating. Consider this: in the past, people tended to think of a music purchase as buying a thing—an LP, a cassette, or a CD. You owned a thing, and had to carry the thing with you to listen to music when you were away from home. Sure, you could make a copy—and the copyright law afforded you that opportunity—but few people copied music very often. It just wasn’t a common practice.

Flash forward to today and you’ll find that digital audio is making people reconsider what it means to buy music. It’s becoming less of a *thing* and more of a *license to listen*. File formats like MP3 and WMA have made music files so small that you can carry the equivalent of 500 CDs in your pocket. Dave and Rick, for

instance, have copied their music collection into digital format, allowing them to carry it anywhere as long as they remember to pack the Dell DJ. That's so amazing it almost seems like science fiction. Yet today, it's reality.

We wrote *How to Do Everything with Your Dell DJ* to help you master every angle and option in this exciting new world of portable digital music. The book focuses mainly on the DJ, of course, but it also covers all the essentials of ripping music from CDs and LPs, cleaning up that music, and transferring those songs back and forth between your DJ and a PC.

We wrote this book so you could sit down and read it through like a novel. But if you're looking for specific information, we made it easy to find. Plus, you can find special elements to help you get the most out of the book:

- **How to...** These special boxes explain, in a nutshell, how to accomplish key tasks. Read them to discover key points covered in each chapter.
- **Notes** These provide extra information that's often very important to gain understanding of a particular topic.
- **Tips** These tell you how to do something smarter or faster.
- **Sidebars** Here we address related (and, sometimes, unrelated) topics. Sidebars can be pretty interesting, if only to see us bicker like an old married couple.

Can't get enough of Dave and Rick? You can also send questions and comments to [dave@bydavejohnson.com](mailto:dave@bydavejohnson.com) and [rickbroidal@excite.com](mailto:rickbroidal@excite.com). You'll get a faster response if you send us free tickets to concerts, boxes of cookies, replacement guitar strings, or a date with Halle Berry (for Dave only). Thanks, and enjoy the book!

## Head-to-Head with Rick and Dave

**Dave:** Rick and I rarely see eye to eye. He shares the musical taste of a 14-year-old girl, and his idea of high literature is reading *Entertainment Weekly*. So we face off once in every chapter of this book. Within these sidebars, nothing is sacred, but hopefully you'll find them amusing.

**Rick:** I don't know what "high literature" is, but at least *Entertainment Weekly's* writers can construct a grammatically correct sentence. I should warn readers now, Dave doesn't like jazz, so you have to take everything he says with a grain of salt. And, for the record, I have the musical taste of a 15-year-old girl, thank you very much.