

The DMC World DJ Championships

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After Lughnasadh (09.07.06 C.E.)

The DMC World DJ Championships will be held this weekend in London, England. It's the 21st consecutive year of these famous competitions, and champions from around the world are battling for three traditional titles. The primary competition is the World DJ Championship, but there is also the World Team Championship. These titles pit the best individuals and teams (respectively) from each country using a single set format. The final competition is the Battle for World Supremacy where single DJs compete in pairs using a multiple set (bracket) format. This year, there's a special competition which has only been held once before: the DMC World Summit. That's a DJ battle of past champions.

Many legendary artists have participated in the DMC Championships. Q-Bert, Mixmaster Mike, Roc Raida, and A-Trak have won the competition and DJ David (2x), DJ Craze (3x), ie.Merge (2x) were repeat winners. ie.Merge is the current champion (2005) and has won more titles in the past few years than any other DJ ever. Interestingly, this performer has used these accolades to become "Head Professor" at the Scratch DJ Academy, a school founded by Jam Master Jay and dedicated to teaching the art of turntablism.

The DMC, or Disco Mixing Club, is anachronistic as they recently restricted the championships to analog turntables only. They further limit the turntable manufacturer to Technics and the stylus (needle) manufacturer to Ortofon. (Any brand of mixer is allowed.) These companies sponsor the tournaments and have brought commercialism into the "underground" festivals. This equipment, however, is considered "classic" and is a relatively inexpensive way of standardizing the competitions.

Unfortunately, the DMC Championships are not televised. The DJ battles are, however, recorded and archived as a commercially available DVD which should be out by 2007. And the DMC posts news nightly on their website: www.DMCworld.com. We are also playing excerpts of current and past championships on our radio show, The Frequency Mutineers. That show can be heard every Friday Night/Saturday Morning at Midnight on WBGU 88.1 FM/NET. And we are including the videos as part of our training course (q.v., link). Please stay tuned to WBGU FM for more information.

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