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Quick Start

'Tis Still the Season

Save your holiday with retail therapy

It totally sucks when you don't get anything you like for the holidays. We here at *Maximum PC* call it Post-Acquisition Disappointment Syndrome (PADS), and if it happened to you this year, you have two options: Get over it, or go out and buy something for yourself. Here are three ways to save your fragile psyche during these delicate times.

Hercules DJ Console

Yes, the once-mighty purveyor of videocards is back, and this time it's gunning for the ears, not the eyes. The DJ Console (us.hercules.com) puts you behind the virtual turntables, giving you no-talent-necessary access to mixing tracks (CD audio, MP3, or WMA files), beat-matching, and even simulated scratching via two onboard jog dials. The scratching primer's brief instructions are a can't-miss, teaching wannabe Grand Masters the "baby scratch" (vzzzt, vzzzt) as well as the "pass-pass" (wunka-wunka).

On its off hours, the DJ Console can also be used to control other audio software via the included control remapping software, and it can perform as a simple external soundcard with onboard 5.1 connectors.

No price would be too much to pay to go from being a flaccid, uninteresting geek to a thrilling, groupie-humping fun maker, but luckily, the DJ Console can be had for just \$250.



Hercules' DJ Console is an instant party, allowing you to make your own music mixes. And, as an added bonus, its buttons are illuminated for nighttime use.