

FREE TOOL · NEVER GET CAUGHT OUT

Gig Bag & Streaming Checklist

Every cable, adapter and just-in-case item between you and a set that dies mid-track. Tick each box as you pack.

Boxes with an **orange** outline are **critical** – never leave without them.

01 Core gig bag

The non-negotiables. If any one of these is missing, the set is at risk before you touch a fader.

- ☐ **Primary USB drive — exported & tested** **CRITICAL**
Your set analysed and exported for the gear you're playing on, then actually loaded on a deck to prove it reads.
- ☐ **Backup USB drive — identical copy** **CRITICAL**
A second, separate stick with the same library. It lives in a different pocket to the first.
- ☐ **Headphones (+ spare cable if detachable)** **CRITICAL**
Your own cans — never rely on the booth having a pair. A spare coiled cable weighs nothing.
- ☐ **RCA cables — plus a spare pair** **CRITICAL**
For controllers/mixers that need them. Cables fail at the worst moment; carry a known-good backup set.
- ☐ **USB-B cable (printer-style)**
The cable most controllers use to talk to a laptop. The one everyone forgets.
- ☐ **USB-C cable**
For newer gear, drives and charging. Carry one good data-rated cable, not a charge-only freebie.
- ☐ **Multi-way extension / power block** **CRITICAL**
Booths never have enough sockets in the right place. A 4-gang with a decent lead solves it.
- ☐ **Gaffer tape**
Tape down trip-hazard leads, label your gear, mark a fader position. The DJ's duct tape.
- ☐ **Torch (or a phone with charge to spare)**
Dark booths are the norm. Finding a socket by phone-light kills your battery.
- ☐ **Pen + a microfibre cloth**
Sign the split sheet, jot the promoter's number; wipe sweat and beer off jog wheels and screens.

02 Adapters & "Zero-Silence" kit

The small pouch that turns a dead set into a five-second fix. This separates the pro from the panic.

- ☐ **RCA ↔ 3.5mm adapter** **CRITICAL**
Plug a phone or laptop straight into the mixer when a deck or drive dies. Silence-killer number one.
- ☐ **RCA ↔ TRS / jack adapters**
For house systems and mixers wired for 1/4" jacks instead of phono.
- ☐ **USB-A ↔ USB-C adapter**
So any drive fits any port — old booth gear to new laptop, and back again.
- ☐ **Spare fuses (UK plug, 3A/13A)**
A blown plug fuse looks like dead gear. A 20p fuse and a screwdriver get you running again.
- ☐ **Ground-lift / DI option**
For the mains hum you'll hear the moment a laptop is plugged in on a bad earth.
- ☐ **Spare USB with your set (third copy)** **CRITICAL**
Not the primary, not the deck backup — a third stick that lives in the pouch and never comes out unless it has to.
- ☐ **Phone loaded with your set (last resort)** **CRITICAL**
Full set as audio files on your phone. With the RCA↔3.5mm adapter, the music never stops.

PRO TIP

Always carry TWO exported USBs.

One lives in a different pocket to the other. Sticks corrupt, get left in decks, or vanish in a dark booth — the backup in your jacket has saved more sets than any expensive kit. The phone copy makes it three.

03 Standalone / controller extras

Gear-specific spares. Pack the ones that match what you actually turn up with.

- ☐ **The power supply — not just the cable** **CRITICAL**
So many controllers need their specific PSU brick. The kettle lead alone won't power it. Bring the whole thing.
- ☐ **Laptop + charger (if laptop-based)** **CRITICAL**
Charged, updated the day before, and the charger physically in the bag — not still in the wall at home.
- ☐ **Laptop stand / riser**
Gets the screen to eye line and airflow under the machine so it doesn't thermal-throttle in a hot booth.
- ☐ **Spare soundcard / clock (if needed)**
For DVS or club-mixer clocking. If your rig depends on an interface, a backup saves the night.

04 Streaming kit

Going live online adds a whole second signal path — and a whole second set of ways to fail silently.

- ☐ **Audio interface / capture path sorted** **CRITICAL**
Know exactly how the mix reaches your computer — interface, mixer USB-audio, or capture device. No guessing at showtime.
- ☐ **The right cables for your routing**
Whatever your capture path needs — RCA-to-interface, USB-audio, or a loopback. Bag the exact cables, tested.
- ☐ **Streaming laptop + charger + platform ready**
Broadcast software installed, logged in, stream key in place and updated well before you go on.
- ☐ **Webcam + basic lighting**
A webcam and one soft key light lift a stream from grim to watchable. Nothing fancy needed.
- ☐ **TEST the stream audio BEFORE going live** **CRITICAL**
Do a private broadcast and listen back on another device. Confirm people will actually hear the mix, at level, in time.

PRO TIP

The emergency pouch is a fixed kit, not a raid.

Build the Zero-Silence pouch once — RCA↔3.5mm, fuses, ground-lift, the spare stick — and never rob it for a normal gig. If you borrow from it, refill it the same night. Its whole value is that it's always complete when it matters.

05 Pre-gig 10-minute soundcheck

Arrive, and before the crowd builds, run this in order. Ten quiet minutes now saves a public disaster later.

- 1 Gain / levels first**
Set channel trims and the master so the loudest part of a track peaks healthy — not clipping into the red.
- 2 Check the booth monitor**
Bring the monitor up on its own so you can hear yourself. Confirm it's separate from the master going to the room.
- 3 Confirm the headphone cue**
Cue a track in your cans, check the cue/mix knob and cue volume. Make sure you can pre-hear the next track clearly.
- 4 Run a test blend**
Beatmatch and blend two tracks quietly. Prove the crossfader, EQs and both channels all pass audio cleanly.
- 5 Confirm the booth output to the room**
Check the signal reaches the main PA at a sensible level, in phase, no hum — then pull back and wait for your slot.

PRO TIP

Test everything at home, not at the door.

"Exported" means you loaded it on a deck and it read. "Streaming ready" means you ran a private broadcast and heard it back. Prove every critical item before the bag is zipped — the venue is the worst place to find a dead cable.